



City of Tacoma

Economic Development

Committee Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Conference Room 248

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

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

February 28, 2023

10:00 AM

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

Call To Order

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

Roll Call

Present: 4 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels and Diaz

Council Member Diaz participated virtually and arrived in-person at 10:12 a.m.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Briefing Items

1. [23-0197](#) Downtown Tacoma Partnership Annual Update
[David Schroedel, Executive Director, Downtown Tacoma Partnership]

At approximately 10:02 a.m., David Schroedel, Executive Director, Downtown Tacoma Partnership (DTP), presented an update on the DTP, including background; DTP leadership; the 2017 Business Improvement Area (BIA) survey; the 2023-2024 DTP BIA budget; and 2022 results, noting safety, graffiti removal, and welcoming posts on Instagram. He concluded by describing photographs of past events that DTP have sponsored; COVID-19 storefronts, noting openings and closings; and news headlines from 2023.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding graffiti tag repeat offenders, DTP funding, a business climate survey, the decrease in demand for office spaces, the usage of rooftop spaces, who administers DTP elections, storefront closures due to the retirement of business owners, the demographics of those living in Downtown Tacoma, potential green spaces in the City, the Link light rail, the cost benefits of residential

versus office spaces, amenities for residential tenants, DTP leadership, and the expansion of DTP.

2. [23-0198](#) Spaceworks Tacoma Update
[Michael Liang, Program Director; Jennifer English, Training Coordinator, Spaceworks Tacoma]

At approximately 10:51 a.m., Michael Liang, Program Director, Spaceworks Tacoma, provided opening remarks and presented an update on Spaceworks Tacoma, including images of community members that Spaceworks Tacoma serves; the creation of Spaceworks Tacoma, noting program areas of artsclapes, coworking space, and the incubator; wraparound support for creative entrepreneurs, noting training, funding, community, and space; current City of Tacoma funding; key partners; and key initiatives for fiscal year 2023. Jennifer English, Training Coordinator, Spaceworks Tacoma, concluded by presenting on the Home Incubation Agreement, including who needs home incubation, background, a comparison of the current policy and proposed changes; and a summary.

Discussion ensued regarding the submission process for policy proposals, and a food incubator.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

3. [23-0199](#) March 14, 2023 - The Future of Foss Waterway Real Estate Developments
March 28, 2023 - Citywide Business Survey; Equity in Contracting Year End Report
April 11, 2023 - Manufacturing Industrial Council Perspectives on the Tideflats Subarea Plan

Joe Franco, Committee Liaison, stated that the next meeting will be on March 14, 2023, and will include a presentation on the future of Foss Waterway real estate developments; the March 28, 2023, meeting will include presentations on the Citywide business survey, and the Equity in Contracting year end report; and the April 11, 2023, meeting will include presentations on Manufacturing Industrial Council perspectives on the Tideflats Subarea Plan, and the green economy.

Other Items of Interest

Vice Chair Daniels requested a presentation on food truck incubation.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.



Keith Blocker, Chair

 For

Jessica Mazique, City Clerk's Office