

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Economic Vitality Commission

5:30 PM
 November 16, 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
 Therese Garcia (excused)
 Christy Garrard
 Kymberly Lee (arrived 6:05 pm)
 Ashwin Muthuvenkataraman
 Joan Probala (excused)
 AJ Taylor

Administration/Staff:

Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development
 Manager
 Minnie Dhaliwal, Community Planning &
 Development Director
 Stephen Padua, Long Range Planning
 Manager

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

CALL TO ORDER

REICHLEY 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. GARRARD motioned; BROWN seconded. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

AGENDA ITEMS

- a) **Title 18 Update (I)**

Presented by:

Minnie Dhaliwal, Community Planning & Development Director
Stephen Padua, Long Range Planning Manager

Dhaliwal introduced the topic and Padua presented the materials. He presented the topics and priority areas for future adjustments.

Code went through internal and external stakeholder testing. Input from external stakeholders included clarity as well as user interface documents to help provide intent of code.

The updated proposed Land Use Code will be released by mid-December. The EVC will receive an email informing them of this release.

b) **Welcome & Introductions (I)**

Presented by:

All Commissioners

Postponed until next meeting.

c) **Chair & Vice-Chair Election (A)**

Presented by:

Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development Manager

GARRARD nominated, TAYLOR seconded REICHLEY to serve as Chair. Unanimous vote.

REICHELY nominated, BROWN seconded MUTHUVENKATARAMAN to serve as Vice-Chair. Unanimous vote.

d) **2023 ED Plan & EVC Workplan (D)**

Presented by:

Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development Manager

Davis Hayes reviewed the draft 2023 schedule and work plan. Other guest speaker ideas include better understanding taxes collected and requirements of those taxes. Examples include B&O, Retail Sales, and Lodging Tax.

The following commissions volunteered to assist with 2023 EVC activities:

- Creative District
 - Christy Garrard
 - Nicoleta Mocanu
 - AJ Taylor
- Business Leadership Forum
 - Jennifer Larson
 - Kym Lee
 - Nicoleta Mocanu
- Business Retention & Expansion Visits
 - Christy Garrard
 - Ashwin Muthuvenkataraman
 - Chris Reichley
 - AJ Taylor

Commissioners shared ideas about other information that would be helpful to better understand the holistic picture. These items include:

- Issued Building Permits report
- Quarterly Development report (when updated)
- Active Projects link
- City Strategic Plan
- Capital Improvement Plan and Transportation Improvement Plan
- Central Issaquah Plan

REPORTSa) **Industry Trends, Business Openings & Closures (D)***Presented by:**All Commissioners*

Family Entertainment Center plans to open tomorrow.
 Hickory Farms will be at Meadows Shopping Center.
 Holiday Season kicks off.

Developers scheduled meetings to explore development at Front Street Bank of America site and 4th & Gilman NE corner property.

b) **City Council Report Out (I)***Presented by:**Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development Manager*

City Council adopted the 2023-2024 biennial budget on November 7.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Eastside Virtual Job Fair was held on November 10, from 10 am – 1 pm. It was a great success with other 50 businesses represented, over 200 job seekers (61 from Issaquah!), and 4 resource booths. We will survey the employers and job seekers to determine how many people were hired as a result of this event.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for December 21, 2022.

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

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