

COVINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

City Council Chambers
16720 SE 271st Street, Suite 100
Covington, WA 98042
253-480-2400

MINUTES Thursday, April 23, 2015

Zach Steele called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

Members Present: Jeff Wagner, Zach Steele, Hugh Kodama, Krista Bates, Laura Roth, Ed Cook, Kevin Holland, Lisa Agron

Members Absent: Steve Pand, Sherry Corbey

Also Present: Regan Bolli, Suzanne Dale Estey

Approval of Minutes from March, 2015:

Moved and seconded to approve minutes. Minutes approved 8-0.

Announcements:

Chamber – Nothing from Kathryn Groves as she was absent.

City of Covington – Regan Bolli

- Chick-fil-A submitted final plans and they are being reviewed by city.
- Maple Hills Subdivision had a final plat meeting with the City
- 272nd project from Jenkins Creek to 185th is included in both the house and senate budgets and we are working on getting the Covington Connector project included by amendment.
- Parks funding is included in both budgets but we are working to include equal amounts in each.

CEDC – Krista Bates

- Reported on the Business Breakfast to be held next week. Panel members have all confirmed.

Speaker: Suzanne Dale Estey, President and CEO of Seattle King County Economic Development Council (EDC).

- Covington has great assets in the area and that brings great opportunity in what we have and can utilize.
- EDC was founded in 1971 and focuses on retention and expansion in King County

- 80% of economic growth is happening outside of the US and the EDC realizes it needs to be a global player.
- EDC is a point of contact for companies looking to locate in the region.
- EDC works with businesses for cities and works with the state as well.
- EDC created a strategic plan to better identify what they do:
 - Market Intelligence
 - Business retention and expansion
 - Recruitment
 - Cultivate startups and entrepreneurs
 - Strengthen key sectors
- EDC has a goal of helping to create 2,000 in 2015
- She believed that due to our healthcare cluster in Covington that Healthcare IT would be a good field to recruit.
- EDC is currently seeking foreign investments in the region.
- EDC also works with the SBA to help struggling businesses that get referred to them.
- She mentioned that Seattle is the home of big ideas and we need to let the world know this.
- She also encouraged Covington City's involvement in EDC.

Hugh: How we can we bring in businesses other than retail? Suzanne replied we need to look up and out and create a strategic plan and EDC can help with that. EDC has research tools to help us identify clusters and work from within those. She encouraged our involvement in EDC and said we need to recognize our assets and identify our clusters and then build off of that. She said to find public private ways to partner on our clusters.

Ed: Have you seen cities successfully partner on economic development? She said some cities around the airport have partnered and some eastside cities have as well.

Ed: Do you have opinions on the \$15 minimum wage and labor unions? Suzanne stated that EDC does not take those political stands.

Discussion then centered around a possible economic development partnership with Maple Valley City. No decisions was made but preliminary discussion was had with a current MV city council member and MV two council candidates.

Jeff moved and Laura seconded for CEDC to encourage the City Council to join EDC.
Approved 8-0.

Topics to bring up at joint Chamber City Council Meeting:

- Working with MV on economic development.
- Joining EDC.
- Lisa: inquired about discussing at the meeting the chamber and city working with Kent School District to help pay for enhanced athletic fields and facilities. It was decided that this would be a better topic for public comment at a regular council meeting.
- Update on initiatives.

- Rezoning of general commercial to industrial to allow for industrial use in the downtown area. CEDC agreed that this should not be on the joint meeting agenda.

Discussion on 2015 CEDC Initiatives:

- Collaborating Across Organizations: No update.
- Healthy Community: No update.
- Business Expansion and Education: Sent survey out and gave an update on the breakfast being held next week.
- Branding: Has ideas they are coming up with to present to CEDC at the May meeting.

Comments:

- Ed: mentioned that he asked Legendary Donuts why they came to Covington. He reported that they stated because the city is so good to work with.

Next Meeting: May 28, 2015 6:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

CEDC Members

Zach Steele, Co-Chair
Hugh Kodama
Krista Bates
Lisa Agron
Sherry Corbey

Jeff Wagner, Co-Chair
Kevin Holland
Laura Roth
Steven Pand
Ed Cooke

Staff

Regan Bolli, City Manager
Richard Hart, Community Development Director
Kathryn Groves, Covington Chamber of Commerce Manager