



# City of Tacoma Economic Development Committee Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 248

January 27, 2015

10:00 AM

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Chair Marty Campbell, Vice Chair David Boe,  
Ryan Mello, Lauren Walker, Robert Thoms (alternate)

## Call To Order

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

**Present:** 3 - Boe, Walker and Thoms

**Absent:** 2 - Campbell and Mello

Chair Campbell arrived at 10:14 a.m.

### 1. 15-0062

Approval of the minutes of the January 13, 2015 Special Meeting

**MOTION: Council Member Walker moved to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2015 special meeting.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.**

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

**Ayes:** 3 - Boe, Walker and Thoms

**Absent:** 2 - Campbell and Mello

## Briefing Items

### 2. 15-0063

Potential Sister City Addition

[Debbie Bingham, International Program Development Specialist, Community and Economic Development; Clare Petrich, Commissioner, Port of Tacoma, and Chair, Sister Cities Council]

Debbie Bingham, Community and Economic Development, stated the city of Hvar, Croatia would be the 13th sister city, if approved. She stated a committee has been meeting the last six months on this potential sister city addition, then provided a brief history of the Sister City program and application process, noting the last addition was Biot, France in 2012.

Chair Campbell arrived here, at 10:14 a.m.

Members of the committee introduced themselves and their connection to Croatia, including Bill Connelly, Hollis Duncan, Mary Sudar, Ron Simsich, and Clare Petrich. Ms. Petrich provided a brief history of Croatia. She then discussed similarities to Tacoma, including waterfront activity and arts, music, and food. She stated there are many people in Tacoma and surrounding areas of Croatian descent, and shared photos and cultural information. She then stated the committee sponsored and showed a film and is also working with the Tacoma Opera. Council Member Thoms briefly discussed the Croatian economy and noted the connection to Tacoma with the waterfront and shipbuilding. Ms. Petrich stated the population of Hvar is approximately 15,000, and there are approximately 6 million people in all of Croatia. Discussion ensued regarding the historical connection and shared heritage between Croatia, Gig Harbor, and Tacoma. Vice Chair Boe recommended the committee get in touch with the Puget Sound Revels, noting they performed a Croatian song and dance.

**MOTION: Council Member Walker moved to recommend to the City Council the approval of Hvar, Croatia as a sister city.**

**SECONDED BY: Vice Chair Boe.**

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

**Ayes:** 4 - Boe, Campbell, Walker and Thoms

**Absent:** 1 - Mello

## Topics for Upcoming Meetings

3.      **15-0064**      February 10, 2015 - Applicant Interviews for City Events and Recognitions Committee

Anita Gallagher, City Manager's Office, stated the meeting on February 10, 2015 will include applicant interviews for the City Events and Recognition Committee, and the meeting on February 24, 2015 will include an update on the Foss Waterway Development Authority. Discussion ensued regarding appointments to the Arts Commission.

## Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

## Public Comment

There was no public comment.

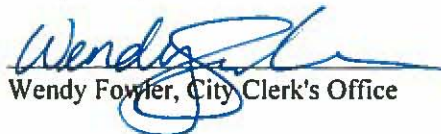
**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.



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Marty Campbell, Chair



Wendy Fowler, City Clerk's Office