



City of Tacoma Economic Development Committee Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 882 2753 9908

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/88227539908 Passcode: 614650

December 08, 2020

10:00 AM

Chair Robert Thoms, Vice Chair Conor McCarthy, Keith Blocker,
Catherine Ushka, Chris Beale (alternate)

Call To Order

Chair Thoms called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - McCarthy, Thoms and Ushka

Absent: 1 - Blocker

Deputy Mayor Blocker arrived at 10:05 a.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [20-0939](#) Retail Cannabis in Tacoma
[Gloria Fletcher, Business Development Manager, Community and Economic Development]

At approximately 10:03 a.m., Gloria Fletcher, Business Development Manager, Community and Economic Development, provided an update on the retail cannabis industry in Tacoma, including the cannabis industry landscape.

Deputy Mayor Blocker arrived here, at 10:05 a.m.

Ms. Fletcher further reviewed the cannabis industry landscape, noting venture capital, investors, opportunities for ancillary businesses, and key success factors; state and local revenue impacts; startup difficulties and authorized locations within the local cannabis market; the retail cannabis map; recent social and political trends and legislation; the implementation of social equity legislation; policy issues for consideration; and potential opportunities.

Discussion ensued regarding Tacoma being a leader in retail cannabis, the social equity approach and possible flaws, limitations in finding locations for retail stores, the number of licenses that were not utilized and how to distribute those licenses, the number of retail stores in Tacoma, how the licenses are associated with the locations, the difference between general retail locations and retail locations that allow cannabis, and having a clear regulatory environment.

2. [20-0940](#) Re-codifying and Updating Ordinance Related to Parking on a Grade
[Keith Echterling, Assistant City Attorney, and Eric Huseby, Parking Services Operations Manager, Public Works]

At approximately 10:45 a.m., Keith Echterling, Assistant City Attorney, outlined a code revision related to parking on a grade, including an overview, background, current signage, the proposed ordinance language, parking enforcement, and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding background of this ordinance, the number of citations given, the scope of parking enforcement and possible changes, and the amount of damage caused from not parking on a grade correctly.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

3. [20-0941](#) December 22, 2020 - Cancelled
December 29, 2020 - Cancelled

Chair Thoms stated the December 22, 2020, and December 29, 2020, meetings are cancelled.

Other Items of Interest

Council Member McCarthy stated the governor announced the extension of the State of Emergency related to COVID-19 and additional State funding opportunities, and expressed interest in discussing what the City is doing to help small businesses in Tacoma and the limitations on those businesses.

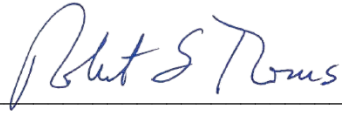
Discussion ensued regarding exceptions to gyms with youth programs, how other cities are enforcing shutdown rules, the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, the survival of small business, and health outcomes.

Public Comment

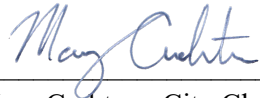
There was no Public Comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.



Robert Thoms, Chair



Mary Crabtree, City Clerk's Office