



City of Tacoma Economic Development Committee Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 248

June 09, 2015

10:00 AM

Chair Marty Campbell, Vice Chair David Boe,
Ryan Mello, Lauren Walker, Robert Thoms (alternate)

Call To Order

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

Present: 3 - Boe, Campbell and Mello

Absent: 1 - Walker

Briefing Items

1. 15-0595 Neighborhood Business Districts Program Review Check-in
[Shari Hart, Program Development Specialist, Community and Economic Development]

At approximately 10:05 a.m., Shari Hart, Community and Economic Development, discussed stakeholder outreach for the Neighborhood Business Districts Program, including surveys, focus groups, targeted stakeholders, peer city review, and an interdepartmental survey. She provided a brief overview of survey results, including 82 percent of the respondents are stakeholders in Neighborhood Business Districts, 71 percent identified additional goals for the program, and 24 percent identified a need for additional City services. She noted the most important program goal is to improve economic growth and redevelopment and areas identified in need of attention were public safety and visual distinction. She then reviewed direct outreach to targeted stakeholders, including the Cross District Association. Ms. Hart discussed peer city review, noting 10 peer cities were researched and many of them have a Main Street or business district program, and two of those programs were linked to city government. Finally she reviewed the interdepartmental survey, noting 28 responses were received and 85 percent indicated working with the Neighborhood Business District program is important to completing their primary job duties and helps the strategic goal of a high-performing, open and engaged government. She then reviewed next steps, including preparing draft code revisions to introduce a standards and guidelines document with

neighborhoods and key City staff. Discussion ensued throughout the presentation regarding the Cross District Association, the raw data provided, the varying goals and activities of the business districts, and infrastructure improvements.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

2. 15-0596 The next meeting will be on June 23rd - no topics scheduled

At approximately 10:38 a.m. Committee Liaison Brad Forbes stated the next meeting is June 23, 2015 and there are no topics currently scheduled for the meeting. City Manager T.C. Broadnax inquired if there were any policies or initiatives that Committee Members would like to see brought before the Committee or revisited by management relative to economic development. Discussion ensued regarding paid leave and minimum wage and the impact these issues have on economic development, especially small businesses, and Committee assignments for topics that overlap the various Council Committees. Council Member Mello requested staff add to the potential topics list a conversation about a possible revolving loan fund for tenant improvements and to bring in staff to discuss rental rates. He requested, relative to the conversation on minimum wage, a conversation with real Tacoma data on how much money an individual or family needs to earn per hour to make ends meet. Discussion ensued regarding what data is already available, if the Committee would like to discuss this topic while the Minimum Wage Task Force is conducting their meetings, adding discussion topics relative to economic barriers, and business and occupation taxes. Chair Campbell stated he would like to discuss the policy of sidewalk café fees.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

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


Marty Campbell, Chair
Wendy Fowler, City Clerk's Office