

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

6:00 PM  
 April 16, 2025

**MINUTES**

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave.  
 NW, Issaquah

**COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT**

*Commissioners:*

Chris Reichley, Chair (excused)  
 Kym Lee, Vice Chair (served as Chair)  
 Shalini Bansal  
 Landon Halvorson  
 Jennifer Larson (virtual)  
 Barb Pexa (excused)  
 Anuradha Tanepalli (virtual)

*Administration/Staff:*

Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development  
 Manager  
  
 Greg Lucas, Senior Transportation Engineer

Jake Magill, Alternate (called up to Regular  
 seat)  
 Kelly Richardson, Alternate (called up to  
 Regular seat)

**CALL TO ORDER**

VICE CHAIR LEE called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a) Minutes of March 19, 2025 were approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

- a) **Central Issaquah Multimodal I-90 Crossing Project (I)**

*Presented by:*

*Greg Lucas, Senior Transportation Engineer*

LUCAS shared a presentation. Project purpose is to determine the location; need to raise funds for design and construction in future years. Study update includes additional conversations with property owners, open houses, update to options and concept evaluation.

Commissioners encouraged strong connection with light rail, consider future increased transit use, and working closely with property owners and businesses before and during construction.

Commissioners concurred with 11th to 11th alternative.

- b) **EVC Committee Updates - Commercial Retention, Spring Open House Follow-up, Homegrown Retail (D)**

*Presented by:*

*Jen Davis Hayes, Economic & Housing Development Manager  
All Commissioners*

Commercial Retention Committee Update: Members discussed perspectives heard from several past speakers. RICHARDSON reached out to NAIOP to invite for discussion, but the organization is focusing on state legislation at this time on development standards and increased taxes topics.

Spring Open House Follow-up: Commissioners were asked to follow up within their network to learn why people didn't attend. Responses included weather, return to work, business economy (pressure of changing economy and tariffs) and time of day. Suggestions included to not host in 2026 to see if missed by business community, host in the evening or change to 2<sup>nd</sup> week in February.

Homegrown Retail kicks off on May 3 at the Issaquah Farmers Market with the first of 8 weeks in May and September of homebased businesses gaining hands on experience as well as testing products and increasing brand awareness. Look for the Homegrown Retail booth signs! Volunteers still needed to stop by the booth to check-in with the business owners.

## REPORTS

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

*Presented by:*

*All Commissioners*

- Nick's Magnificent had a soft opening last weekend. Very busy. Will be re-opened in 30-45 days. [Editor's Note: Nick's is still open.]
- Taco Bell re-opened.
- Raaj Gharana Indian Restaurant & Bar will open soon in former Coho Café.
- Mayuri has hot food bar.
- Gilman Station will get a facelift, elevator installation and repainting.

### b) **Economic Development Action Plan Update (I)**

*Presented by:*

*Economic Development Staff*

May 6 – Startup425 Co-working event at Environmental Science Center at Fish Hatchery.  
Outdoor Recreation marketing contract to create trail running videos during Tiger Claw.

### c) **City Council Report Out (I)**

*Presented by:*

*Jen Davis Hayes, Economic & Housing Development Manager*

See motion sheets in packet.

### d) **2025 Workplan Schedule (I)**

*Presented by:*

*Kym Lee, Acting Chair*

See schedule in packet.

**OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Commissioner Appointments, April 21; Commissioner orientations, buddy system will be in place
- New ED Coordinator will start May 21
- Select USA Spin-off events on May 7 & 8 will be forwarded to all Commissioners
- DEI Interviews of Commissioners and vendors, will be reported to Equity Board in May
- EVC duties were discussed – look at outcomes regularly (add to agenda next month)

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for May 21, 2025.

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



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