



City of Tacoma Economic Development Committee Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 841 6094 2983

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/84160942983 Passcode: 614650

March 30, 2021

10:00 AM

Chair Robert Thoms, Vice Chair Conor McCarthy, Keith Blocker,
Catherine Ushka, Chris Beale (alternate)

Call To Order

Chair Thoms called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - McCarthy, Thoms and Ushka

Absent: 1 - Blocker

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [21-0304](#)

Downtown Tacoma Partnership

[David Schroedel, Executive Director, Downtown Tacoma Partnership]

At approximately 10:01 a.m., David Schroedel, Executive Director, Downtown Tacoma Partnership (DTP), presented an update on the DTP, including the 2016-2017 Business Improvement Area (BIA) survey; history for the years 2016 through 2020; community outreach during the COVID-19 pandemic, noting the Rapid Mural Program, Hero Meals, outdoor seating options, www.shopdowntowntacoma.com, and 12 Days of Haul Crawl; Washington BIA activities; next steps, noting beautification, marketing and communication, COVID-19 impacts, and 2021 and beyond.

Discussion ensued regarding business closures and conducting exit interviews to help the City improve policies; proactive outreach; attracting people to the downtown area; streamlining building permitting; grants and zero-interest loans; long term vacancies; downtown police presence; businesses that had access to relief but experienced closures; downtown in 2025; streamlining outdoor permitting; vacancies outside of downtown; ordinances to fill empty spaces; retrofitting buildings; converting office space to housing; areas of the city that need improvement; where to spend

federal aid money; and investing more money into the partnership.

2. [21-0302](#)

Port of Tacoma Strategic Plan

[Eric Johnson, Executive Director, Port of Tacoma]

At approximately 11:03 a.m., Eric Johnson, Executive Director, Port of Tacoma, presented the Port of Tacoma Draft Strategic Plan, including an introduction to the Port of Tacoma Commissioners; background on the port, noting the Northwest Seaport Alliance; mission statement and values; five foundational goals, noting economic vitality, environmental leadership, organizational success, transportation advocacy, and community connections; implementation and budget of the Strategic Plan; and plan development and outreach.

Discussion ensued regarding workforce training; potential for additional ship builders; American Rescue Plan Act funds; big picture projects; the 11th Street Bridge; environmental remediation projects; and permanent Tideflat regulations.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

3. [21-0303](#)

April 13, 2021 - To Be Determined

April 27, 2021 - Broadband - How It Is Working for Tacoma's Residents, Businesses, and Schools; Outdoor Business Options

Chair Thoms stated the next meeting will be on April 13, 2021, and the topics are to be determined.

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 11:48 a.m.



Robert Thoms, Chair



Jered Lobban, City Clerk's Office