

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH  
Economic Vitality Commission & Arts Commission**

6:00 PM  
June 21, 2023

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave.  
NW, Issaquah

**MINUTES**

**COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT**

*Economic Vitality Commission*

*Commissioners:*

Chris Reichley, Chair  
Ashwin Muthuvenkataraman, Vice Chair  
Thomas Brown (excused absent)  
Joan Probala  
Kymberly Lee  
AJ Taylor  
Christy Garrard  
Landon Halverson (absent)  
Jennifer Larson

*Administration/Staff:*

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

Art Freas, Alternate  
Anuradha Tadepalli, Alternate  
Nicoleta Mocanu, Alternate

*Arts Commission*

*Commissioners:*

Tracie Mahadeo  
Rachel Wright  
Tina Hays  
Chris Craven  
Albert Wang

*Administration/Staff:*

Amy Dukes, Arts & Cultural Manager

*The purpose of this meeting is to hold a joint meeting with the Arts Commission and Economic Vitality Commission to gather input for the Economic Development Action Plan and discuss issues of mutual interest.*

**\*\*Reception:** An optional 30-minute social gathering was held prior to the formal meeting at 5:30 p.m.\*\*

**CALL TO ORDER**

REICHLEY called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**AGENDA ITEMS**a) **EVC and Arts Commission Introductions, (I)***Presented by:**All Commissioners*

The Chair opened the meeting by having all the commissioners from EVC and Arts in attendance introduce themselves to the group and talked about the recent encounter with art activity.

b) **Art & Business Collaboration Presentation, (I)***Presented by:**Mel Morgan, Washington Capital Management, Development Commissioner**Rachel Yo, Artist*

Mel Morgan, Washington Capital Management presented on how to bridge artists + local business alternatives gallery spaces. Turning public space to a gallery space was the main idea discussed. On his presentation, some questions came up on how we can leverage our efforts with the community and buy local artworks and potentially ways we can encourage local artists

Rachel Yo, Artist mentioned about supporting local artist and how do we build more awareness to the community, and opportunity for exhibitions in public spaces. Ideas like expanding beyond visual arts finding alternative spaces and how do we get arts Infront of the people were key items discussed.

Considering concepts like going beyond visual arts, looking for alternate spaces for artists, and how to get arts message to the community were key items discussed.

c) **Creative Economies in the Economic Development Action Plan (D)***Presented by:**Juliana da Cruz, Economic Development Coordinator**Amy Dukes, Cultural Arts Manager**All Commissioners*

Juliana da Cruz and Amy Dukes presented overview information about creative industries.

The commissioners participated in a conversation to identify the obstacles that artists face, potential solutions, and how to integrate these into our ED Plan.

**REPORTS****Industry Trends, Business Openings & Closures***Presented by:**All Commissioners*

Chair Reichley informed the group on the new Flavor of India Bar & Grill opened in Highlands. Other new businesses mentioned included Great America Diner on Front Street and New Indian restaurant is replacing Red Robin by Costco.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.

The next meeting of the Economic Vitality Commission is currently scheduled as a joint meeting with the Equity Board on July 5, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

**INQUIRIES**

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

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