



City of Tacoma

Economic Development

Committee Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 248

April 09, 2019

10:00 AM

Chair Robert Thoms, Vice Chair Conor McCarthy, Lillian Hunter,
Catherine Ushka, Chris Beale (alternate)

Call To Order

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

Present: 4 - Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms and Ushka

Briefing Items

1. [19-0350](#) Update on Development of the Economic Development Strategic Plan
[Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development]

At approximately 10:04 a.m., Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development, made opening remarks and introduced Chris Mefford, President and CEO, and Bryan Lobel, Senior Planner, Community Attributes, Inc. Mr. Mefford presented the City of Tacoma's Economic Development Strategic Plan, including an economic and demographic profile, noting the jobs to housing ratio, race and ethnicity population percentages, age population percentages, median household income, taxable retail sales per capita, projected employment growth in key industries in Tacoma, current employment growth in key industries for all of Pierce County, a workforce profile of Tacoma residents, a commercial and industrial lands profile, and a real estate market profile.

Mr. Mefford then presented the economic development strategies, including eight focus areas: business retention, expansion and recruitment; small businesses and entrepreneurialism; workforce development and human capital; neighborhood business district revitalization; Downtown Tacoma; commercial and industrial property activation; business and development climate; and placemaking and city image.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding why people move out of Tacoma,

what draws them to other areas, coordination between planning and economic bodies in the City, infrastructure in the City, and the Downtown Business Alliance.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

2. [19-0351](#) April 23, 2019 - Theatre Square Planning Update
Chair Thoms stated the April 23, 2019 meeting will include the Theatre Square Planning update. Lynda Foster, Committee Liaison, stated there will also be a presentation on opportunity zones and foreign trade zones investments in Tacoma.

Other Items of Interest

Council Member Hunter requested an update on the engagement between Tacoma and Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

Discussion ensued regarding information received since the last meeting, the next elected officials' council for the South Sound Military and Community Partnership on May 16, 2019, and the possibility of assigning someone to officially attend those meetings.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Robert Thoms, Chair

Katie Foster, City Clerk's Office