



# City of Tacoma Economic Development Committee Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 248

April 23, 2019

10:00 AM

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

## Call To Order

Vice Chair McCarthy called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**Present:** 3 - Hunter, McCarthy and Ushka

**Absent:** 1 - Thoms

Chair Thoms arrived at 10:06 a.m.

## Approval of Minutes

1. [19-0409](#) Approval of the Minutes of the March 26, 2019 meeting

**MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2019 meeting.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Hunter.**

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

**Ayes:** 3 - Hunter, McCarthy and Ushka

**Absent:** 1 - Thoms

## Briefing Items

2. [19-0403](#) Theatre Square Planning Update  
[Janine Robinson, Senior Planner, Pierce Transit]

At approximately 10:05 a.m., Janine Robinson, Senior Planner, Pierce Transit, made introductory remarks.

Chair Thoms arrived here, at 10:06 a.m.

Ms. Robinson presented the Theater Square Planning update, including areas that make up the Tacoma Theater District; how the development came about and current progress; the vision for the community and community outreach; three long-term key strategies, including adding housing, promoting active groundfloor uses, and supporting the working arts community; two concepts for use of the space next to Theater on the Square; ideas for redevelopment of Commerce Street; five goals to achieve by 2025; and future challenges.

Discussion ensued regarding preventing food deserts, homeless camps, safety of Downtown Tacoma, services available to the artists' community, and management of public spaces.

3. [19-0404](#) Tacoma Opportunity Zones Update  
[Elly Walkowiak, Assistant Director, Community and Economic Development]

This item was not addressed. The Committee decided to move the topic to the May 14, 2019 meeting.

4. [19-0405](#) Foreign Trade Zone Update  
[Erin DeBroux, Real Estate Analyst, Port of Tacoma]

At approximately 10:48 a.m., Erin DeBroux, Real Estate Analyst, Port of Tacoma, presented the Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) update, including what FTZs are; key participants; commonalities among companies using FTZs; types of companies using FTZs; FTZ activities; FTZ benefits; how to establish a zone in Pierce County, FTZ No. 86; zone sites within the Tideflats area of Tacoma; FTZ No. 86 2018 statistics; FTZ No. 86 employment, including value of merchandise received and value of exports; 2016 and 2017 annual reports from the FTZ Board; and 2017 national FTZ facts.

Discussion ensued regarding exporting commodities, using tools to help companies assess FTZs, shipping lines utilizing the Port of Tacoma and the benefit of the Port to the local economy, and future tool development.

## Topics for Upcoming Meetings

5. [19-0406](#) April 30, 2019 - Cancelled

Chair Thoms stated the April 30, 2019 meeting is cancelled.

## Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

## **Public Comment**

Public Comment was heard from:

1. David Schroedel, Tacoma Pierce-County Chamber, speaking on the Theater Square Planning update.
2. Stacy Carkonen, Tacoma Farmers Markets, speaking on the Theater Square Planning update.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

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Robert Thoms, Chair

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Katie Foster, City Clerk's Office