



City of Tacoma Economic Development Committee Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 248

February 27, 2018

10:00 AM

Chair Robert Thoms, Vice Chair Conor McCarthy,
Catherine Ushka, Victoria Woodards, Chris Beale (alternate)

Call To Order

Vice Chair McCarthy called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Present: 4 - McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka and Woodards

Approval of Minutes

1. [18-0174](#) Approval of the minutes of the meeting of January 23, 2018

MOTION: Mayor Woodards moved to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2018 meeting.

SECONDED BY: Council Member McCarthy.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

Ayes: 4 - McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka and Woodards

2. [18-0175](#) Approval of the minutes of the meeting of January 30, 2018

MOTION: Council Member McCarthy moved to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2018 meeting.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

Ayes: 4 - McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka and Woodards

Briefing Items

3. [18-0176](#) Farmers Markets Annual Report
[Shari Hart, Program Development Specialist, Community and Economic Development Department - Neighborhood Business District Revitalization]

At approximately 10:07 a.m., Shari Hart, Program Development Specialist, Community and Economic Development, made opening remarks and introduced Stacy Carkonen, Executive Director, Tacoma Farmers Market, and Karen Bowes, Market Manager, Proctor Farmers Market. Ms. Hart presented a background and a brief history on the Farmers Market of Tacoma and the alignment with priorities and strategies, including the Council Strategic Policy priority, Tacoma 2025 Citywide vision and strategic plan, and the economic development strategic framework.

Ms. Carkonen and Ms. Bowes presented economic impacts of the Tacoma markets, sharing data from 2017, and comparing total market sales from 2015-2017. They explained the leveraging of strategic partnerships, how they have leveraged the City and private funding to impact the markets, and introduced the expansion of the Pierce County Fresh program, the Fresh Bucks program, and the Senior Farm Share program. They reviewed the opportunities for new and existing small businesses, wholesaling opportunities; community health impacts; equity and diversity at the markets; the combined market incentive funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistant program and Electronic Benefits Transfer; Fresh Bucks; Women, Infants and Children and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition program; Senior Farm Share; and the Apple-a-Day program. They concluded on changes in 2018 for the Pierce County Fresh Market Booth.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding the closure of the Sixth Avenue Farmers Market, small business incubation, businesses launched at the Tacoma Farmers Markets, market vendor capacity, benefits of restaurants around the market areas, what is needed from the City to help the markets grow, City official presence at the markets, connections with residents, comparison of promotions from different jurisdictions, the possibility of the farmers markets to present to the full City Council, the impacts of the programs, and the financial support from the County.

4. [18-0177](#) Downtown to Defiance Trolley, MetroParks Update on Point Defiance Zoo
[Pat Beard, Project Manager, Community and Economic Development Department - Private Capital Division]

At approximately 10:46 a.m., Pat Beard, Project Manager, Community and

Economic Development Department, made opening remarks and introduced Phedra Redifer, Regional Parks Attractions Manager, Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, and Tina Lee, Community Development Administrator, Pierce Transit.

Ms. Redifer gave an overview of Destination Point Defiance, including an update on the funding and the capital improvement bond, the status of the park during construction, and an update on the Environmental Learning Center and the Pacific Seas Aquarium. She then presented updates of Waterfront Phase 1, including benefits and what areas the phase includes; an update on the Pearl Street entrance roundabout construction project; where to find continuous updates; upcoming special events and special events of 2016, partnership with stakeholder groups and agencies, Tacoma's Waterfront joint initiative, and Downtown to Defiance Trolley.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding an update on the trail and bridge that is linking Ruston Way with Point Defiance and the anticipated date of opening to the public.

Ms. Lee made introductory remarks about the Downtown to Defiance Trolley including partnerships involved, response to requests for service improvements, and a timeframe and fare involved for the pilot season. She continued on improved access; locations of the route and connections; connections to transportation options and parking; extensions of the route; fiscal contribution of partnerships involved; economic engagement including hotel and museum partnership; and community engagement.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding location of the previous route in comparison to the new route, where the best uses of the trolleys are for ridership warrants, smaller routes encouraging shorter pick up times, ridership data, waterfront signage, challenges with access to the waterfront, passes extending through summer, bicycle usage, and the suggestion for trolley routes to go to neighborhood centers.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

5. [18-0178](#) March 13, 2018 - Canceled
 March 27, 2018 - Small Works Roster; Local Employment and Apprenticeship Training Program (LEAP) proposed changes

Chair Thoms stated the next meeting on March 13, 2018 will be cancelled and the meeting of March 27, 2018 will include Small Works Roster and Local Employment and Apprenticeship Training Program (LEAP) proposed changes.

Other Items of Interest

Chair Thoms thanked the Committee for their support of his deployment. Discussion ensued regarding condensed presentations and the update on the hiring process of the Community and Economic Development Department Director.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Robert Thoms, Chair

Stacy Manthou, City Clerk's Office