



Economic Development Committee Minutes

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

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

October 22, 2013

Chair Campbell called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

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

Council Committee Members Absent: None.

Approval of October 8, 2013 Minutes

Council Member Boe moved to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2013 meeting. Seconded by Council Member Mello. Voice vote was taken and carried. The minutes were approved.

Port of Tacoma Strategic Plan Update

At approximately 10:04 a.m., Elly Walkowiak, Community and Economic Development (CED), introduced Port of Tacoma Commissioner Connie Bacon and Port of Tacoma Chief Executive Officer John Wolfe. Ms. Bacon provided opening remarks and Mr. Wolfe provided an update on the Port's strategic plan, including background information; the effects and impacts of competitive business; the Port's strengths, including natural deep ports and nearby railroads; and new business opportunities, including growing and diversifying the container business, a robust rail enhancement plan, and improving road infrastructure. Discussion ensued regarding the Harbor Maintenance Tax, capacity in the shipping industry, the Port of Savannah, Georgia, and development of parcels around the Port. Council Member Mello encouraged the Port to educate customers and employees to vote for Proposition No. 1 to improve roads.

Neighborhood Business Districts Update

At approximately 10:44 a.m., Ricardo Noguera, CED Director, provided opening remarks and introduced Shari Hart and Carol Wolfe, CED. Ms. Hart provided an update on the Neighborhood Business Districts, including background information and the economic development strategic framework, including strengthening retail, creating a vibrant streetscape, and encouraging development. Mr. Noguera reviewed the focus for 2014, including assisting with recruiting and collaborating with local brokers to fill vacant spaces with commercial uses, façade loans, and simplifying the permit process. Discussion ensued regarding the permit process, the concept drawing for the Proctor District, whether staff is working with brokers to bring in locally owned businesses, façade loans, whether businesses can use grant funds for tenant improvements, how business districts operated prior to 1991, whether there are programs available for downtown businesses since they are not in a business district, and the Downtown Merchants Group.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

Anita Gallagher, City Manager's Office, stated the October 29, 2013 meeting will include applicant interviews for the Foss Waterway Development Authority, and the November 12, 2013 meeting will include the Economic Development Dashboard Third Quarterly Report.

Other Items of Interest

Council Member Boe inquired about the Pacific Avenue Streetscape Economic Development Plan; City Manager T.C. Broadnax stated staff is working on a written response, including an end-of-project celebration. Chair Campbell suggested a countdown to the lighting of the catenary fixtures.

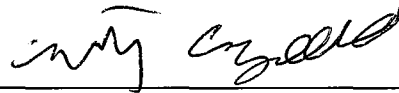
Council Member Boe suggested having broom ball games at the Franciscan Polar Plaza ice rink and stated he has been working with the organizer from the Tacoma Art Museum to block out two nights for games. He then suggested a team from the City compete against a team from the Chamber of Commerce, noting it would be a great way to promote the ice rink and downtown.

Public Comment

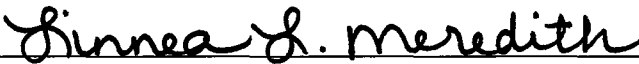
None.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.



Marty Campbell, Chair



Linnea Meredith, Office Assistant, City Clerk's Office