



# City of Tacoma Economic Development Committee Minutes

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

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/86824127684](http://www.zoom.us/j/86824127684) Passcode: 614650

**April 26, 2022**

**10:00 AM**

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

## Call To Order

Vice Chair Daniels called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

## Roll Call

**Present:** 3 - Daniels, McCarthy and Rumbaugh

**Absent:** 2 - Blocker and Bushnell

All Council Members participated virtually.

## Briefing Items

1. [22-0486](#) Downtown Tacoma Partnership Retail Advocate Update  
[JD Elquist, Retail Advocate; David Schroedel, Executive Director,  
Downtown Tacoma Partnership]

At approximately 10:01 a.m. Jeff Robinson, Community and Economic Development Director, introduced JD Elquist, Retail Advocate, Downtown Tacoma Partnership (DTP). Mr. Elquist introduced David Schroedel, Executive Director, DTP, and together they presented a retail advocate update, including the 2018 retail study and strategy, a history of the Business Improvement Area now known as the DTP, noting the goal for a safe, clean, and welcoming downtown; 2019-2021 partners; retail advocacy by the numbers; and future partners.

Discussion ensued regarding the importance of the Tacoma Dome District and Downtown Tacoma, zoning foreshadows, and the inner-urban development; bringing Downtown Works to present to the Committee; great efforts and successes the DTP has had through the COVID-19 pandemic; the two problem buildings; other buildings that have struggled with getting retail into their spaces; how to help with Pioneer Services; economic Opportunity Zones; the Grit City Co-op on South 9th Street and

Martin Luther King Jr. Way; a new location for the Seattle Credit Union; services that can be accessed with the light rail; the 15 percent vacancy that is ready for retail space; and what percentage of the 15 percent can satisfy restaurant needs.

## Topics for Upcoming Meetings

2. [22-0487](#) May 10, 2022 - Economic Development Strategic Plan Update  
May 24, 2022 - Interviews for the City Events and Recognition Committee  
May 31, 2022 - Cancelled

Joe Franco, Committee Liaison, stated that the next meeting will be held on May 10, 2022, and will include an update on the Economic Development Strategic Plan; the meeting on May 24, 2022, will include interviews for the City Events and Recognition Committee; and the May 31, 2022, meeting is cancelled.

## Other Items of Interest

Council Member Rumbaugh stated that she would be interested to learn more about the overlay at the University of Washington Tacoma and their housing options for students.

Vice Chair Daniels requested information from staff that shows the areas of the City that have current and future development.

## Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.



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Keith Blocker, Chair



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Kiara Thomas, City Clerk's Office