

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Economic Vitality Commission

5:30 PM
 April 19, 2023

MINUTES

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave.
 NW, Issaquah

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

Administration/Staff:

Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development
 Manager
 Farel Otieno, Economic Development
 Coordinator
 Juliana da Cruz, Economic Development
 Coordinator

Art Freas, Alternate (moved to regular)
 Jennifer Larson, Alternate (moved to regular)
 Nicoleta Mocanu, Alternate (moved to
 regular)

CALL TO ORDER

REICHLEY called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of February 15, 2023

The minutes of February 15, 2023 were approved as read.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public in attendance.

AGENDA ITEMS

- a) **Economic Development Action Plan RFQ Update (I)**

Presented by:

Chris Reichley, Chair

Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development Manager

Jen Davis Hayes provided status updates on the RFQ. She stated that ten applications were received. Select group reviewed the applications and narrowed them down to four. ED personnel, the Chamber president, and the Sustainability coordinator conducted interviews, and two applications were proposed. We agreed on two, and staff will undertake a reference check and select one.

b) Commission Future Meetings: Potential Changes (A)*Presented by:**Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development Manager*

Jen Davis Hayes spoke on a possible adjustment to future EVC meetings. Staff proposed changing the start time of the EVC meeting from 5:30pm to 6:00pm due to quorum difficulties. The Chair Motioned implementing the modification of future meetings and seconded by Art.

The proposed date for a combined meeting with the Equity board is Wednesday, July 5, 2023. Commissioners can make this meeting and were interested in keeping the regularly scheduled meeting on July 19, 2023.

c) Commissioner Appointments & Officer Elections Nominations (I)*Presented by:**Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development Manager*

Jen Davis Hayes stated that we received 14 applications and interviewed 9 of them. They were forwarded to the mayor, who subsequently forwarded them to the City Council for approval on April 17, 2023.

Regular Member Appointments:

2025: Landon Halverson

2027: Ashwin Muthuvenkataraman

2027: Kymberly Lee

2027: Jennifer Larson

Alternate Member Appointment:

2025: Anuradha Tadepalli

d) Arts + Economic Development (D)*Presented by:**Juliana da Cruz, Economic Development Coordinator*

Juliana da Cruz spoke about the reasons to hold a joint meeting with the Arts Commission. This will help us investigate ways to leverage our efforts and raise awareness of the creative economy. She suggested several things we could do with the Arts Commission: The key ideas for engagement were to support and recruit creative businesses.

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

The concept of vesting stood out as the main issue of discussion among all commissioners. Members agreed to write a letter to the City Council to express their concerns over vesting issues. Kymberly motioned writing a letter to the City Council to express concerns over vesting and seconded by Art.

The Big Fish restaurant has closed, but a new establishment has been identified to take its place.

c) 2023 Schedule (I)*Presented by:*

04-19-23 Economic Vitality Commission Minutes

Chris Reichley, Chair

The schedule was presented, no additional discussion.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34PM.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for May 17, 2023.

INQUIRIES

Please contact Jen Davis Hayes at (425) 414-4016 or jenh@issaquahwa.gov.

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

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