

Economic Vitality Commission
5-15-19

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
ECONOMIC VITALITY COMMISSION
SUMMARY MINUTES**

May 15, 2019

Pickering Room
City Hall Northwest

1775 12th Avenue NW
Issaquah, WA 98027

EVC MEMBERS PRESENT

Therese Garcia, Vice Chair
Kathy McCorry
Kristi Tripple
Christopher Beaudoin
Pavel Aprikian
Saikat Sen
Tom Rogers
Ashwin Muthuvenkataraman

STAFF PRESENT

Keith Niven, Economic Development Director
Tim Dutter, Economic Development Director
Christopher Wright, Economic Development Manager

GUESTS

Julie Martin, DIA Executive Director
Christina Bruning, DIA Board President

CALL TO ORDER

Therese Garcia called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

TRIPPLE pointed out that her name is misspelled on Page 3. MOVED BY TRIPPLE, SECONDED BY MCCORRY, that the minutes for the EVC meeting on April 17, 2019, be approved as amended. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

AGENDA ITEMS

- a) **Welcome New Members:** Wright invited new members Rogers and Aprikian to introduce themselves.

Wright also invited Bruning to introduce Martin as the newly hired Executive Director for the Downtown Issaquah Association (DIA).

- b) **State Legislature Budget Update:** Wright reminded the commission members that a recent memo regarding the State operating budget was included in the EVC Packet. Although there was not time to discuss, Wright asked the commission to send him any questions or concerns.

- c) **ED Strategic Plan Worksheets:** Niven summarized the steps that Staff and EVC have gone through evaluating the Action Steps of the existing Economic Development Strategic Plan. The updated list was presented, and outstanding items were discussed, as follows:

1.1.1 BRE visits continue (minimum of 60 per year, with Survey every 3 years)

1.1.2 Split up into two:

1.1.2.1 Chamber/Startup 425 - focused on training, including Chamber University, Business Summit, Great Careers conference, etc. Create a "scorecard" and use annually.

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- 1.1.2.2 DIA - Ensure Main Street tax credit is optimized annually. Additional discussion by DIA Board needed regarding DIA/ED role in Streetscapes, Creative Districts, tracking Tenants/Vacancies
- 1.2.1 Attend TAB meetings and report back to EVC with quarterly updates, including
- 1.3.1 Continue to lobby for substation expansions, including Pickering, Goode's Corner, and new (IH)
Add 1.3.2 to continue support for Energize Eastside. Staff will follow up with PSE
- 1.4.1 Complete cost of business (fees, taxes) evaluation with comparisons to peer cities regarding impact fees, permit fees, B/O taxes, head tax, sales tax, property tax, etc.
- 1.4.2 Collaborate with Chamber and DIA to create City "Welcome Wagon"
- 2.1.1 Update Sector Analysis data
- 2.1.2 Continue to support IPZ. Revisit in September, after debrief of Combine. Evaluate whether to continue or revise prior to reapplication, with EVC discussion in Q1 2020.
- 2.2.1 Marketing – Attract 1 mid-sized (approx. 25 employees) business relocation to Issaquah
- 2.2.2 Continue to hold annual Brokers Forum
- 2.3 Revisit after updated Sector Analysis is complete
- 2.4.1 Continue to support TOD project, with additional funding for Opportunity Center and potential Microsoft funding
- 2.4.2 Work with Bellevue College on property development plans
- 3.1.1 Continue to host annual Job Fair, with modified day/time to include high school students
- 4.1.1 Apply for Creative Districts designation

There was further discussion that much of Goals 3 and 4 are addressed through the actions of Goals 1 and 2.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) **Election of Officers:** Tripple moved to nominate Garcia for Chair. Seconded by McCorry. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Tripple moved to nominate Beaudoin for Vice Chair. Seconded by McCorry. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- b) **Announcements:** Wright reminded commission members to fill out the Master Mobility Plan survey on the City's website. He also announced the Samantha Breider has stepped down from the commission due to time restraints of a new job.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Garcia adjourned the meeting at 7:38 PM.