



City of Tacoma Economic Development Committee Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 868 2412 7684

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/86824127684 Passcode: 614650

February 22, 2022

10:00 AM

Chair **Keith Blocker**, Vice Chair **Kiara Daniels**, **Joe Bushnell**,
Conor McCarthy, **Sarah Rumbaugh** (alternate)

Call To Order

Chair Blocker called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Blocker, Bushnell and Daniels

Absent: 1 - McCarthy

All Council Members participated virtually.

Approval of Minutes

1. [22-0217](#) Minutes from the meeting of October 26, 2021
2. [22-0215](#) Minutes for the meeting of November 9, 2021
3. [22-0218](#) Minutes for the meeting of November 23, 2021
4. [22-0219](#) Minutes for the meeting of November 30, 2021

MOTION: Vice Chair Daniels moved to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2021; and November 9, 23, and 30, 2021, meetings.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Bushnell.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

Ayes: 3 - Blocker, Bushnell and Daniels

Absent: 1 - McCarthy

Briefing Items

5. [22-0220](#) Tacoma Based BIPOC Executive Round Table Findings and Recommendations
[Linda Womack, Director, Washington State Minority Business Development Agency]

At approximately 10:03 a.m., Linda Womack, Director, Washington State Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), introduced Maddie Merton, Vice President for Business Retention and Expansion, Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County. Together they presented the findings and recommendations from the December 8, 2021, Tacoma based Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) executive round table, including the number of leaders who provided feedback; background information on the MBDA; Pierce County employer owned business demographics; top line needs, noting below market capital, training, mentoring, subsidized services, a roadmap, and a centralized location; Round table findings, noting equitable access to below-market capital, setting aside funding to subsidize BIPOC business serves, continued regular sessions of The BIPOC Business Executive Roundtable, and a BIPOC business hub or incubator; and fast track training for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and Minority Business Enterprise certification that is in progress.

Discussion ensued regarding utilizing partnerships to extend the reach of the program, overcoming language barriers, whether the City is working with local banks and credit unions, subsidized loans and business capital, a BIPOC business alliance, and working with the Anchor Institution Program.

6. [22-0221](#) ARPA Business Assistance: Window Replacement
[Shari Hart, Business Program Specialist Lead, Community and Economic Development]

At approximately 10:41 a.m., Shari Hart, Business Program Specialist Lead, Community and Economic Development, on the City's American Rescue Plan Act business assistance program for window replacement grants, including an overview, background, considerations, grant parameter questions, recommendations, grant promotion, and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding the number of windows broken in the last six months, business size requirements, geographic locations, average insurance deductible amounts, how far back to consider claims, the grant amount, future funding of this program, what ratio to split funding between past past and future broken windows, and a summary of Committee input on staff recommendations.

MOTION: Council Member Bushnell moved to forward the staff recommendations, including a maximum grant amount of \$2,000.00, splitting funding with 70 percent going toward claims from past months as far back as May of 2021 and 30 percent for future claims, establishing insurance deductibles as allowable expenses, and setting a business size requirement of up to 15 full-time employees, to the full City Council for consideration.

SECONDED BY: Vice Chair Daniels.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

Ayes: 3 - Blocker, Bushnell and Daniels

Absent: 1 - McCarthy

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

7. [22-0224](#) March 8, 2022 - Downtown Tacoma Partnership Update
March 22, 2022 - Equity in Contract Status Update

Joe Franco, Committee Liaison, stated the next meeting will be on March 8, 2022, and will include a Downtown Tacoma Partnership update, and that the March 22, 2022, meeting will include an equity in contracting status update.

Discussion ensued regarding a request for future meeting topics.

Other Items of Interest

Discussion ensued regarding Sound Transit investments in the South Tacoma area, Tacoma Public Utilities' electro-fuels rate, and whether an affordable housing discussion would be coming to a future Economic Development Committee meeting.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.



Keith Blocker, Chair



for
Jered Lobban, City Clerk's Office