



# City of Tacoma Economic Development Committee Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 248

May 22, 2018

10:00 AM

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Chair Conor McCarthy, Vice Chair Catherine Ushka, Lillian Hunter,  
Victoria Woodards, Chris Beale (alternate)

## Call To Order

Chair McCarthy called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

**Present:** 3 - Hunter, McCarthy and Ushka

**Absent:** 1 - Woodards

## Briefing Items

1. 18-0518

Green Jobs in the greater Tacoma area

[Joel Baker, PhD, Science Director, Center for Urban Waters]

At approximately 10:06 a.m., Joel Baker, Ph.D., Science Director, Center for Urban Waters, University of Washington Tacoma (UWT), made opening remarks and presented a background on the Center for Urban Waters. Mr. Baker discussed the collaborative environment, history, key elements and foundation, education and workforce development, Urban Waters Summer Internship Program, growth of Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) degree programs at UWT, and the Readiness Acceleration Innovation Network (RAIN) Program. Jim Parvey, Environmental Policy and Sustainability Division Manager, Environmental Services, presented on the green jobs grant through the Local Employment and Apprenticeship Program, and Environmental Workforce Development and job training programs. He discussed the Innovation Partnership Zone (IPZ), including partnerships, major accomplishments since IPZ designation, connections, and strategies going forward. Ryan Vogel, Co-Founder and Executive Director, PureBlue, presented background information on PureBlue and blue tech companies. Connie Bacon, Commissioner (retired), Port of Tacoma, gave background information on early planning, ideas for the branding of Tacoma, and what role the City can play in supporting Urban Waters.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding wages earned through the job training programs, logistics of STEM degree programs, and the RAIN Program. Discussion continued on community and technical college involvement, building pipeline for engineering students, goals to translate jobs into economic opportunities, opportunities for networking events, growing new jobs, how to connect to job training, and career paths for entry-level jobs. Discussion continued on where PureBlue partnerships are located, assets in Tacoma and Washington that attract blue tech companies, opportunities for academic partnership, and career paths for entry-level jobs. Discussion concluded on out of state students conducting research in the City, policy decisions, workforce development, grants, opportunities to create more partnerships, and what role the City can play in supporting Urban Waters.

## Topics for Upcoming Meetings

2. 18-0519 May 29, 2018 - Tacoma Mall Update and Trends in National Retail Activities

Lynda Foster, Committee Liaison, stated the next meeting on May 29, 2018 will include Tacoma Mall update and trends in national retail activities. She stated the meeting on June 12, 2018 will include Joint Base Lewis-McChord regional economical impact, and the meeting on June 26, 2018 will include workforce development and manufacturing industry job landscape.

## Other Items of Interest


There were no other items of interest.

## Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

  
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Conor McCarthy, Chair

  
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Stacy Manthou, City Clerk's Office