



# City of Tacoma Economic Development Committee Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 248

**November 27, 2018**

**10:00 AM**

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

## Call To Order

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

**Present:** 4 - McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka and Woodards

## Approval of Minutes

1. [18-1391](#) Approval of the minutes of the October 23, 2018 meeting
2. [18-1393](#) Approval of the minutes of the November 13, 2018 meeting

**MOTION: Mayor Woodards moved to approve the minutes of the October 23, and November 13, 2018 meetings.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Ushka.**

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

**Ayes:** 4 - McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka and Woodards

## Briefing Items

3. [18-1392](#) Foss Waterway Development Authority Interviews  
[Doris Sorum, City Clerk]

At approximately 10:04 a.m., Doris Sorum, City Clerk, provided information regarding vacancies on the Foss Waterway Development Authority (FWDA) and stated the three applicants that will interview today were submitted by the Metropolitan Park's Board of Commissioners, per the FWDA Charter.

Discussion ensued regarding Metropolitan Park's represented position on the FWDA, the Commission Member that resigned, residency requirements, current demographics, future outreach, the number of positions the City Council selects, and term limits of the FWDA Commission Members.

The Committee interviewed Dean Burke, Rita Chaudhuri, and Kristina Walker.

Discussion ensued regarding the applicants' qualifications and reaching out to the applicants to see if they are interested in serving on other Committees, Boards, and Commissions.

**MOTION: Mayor Woodards moved to recommend the appointment of Kristina Walker to the Foss Waterway Development Authority to fill an unexpired term to expire August 31, 2020.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Ushka.**

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

**Ayes:** 4 - McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka and Woodards

4. [18-1394](#)

Introduction to Greater Seattle Partners - the newly created three-county economic development organization

[Brian McGowan, CEO, Greater Seattle Partners]

At approximately 10:44 a.m., Elly Walkowiak, Assistant Director, Community and Economic Development, made opening remarks and introduced James Henderson, COO, Greater Seattle Partners (GSP). Mayor Woodards provided background of her involvement with the GSP. Mr. Henderson provided an overview of the GSP, including an introduction, focus on the Puget Sound region, United States regional Economic Development Organizations (EDO), international regional EDO's, what the GSP builds and makes, and how GSP ranks nationally and locally. He further presented a finding from a World Economic Forum, noting two locations that are best positioned for long-term success and short-term momentum; Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data; Gross Metropolitan Product (GMP); highlights from data released in 2017; the addition of the Memphis' economy in terms of overall GDP to our region; issues; and the importance of economy growth. He reviewed activities to date, 2018 trade missions and trade shows, GSP governance structure, and the 2019 work plan. Mr. Henderson concluded by presenting the GSP action plan, including inclusive economic development growth, who is being excluded and why, and

the draft vision statement; components of the strategic plan/action plan; key metrics for the 2019 work plan; and the 2018 transition and 2019 start-up plans.

Discussion ensued regarding how GSP is funded, who provided the majority of the funding to start-up, how the GSP is complementary to what the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Board are doing, inclusive and equitable distribution of opportunities to be a part of GSP, an idea to measure outreach and intake investments, how GSP connects with the Puget Sound Regional Council's economic development study, reviewing survey results from outreach, adding language to the surveys, and next steps.

## Other Items of Interest

### 5. 18-1502 Election of Committee Chair and Vice Chair

Discussion ensued regarding Council Members Thoms' return.

**MOTION: Chair McCarthy moved to elect Council Member Thoms as Chair of the Economic Development Committee, effective immediately.**

**SECONDED BY: Mayor Woodards.**

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

**Ayes:** 4 - McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka and Woodards

**MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to elect Council Member McCarthy as Vice Chair of the Economic Development Committee, effective immediately.**

**SECONDED BY: Mayor Woodards.**

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

**Ayes:** 4 - McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka and Woodards

## Topics for Upcoming Meetings

5.     [18-1395](#)     December 11, 2018 - To be determined

This item was not addressed.

## Public Comment

This item was not addressed.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

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Conor McCarthy, Chair

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Jessica Jenkins, City Clerk's Office