

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Economic Vitality Commission

5:30 PM
 October 19, 2022

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave.
 NW, Issaquah

MINUTES

COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Alternate Meeting Format: On March 6, 2020 the Mayor declared a civil emergency due to the outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). On March 24, 2020 the Governor issued Proclamation 20-28 relating to the COVID-19 emergency and open public meetings. The proclamation has been extended. Due to these factors, the meeting was held using a remote meeting platform.

Commissioners:

Chris Reichley, Vice Chair
 Thomas Brown (excused)
 Therese Garcia (excused)
 Christy Garrard
 Kymberly Lee
 Ashwin Muthuvenkataraman
 Joan Probala (excused)
 AJ Taylor

Art Freas, Alternate (excused)
 Jennifer Larson, Alternate
 Nicoleta Mocanu, Alternate

Administration/Staff:

Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development
 Manager
 Amy Dukes, Arts Administrator (virtual)

 Rachel Wright, Vice-Chair, Arts Commission
 and Creative District Committee member

CALL TO ORDER

REICHLLEY called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM.

Commissioners LARSON and MOCANU were moved into regular positions for this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of Sept. 21, 2022. MUTHUVENKATARAMAN motioned, TAYLOR seconded. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

AGENDA ITEMS

- a) **Creative District (D)**

Presented by:

Amy Dukes, Arts Administrator

Rachel Wright, Arts Commission Vice-Chair + Creative District Committee Member

Dukes and Wright presented an overview of the Creative District and discussed data and activity to date for the Creative District.

Discussion with Commissioners regarding opportunities to coordinate with Creative District. Partnership opportunities include, but not limited to joining Creative District Advisory Board, Pro-Creative District Policy, and data collection.

Questioned what grant and other resources to support this effort. Could explore future Port of Seattle funding for this initiative and/or economic development plan implementation funding in 2024.

Idea to provide an inventory of spaces that could be used for short-term or longer-term rental for artists or makers.

Request for advocacy about the Creative District, outreach to businesses regarding creative partnerships, membership on Advisory Committee.

Arts Commission supports arts activities throughout the City.

Economic Vitality Commission can inquire about interest in rotating artists and other creative partnership when doing business outreach.

b) **2023 ED Plan + EVC Workplan (D)**

Presented by:

Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development Manager

ED Plan:

- Opportunity to establish our business identity for Issaquah to create branding and marketing for business activities.

Stakeholder Ideas:

- Report out information from Vision Partners to EVC. Include EVC on Vision Partners.
- Other departments. School districts. Bellevue College. CWU – Sammamish. King County. State representatives. Federal representative. Port of Seattle. Workforce organizations. Sound Transit. Metro.

Trends:

- Pay attention to conference and hotel space at Snoqualmie Casino.
- Affordable housing is important for businesses and we should coordinate with the new staff next year.

c) **Small Business Saturday - November 25 (I)**

Presented by:

Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development Manager

Chamber has agreed to take on the lead to promote Issaquah activities. Plan to do more robust effort in 2023.

REPORTS

a) **Industry Trends, Business Openings & Closures (D)**

Presented by:

All Commissioners

Business Openings

Highlands

- Salon above Harborstone Credit Union

- BB Teriyaki
- Mud Bay
- Sola Salons (not open yet)
- Euro Way (not open yet)

Gilman Village

- Rain City Forge

Downtown

- Chick's Shoes

Vet Clinic (Pickering Place – not open yet)

Family Entertainment Center (Arena Sports – planned opening mid-November)

Tipsy Cow (planned opening end November)

Business Closures

Red Robin

Office Depot (closing)

Industry trends

Tourism

- Increased interest in travel
- Special places don't stay special by accident
- Travelers interested in environment, DEI, accessibility, social justice

b) **City Council Report Out (I)**

Presented by:

Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development Manager

City Council will consider adoption of the 2023-2024 biennial budget on November 7.

c) **2022 + 2023 Schedule (I)**

Presented by:

Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development Manager

Title 18 will be next month's topic. The Commission was asked to consider December meeting attendance.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

GARRARD was awarded the Rising Star in Tourism Award from The State of WA Tourism organization. She shared that it helped to put Issaquah back on the map.

Issaquah Chamber, City of Issaquah and Village Theatre partnered to host Greater Seattle Business Association (GSBA) – the statewide LGBTQ+ Chamber – to conduct inclusion training for businesses at Hunt Family Theatre.

Commission member update: Kathy McCorry is no longer on the EVC as she has moved out of state. Next month we will hold elections to replace her position as Chair. Please consider if you are interested in either the Chair or Vice-Chair positions. Nominations, including self-nominations, and the election will occur at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for November 16, 2022.

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

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