City of Tacoma
Economic Development
Committee Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Conference Room 248
Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 882 2753 9908
Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/88227539908 Passcode: 614650

January 30, 2024
10:00 AM

Chair Kiara Daniels, Vice Chair Olgy Diaz, Joe Bushnell,
Jamika Scott, Sarah Rumbaugh (alternate)

Call To Order

Chair Daniels called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Bushnell, Daniels and Diaz
Absent: 1 - Scott

Council Member Scott arrived at 10:19 a.m., and participated virtually.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Briefing Items

1. **24-0096** Economic Development Strategic Plan Update
[Debbie Bingham, Program Manager, Community and Economic Development]

At approximately 10:09 a.m., Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development (CED), provided opening remarks. Debbie Bingham, Program Manager, CED, presented the Economic Development Strategic Plan update, and outlined the eight initiatives in the plan, including to strengthen the local economy, noting focus on core companies and adding smaller companies; develop authentic and emerging industries, noting increasing the number of loans to be given out; promote downtown as the center of commerce for the South Sound; create a trained, future-ready workforce, noting funding for programs, workforce programs with partners and a focus on single parents; and build increasingly vibrant neighborhoods, noting 2020 pandemic grants, window replacement, and business innovation funds; support employment-generating activities and office industrial product, noting the Tideflats Subarea Plan will be going through a follow up to see what will be and the green economy plan has been finished, staff have been hired and the recruitment plan is for 2024; implement premier customer

service; and marketing noting the theme "Choose Tacoma to Live, Work, and Explore", sponsoring events and magazines, and budget limits.

Council Member Scott arrived here, at 10:19 a.m.

Discussion ensued regarding campaigning; funding with Greater Seattle Partners; family wage tax; Green Jobs tax credits; support for the CED department; the Rook Apartment project for downtown; community involvement with Business Improvement Areas (BIA) and differences in the BIAs; problem locations and success rates; retail advocacy; development fees; workforce standards; marketing; budget increase; high wage jobs needed in Tacoma; company growth; consolidated action items for the 2025 strategic plan; geopolitics; home-based micro businesses; high interest sites for purchasing and developing; University of Washington Tacoma Strategic Plan for the area, how the City is involved, and student housing; and ways to bring an additional grocery store to the downtown area.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

2. **24-0097**

February 13, 2024 - 2024 Business Survey
February 27, 2024 - Sister City Update
March 12, 2024 - Equity in Contracting 2023 Annual Report
March 26, 2024 - Tacoma Downtown Partnership Report

Cathy Satava, Committee Liaison, stated the next meeting will be on February 13, 2024, and will include the 2024 business survey; the February 27, 2024, meeting will include the Sister Cities update; the March 12, 2024, meeting will include the Equity in Contracting 2023 annual report; and the March 26, 2024, meeting will include the Tacoma Downtown Partnership report.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Kiara Daniels, Chair

Hollyann Piotrowski, City Clerk's Office