



Economic Development Committee Minutes

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

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

October 8, 2013

Chair Campbell called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Council Committee Members Present: Boe, Campbell, and Mello.

Council Committee Members Absent: Walker (arrived at 10:07 a.m.)

Approval of September 24, 2013 Minutes

Council Member Boe moved to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2013 meeting. Seconded by Council Member Mello. Voice vote was taken and carried. The minutes were approved.

Arts and Economic Development

Amy McBride, Community and Economic Development, provided background information regarding arts related programs and initiatives that support community and economic development, and introduced Heather Joy and David Schroedel, Tacoma Pierce County Chamber of Commerce. Ms. McBride then provided background information on the Spaceworks Tacoma program.

Council Member Walker arrived here, at 10:07 a.m.

Ms. McBride then reviewed the Spaceworks Tacoma Steering Committee, and two program strategies, active use and static art installation. Ms. Joy stated Spaceworks Tacoma is currently accepting applications for artscares in 2014 and reviewed artscape installations from September 1, 2013, through December 20, 2013. She then reviewed examples of the active use strategy relating to creative enterprise and special project residency. Ms. McBride stated clients also receive business training, then reviewed next steps, and provided an update on the development of artist live/work spaces. Discussion ensued regarding promoting success stories when property owners participate in the Spaceworks program, moving the program to all business districts, and the Arts Market Survey.

Ms. McBride reviewed public art projects and artists, including Sound Transit projects, and the Andy Warhol Tacoma Dome flower project. Discussion ensued regarding the flower project, including creating a resolution to show Council support, costs, steps needed to make sure the project can move forward, and the possibility of decorating the surface of the Tacoma Dome with a golf ball when the U.S. Open Championship comes to Chamber's Bay Golf Course in 2015.

Ms. McBride provided background information on the Green Flash project and introduced Elizabeth Corner, Project Artist for the Pacific Avenue Streetscape project. Ms. Corner provided an update on the project, including activities, sculptures and ceramic tile in rain gardens, and next steps. Discussion ensued regarding the rain garden sculptures, whether an explanation of

the Green Flash symbol and concept should be displayed, and integrating rain garden art with the neighboring businesses.

Ms. McBride then introduced Pierce County Arts and Culture Executives (PCACEs), including David Fischer, Broadway Center for the Performing Arts, Jennifer Kilmer, Washington State History Museum, and Andy Buelow, Tacoma Symphony. The PCACEs provided an update regarding joint initiatives and goals for raising visibility and attracting audiences to arts and culture attractions in Tacoma via cooperative marketing. They then discussed joint marketing and publicity priorities, PCACE membership, a web portal for purchasing joint tickets, and the use of a public relations firm.

Ms. Kilmer stated attendance at the Washington State History Museum is up, the 2014 American Alliance for Museums Conference will be held in Seattle, and she is concerned about the potential fees for the Tacoma Link light rail and the impact it will have on attendance. Mr. Fischer provided a theatre update, noting the Arts Northwest Conference will be held in Tacoma next week, ticket sales are up, and they are working to activate the armory. Mr. Buelow provided an update on the Tacoma Symphony and stated they are in the process of searching for a new music director. Discussion ensued regarding support provided by the City to the performing arts community, upcoming events, marketing for all arts events, and partners engaging in Tacoma's cultural institutions. Mr. Fischer requested Council support an item coming before the Washington State Legislature relating to a Cultural Access Fund. Ms. McBride stated November is Art at Work: Tacoma Arts Month and reviewed activities, including the AMOCAT Arts Awards and studio tours.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

Anita Gallagher, City Manager's Office, stated topics for the October 22, 2013 meeting include updates on the Port of Tacoma Strategic Plan and new business opportunities, and Neighborhood Business Districts. She then stated the October 29, 2013 meeting will include applicant interviews for the Foss Waterway Development Authority.

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 11:26 a.m.


Marty Campbell, Chair


Linnea Meredith, Office Assistant, City Clerk's Office