



# Economic Development Committee Minutes

<http://www.cityoftacoma.org/ED>

Tacoma Municipal Building, Room 248, 747 Market Street, Tacoma, Washington 98402

June 24, 2014

Chair Campbell called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

Council Committee Members Present: Boe, Campbell, and Thoms (alternate).

Council Committee Members Absent: Mello and Walker.

## **Approval of the minutes of the June 10, 2014 meeting**

Council Member Boe moved to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2014 meeting. Seconded by Council Member Thoms. Voice vote was taken and carried. The minutes were approved.

## **Sitecrafting, Inc. Informational Briefing**

At approximately 10:09 a.m., Elly Walkowiak, Community and Economic Development (CED), provided background information on Sarah Champion Pedersen, Sitecrafting, Inc. who then reviewed the company's history and commitment to their staff, including benefits, continuing education, positions, company culture, insights, and future plans. Discussion ensued regarding choosing Tacoma as their home office, satellite locations, telecommuting, future plans, community development, and student engagement. Ms. Walkowiak stated the City is working on creating a local technology company meeting schedule for businesses to discuss involvement in Tacoma.

## **South Tacoma Auto Dealers Update**

At approximately 10:54 a.m., Shari Hart, CED, provided background information on objectives relative to South Tacoma Way. J.T. Curry, Motors Northwest and South Tacoma Auto and Retail Sales (STARS) President, and Mary Byrne, Bruce Titus Subaru, reviewed independent and new car dealership economic and financial impacts, employment, philanthropy, city lead renovation efforts, and the formation of the STARS group. Discussion ensued regarding desired changes to Tacoma's Auto Row, the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation's Jazz Festival, interactions with the City Council, adding navigation signs to direct residents outside of City limits to Tacoma's Auto Row, creating Business Improvement Areas and Local Improvement Districts, code enforcement's role in maintaining street appeal, city versus state taxes, "pass-through" agencies, retail businesses along Tacoma's Auto Row, and oversight by multiple agencies.

## **Neighborhood Business Districts**

At approximately 11:37 a.m., Ms. Hart provided an overview of the Economic Development Framework Plan, including adaptive reuse; relocation, expansion, and retention; Spaceworks in the Neighborhood Business Districts; vibrant streetscapes; new construction; and current development. Discussion ensued regarding retail, parking, and bike lane development in the Stadium District. Chair Campbell requested staff provide an update on bikeways in the Stadium District to this Committee.

**Topics for Upcoming Meetings**

Anita Gallagher, City Manager's Office, stated the next meeting is July 8, 2014 with interviews for the City Events and Recognitions Committee.

**Other Items of Interest**

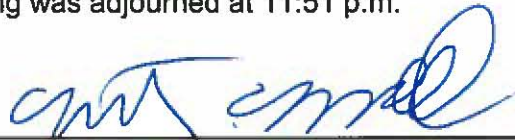
There were no other items of interest.

**Public Comment**

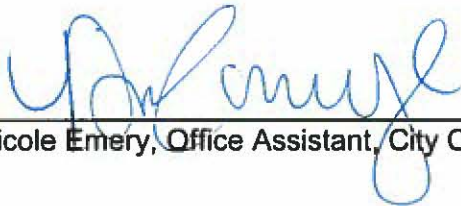
None.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:51 p.m.



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Marty Campbell, Chair



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Nicole Emery, Office Assistant, City Clerk's Office



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