

07-20-22 Economic Vitality Commission Minutes

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH****Economic Vitality Commission**5:30 PM  
July 20, 2022**MINUTES**Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave.  
NW, Issaquah**COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT***Commissioners Present:*Kathy McCorry, Chair  
Ashwin Muthuvenkataraman (after 5:40)  
Kymberly Lee  
Joan Probala  
Christy Garrard*Administration/Staff:*Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development  
Manager  
Benton Coblenz, Economic Development  
CoordinatorJennifer Larson, Alternate  
Art Freas, Alternate (after 5:38)  
Nicoleta Mocanu, Alternate*Commissioners Not Present (Excused):*Chris Reichley, Vice Chair  
Therese Garcia  
Thomas Brown  
AJ Taylor

Join the meeting in-person at the address above, or virtually using the following options:

**Join by Computer**

- Webex Meetings [meeting link](#)
- If needed, meeting password is 98027

**Join by Phone**

- Call 1-206-207-1700, enter meeting number (access code) 2493 787 5928  
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If planning to make verbal comments, please email [jenh@issaquahwa.gov](mailto:jenh@issaquahwa.gov). Submit written comments to [economicvitalitycommission@issaquahwa.gov](mailto:economicvitalitycommission@issaquahwa.gov).**CALL TO ORDER**

MCCORRY called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Minutes of June 15, 2022.

**MOVED BY PROBALA, SECONDED BY McCORRY that minutes of the June 15, 2022 meeting be approved as presented. MOTION APPROVED WITHOUT OBJECTION****PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Council President Walsh provided a public comment welcoming the commissioners back to an in-person meeting, thanked them for their valuable service, and answered commissioners' questions.

**AGENDA ITEMS**a) **Welcome New Members and Introductions (I)***Presented by:**Kathy McCorry, Chair*

McCorry welcomed Commissioners to their first in-person meeting since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic and led the Commission in introductions.

b) **Greater Issaquah Chamber Data Tool for Businesses (I)***Presented by:**Kathy McCorry, Chair*

McCorry presented about the Chamber's data tool, which can be found at <https://www.issaquahchamber.com/businessdevelopment>, which is available to all and provides a picture of the economic landscape of the local community.

c) **2023 Economic Development Plan (D)***Presented by:**Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development Manager*

Davis Hayes presented the plans to formulate an official Economic Development Plan in 2023 and gathered Commissioners' input. To provide input, the Commission broke into two breakout groups that reported out the following:

- **Breakout Group 1** (*McCorry, Muthuvenkataraman, Probala, Larson*): Discussed priority of attraction in the upcoming two or more years, potential for repurposing of office space, innovation in available careers, reframing infrastructure and identify future innovative business models, identifying businesses that depend on worldwide headquarters located in Issaquah, and identifying services (e.g., restaurants and retail) that benefit local employees.
- **Breakout Group 2** (*Garrard, Freas, Mocanu, Lee*): Discussed job fair metrics, priority of regional transportation options, permitting (both the perception and reality), and whether there still exists a negative community perception around growth.

d) **Shop Local/Small Business Saturday (I)***Presented by:**Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development Manager*

Discussion was postponed to a future meeting.

**REPORTS****Industry Trends, Business Openings, and Closures (D)***Presented by:**Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development Manager*

Discussion was postponed to a future meeting.

**City Council Report Out (I)**

*Presented by:*

*Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development Manager*

Davis Hayes and Coblentz gave updates about recent and planned City Council and Administration business relating to the Commission's work.

**2022 Schedule (I)**

*Presented by:*

*Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development Manager*

Davis Hayes reported on the Commission's tentative 2022 workplan, future agenda items, and solicited feedback from the Commissioners.

**OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS****ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for August 17, 2022.

**INQUIRIES**

Please contact Jen Davis Hayes at (425) 837-3414 or [jenh@issaquahwa.gov](mailto:jenh@issaquahwa.gov).

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*Note: Times listed for meetings topics are approximate and items are subject to change.*

*(A) Action, (D) Discussion, (I) Information*