

# COVINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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

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## MINUTES Thursday, December 4, 2014

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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, and Steve Pand (arrived late)

Members Absent: Kevin Holland, Lisa Agron, Sherry Corbey

Also Present: Rob Hendrickson, Richard Hart, Kathryn Groves, Kathy Fosjord

### Approval of Minutes from October, 2014:

Moved and seconded to approve minutes with the amendment of Hugh Kodama as being present. Minutes Approved as Amended 6-0.

### Announcements:

Chamber – Kathryn Groves, Chamber Manager

- 2 new Board Members elected for 2015: Jeff Wagner representing Republic Services and Linda Simpson representing Soroptimist International of Kent.
- 4 new Chamber members: Fairway Independent Mortgage, American Cancer Society, Biz IT Pros, Groves Consulting Services.
- Upcoming Chamber Events:
  - December 11 Luncheon: State of the Chamber Address & Annual Holiday Gift Exchange, Board Chair Josh Lyons will be presenting new strategic plan.
  - December 18 Business After Hours: Advanced Eye Care of Covington Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting
  - January 9 Business Breakfast: South Sound Chamber of Commerce Legislative Coalition (SSCCLC) will be previewing 2015 legislative priorities.

City of Covington – Richard Hart

- Legendary Donuts opened day before Thanksgiving and has been doing very well, long lines since opening.
- Wendy's currently under construction.
- Inland Group began land clearing for multistory mixed-use housing in the Town Center
- Cedar Springs Apartment picking up permits this month for approx. 170 unit apartments on 272nd across from Red Robin.
- Soos Creek Lift Station started construction, will provide sewer for all remaining Town Center property.

- Multi-Care began construction of new Hospital.
- Rainier Wood Recyclers site has started land clearing.
- Maple Hill Subdivision installing water/sewer, should have 60 to 80 single-family lots ready next year for building.
- Subdivision of Mountain Meadows (about 25 lots) on council agenda for approval at next meeting.
- City Public Works storm water storage projects underway.
- Article in Covington Maple Valley Reporter “Covington moves past ‘drive-thru’ Appearance” misrepresents tenant improvement application/approval process. Reporter did not check facts with the city and the wait times for approval reported were false. Concern over public image of the City with false information being reported.

#### Discussion on 2015 CEDC Initiatives:

- Healthy Community (Hugh gave update):
  - What does it mean to say Covington wants to be the healthiest community in the state? How do we measure this?
  - Need to further develop a sense of community to get people more involved and engaged.
  - Focus on four initiatives:
    - Education: educate employers about health insurance. Programs to keep employees healthy, 5210 campaign, fall risks and sports injuries.
    - Activities: offering activities for all ages, community sports, senior activities, aquatics, not just youth programs already offered by the City.
    - Business: recruit businesses that promote healthy living such as bowling, fitness, YMCA/YWCA, community center.
    - Organize Events: club sports, adult and senior rec leagues, need sports fields, can possibly sublet from Kent School District.
  - How do we get something accomplished? Hugh or Jeff will send notes out on these initiatives so CEDC can prioritize.
  - Ed commented on including mental health in our definition of a healthy community, maybe incorporating activities to encourage mental wellbeing.
- Business Expansion and Education (Krista gave update):
  - Committee is focusing on 3 areas: Business Expansion, Business Survey and Business Breakfast. Business Expansion has already been discussed in the meeting (updates on business development in the community).
  - Business Survey: was started last year, about 5 questions, but was not followed through on. Would like to bring the survey back, review questions, working on getting updated business contact list from the City, will also send out through the Chamber. Would like to send out in January.
  - Business Breakfast: Tentative dates reserved for Spring and Fall Breakfasts. Spring will be April 21, 22, 28, or 29. Need to decide on speaker and dates. Potential speaker topics:
    - Maximizing your Business in a Growing Economy
    - Generational Marketing, how to market across different generations, or dealing with generational differences in the workforce
    - Panel discussion on future economic and residential growth of Covington, possibly land developer Colin Lund, commercial leasing agent Josh

Parnell, and someone from Green River Community College or Eastern Washington University to discuss Higher Education.

- Discussion on topics, consensus amongst CEDC member present is that a panel discussion would be best, local businesses would benefit from knowing future housing and job growth in the area.
- No updates from Branding or Collaboration across Organizations Committees.

#### Comments:

- Laura: thanked Richard, Rob and Jeff as City employees for the great work they do.
- Krista: reminder that Covington Hollydaze is this weekend, coupon books are available at participating businesses, go to CovingtonHollydaze.com for full list of events.
- Rob: commented on Higher Education report, still waiting on results but will report on when he receives them.
- Steve: shared that Jersey Mikes who had struggled in the past is now doing well and talking about expanding.
- Ed: as part of our focus of collaboration across organization, suggested members of CEDC attend meetings of other organizations to raise CEDC issues. Discussed having more joint meetings or sending invitations to other groups to attend CEDC meetings, maybe have a quarterly joint meeting.
- Richard: has 3 potential speakers lined up for the next 3 CEDC meetings: Derek Matheson for January, Chief of Police Kevin Klason for February, and Fire Marshal John Napier for March.
- Jeff: commented on how new businesses coming into the area can also benefit surrounding businesses by giving them more exposure. For example, since Dickey's opened IHOP's business appears to have increased.
- Kathy: sees a lack of a common goal between CEDC and the Chamber of Commerce, something they would like to work together to achieve. Suggests keep reaching out to the Chamber and other groups and let them know their input is wanted and needed.

Next Meeting: January 22, 2015 6:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

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#### **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

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#### **Staff**

Rob Hendrickson, Interim City Manager  
Richard Hart, Community Development Director  
Kathryn Groves, Covington Chamber of Commerce Manager