

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH**  
**Economic Vitality Commission**

6:00 PM  
 October 18, 2023

**MINUTES**

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave.  
 NW, Issaquah

**COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT**

*Commissioners:*

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

*Administration/Staff:*

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

Art Freas, Alternate – Excused Absent  
 Nicoleta Mocanu, Alternate  
 Anuradha Tadepalli, Alternate – Excused  
 Absent

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a) The minutes of September 20, 2023, were approved. Motioned by Commissioner Probala, seconded by Commissioner Garrard.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Coby Casler, Executive Director of the Downtown Issaquah Association, addressed the group on upcoming activities this weekend. She noted that DIA is a part of Main Street and she shared that Vancouver has made a large investment in their downtown.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

- a) **Economic Development Action Plan (EDAP) (D)**

*Presented by:*

*Cassie Byerly, Planning Analyst, CAI  
 Economic Development Staff*

Cassie Byerly, Planning Analyst, offered a summary of the plan's goal, methods, and action items. Cassie presented on the three topics and provided an outline of why we chose the three themes. The first topic is about city services, the second is about the city's role as a facilitator and convener, and the third is a cluster theme about outdoor recreation, creative industries,

and home-based businesses. Goal two should be adjusted to advocate for Issaquah businesses in the region, according to commissioners.

Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development Manager, provided an overview of the Vision and Mission that was developed by the Subcommittee. The Vision and Mission as presented were echoed by the commissioners.

Economic development Staff provided some of the next step for EDAP to include presenting to vision partners board and coworking session that will take place on November 16 at Tibbets Manor.

## REPORTS

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

*Presented by:*

*All Commissioners*

The Commission discussed a few new business trends including salon in the Highlands area opening; Levant Café is opening where Bloom Juice was located; Blazing Bagel taking over 55 Sunset; Masthi Bar & Grill replaced Red Robin; Poke place in the highland was broken into.

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

*Presented by:*

*All Commissioners & Staff*

Economic Development Manager Jen Davis Hayes reminded the commissioners of the coming joint meeting with Planning Policy Commission on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **2023 Schedule (I)**

*Presented by:*

*Chris Reichley, Chair*

The Commission reviewed the schedule including a potential extra meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup> as a joint meeting with the Planning Policy Commission.

## OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Lee reported on Shelter Holding, which owns approximately 21.5 acres of land in the Issaquah highlands along 9th Avenue Northeast and has requested for a development agreement with the City of Issaquah. During the City review process, there will be chances for the community to learn more and provide feedback. Feedback is due October 20, 2023.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. There will be a joint meeting with the Planning Policy Commission on October 26, 2023 and the next regular EVC meeting is currently scheduled for November 15, 2023.