

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Economic Vitality Commission

6:00 PM
 July 19, 2023

MINUTES

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave.
 NW, Issaquah

COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Commissioners:

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

Administration/Staff:

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

Art Freas, Alternate
 Nicoleta Mocanu, Alternate- excused absence
 Anuradha Tadepalli, Alternate

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Muthuvenkataraman called the meeting to order at 6:11 PM. Art Freas was moved up to a regular commissioner from an alternate position. Anu Tadepalli (online participant) was also moved up from an alternate position

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Minutes of June 21, 2023

b) Minutes of May 17, 2023

Commissioner Freas moved to approve and Commissioner Probala seconded the motion to approve both the June 21, 2023 and May 17, 2023 minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Corby Casler, the Interim Executive Director of the Downtown Issaquah Association joined to introduce herself and announced two upcoming events – Gas Station Blues and the Wine and Art Walk.

AGENDA ITEMS

a) **Economic Development Action Plan: Vision (D)**

Presented by:

Chris Mefford, President & CEO, Community Attributes Inc. (CAI)
Cassie Byerly, Planning Analyst, CAI

Cassie provided an overview of the work that has been completed on the Economic Development Action Plan, engagement efforts, the updated economic development profile, and the overall scope and schedule of the plan.

The Commission discussed the form of the vision statement.

The Commission reviewed the vision statements from Issaquah's Comprehensive Plan, City-Wide Strategic Plan, and previous Economic Development Strategic Plan for awareness and missing ideas. The Commission then discussed important themes, ideas, and words that they wanted to include in the vision statement. The Economic Vitality Commission performed a "mentimeter" exercise that generated a word cloud of meaningful words for consideration for the vision statement. The Commission continued the discussion of ideas and themes that should be included and avoided for the vision statement and the Economic Development Action Plan.

REPORTS

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

Presented by:

All Commissioners

Commissioners noted that crime videos captured by grocery outlets were not shared with victims of crime.

b) **Reports - City Council, Commission Committees (I)**

Presented by:

All Commissioners & Staff

Farel Otieno reported on the Startup425 ILA amendment that will go before City Council on Monday.

c) **2023 Schedule (I)**

Presented by:

Chris Reichley, Chair

The Council reviewed the schedule and noted their availability for upcoming meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is currently scheduled for August 16, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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