

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Economic Vitality Commission

5:30 PM
 August 21, 2019

MINUTES

Pickering Room
 1775 12th Ave. NW

COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Commissioners Present:

Therese Garcia, Chair
 Pavel Aprikian
 Christopher Beaudoin, Vice Chair
 Kathy McCorry
 Kristi Tripple

Commissioners Not Present:

Amit Bhardwaj
 Ashwin Muthuvenkataraman
 Tom Rogers
 Saikat Sen

Administration/Staff:

Christopher Wright, Economic Dev. Mgr.
 Tim Dutter, Economic Dev. Mgr.
 Stephen Padua, Sr. Transp. Planner

Others:

Leslie Moore Pflug, Creative Consultant
 Sage Khanuja, Youth Council

CALL TO ORDER

GARCIA, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) MOVED BY BEAUDOIN, SECONDED BY APRIKIAN that minutes of the May 15, 2019 meeting be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

AGENDA ITEMS

- a) **Master Mobility Plan, (I)**

Presented by:

Stephen Padua, Senior Transportation Planner

Padua gave the participants instructions on how to access a questionnaire using members' cell phones, then proceeded to provide a brief history of transportation in the US. He continued his comments about what has changed as a result of growth, advances in technology, environmental health concerns, and regional vehicle congestion. He discussed the concept of multi-modal transportation, including options, and the purpose of the Mobility Master Plan (MMP) for the City. He noted the MMP will replace the Transportation Element in the Comprehensive Plan, and presented the MMP's guiding principles (page 11 of the agenda packet).

Padua continued leading participants through the questionnaire accessed via cell phone, and discussed the participant's resulting responses, particularly as compared with the results staff is seeing in the community-wide administration of the questionnaire. Among the topics the Commissioners discussed were:

- their impressions of the impact of time, weather, safety, cultural expectations about clothing, and other restrictions on non-vehicular transit options;
- strategies for adapting to a multi-modal transportation system, including "starting small" with a designated area in the community so people could try, say, biking; and exploring the use of LUUM, commuter benefits software to help change behavior;
- addressing parking in ways that would allow someone to park once and walk safely to multiple destinations, and ensuring sidewalks exist that would allow that to happen;
- making it attractive and interesting for people to want to walk, including the use of art;

- creating fewer but high-value transportation options, versus creating many average-value options;
- cultural differences in people's perceptions of public transportation;
- mobility options, particularly biking, for residents in Europe versus the US, and the future of electric bikes;
- what the questionnaire and the City's outreach efforts will tell us about who is using transit now;
- providing centralized parking for people who have to drive into the City, at least in the interim while transit "catches up" with need;
- who really benefits from building parking garages so people can access transit;
- recognizing the effect of requiring commercial buildings to provide parking when there is free street parking available nearby;
- connecting sidewalks and trails whenever possible;
- whether transit investment in central Issaquah makes the most sense;
- how completing the Green Necklace would result in greater connectivity;
- how autonomous vehicles and technological advances could change transportation in the future.

Padua concluded his presentation with a summary of where the project now stands and how it will move forward.

b) Creative District Update, (I)

Presented by:

Leslie Moore Pflug, Creative Consultant

Pflug gave some background on her work with the Arts Commission and the City to become a Certified Creative District. She explained the process of becoming certified, the work done so far, and where the City now stands in the certification process. She referred to a series of questions that have been used in community outreach efforts, which she posted around the room, and invited Commissioners to add their ideas and comments:

- What are your priorities for the Issaquah Creative Arts District?
- What activities or events would you like to see as part of the Issaquah Creative Arts District?
- Do you see any challenges to creating or operating a Creative Arts District in Issaquah?
- What would success look like in five years for the Issaquah Creative Arts District?

Wright noted the boundaries of the CBD (Creative Business District) have not yet been set, so it hasn't been determined whether Gilman Village will be included. Pflug said the goal is to submit for certification by December or January. GARCIA asked how communities that have received the designation have benefitted. Pflug replied communities in Colorado have experienced more tourism and have attracted new businesses as a result of being designated as a Creative District.

Beaudoin said it would be interesting to see this come back to this group as the work plan proceeds so EVC could have a chance to provide additional feedback later in the process. Others agreed. Staff made a note of it.

Wright read the comments offered by Commissioners aloud. Pflug distributed ideas and responses to the questionnaire received from outreach efforts to date.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTSa) **Sports Medicine Combine Event Debrief:**

Dutter gave a summary of what has been accomplished in 2019 on the Sports Medicine IPZ (Innovation Partnership Zone), including the first-ever Issaquah Sports Medicine Combine held on July 13. He said attendance was lower than hoped but the event was generally well received. He showed a breakdown of the event cost, including a \$50,000 Department of Commerce grant, \$50,000 in City matching funds, and another \$10,000 from the Port of Seattle grant. He concluded with the “lessons learned” from the event and preliminary planning for next year.

b) **Project and Event Updates:**

Wright noted that Highlands Days will be held this Saturday from noon to 4:00 PM, and Music in the Park will be held this Sunday at Confluence Park from 3:00 to 8:00 PM.

Wright suggested that the EVC’s September meeting could be a tour of three or four businesses. The Commissioners indicated they would be in favor. Dutter will send out a list of ten or so businesses to be considered and members can add any others, from which a mix of smaller and larger businesses will be selected.

ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business to conduct, GARCIA adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowe
Recording Secretary