

COVINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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

MINUTES Thursday, February 26, 2015

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

Members Present: Zach Steele, Hugh Kodama, Krista Bates, Ed Cook, Kevin Holland, Lisa Agron, Steve Pand

Members Absent: Sherry Corby, Laura Roth, Jeff Wagner

Also Present: Regan Bolli, Kathryn Groves

Approval of Minutes from January, 2015:

Moved and seconded to approve minutes. Minutes approved 7-0.

Announcements:

Chamber – Kathryn Groves, Chamber Manager

- New member Shine On Signs Grand Opening March 5.
- Luncheon March 12, Jen Rittenhouse, Social Media Specialist for MultiCare speaking on social media marketing for businesses.
- Annual Dinner & Auction March 21 at Meridian Valley Country Club.
- Chamber Business Directory coming out next month.
- Working on mobile app for the chamber.

City of Covington – Regan Bolli.

- Play Unplugged program: businesses purchase badges, children engage in activities then visit businesses to collect badges. Can increase business foot traffic 50-100% during the months of the program. The company is willing to waive setup costs to get into the Washington market if Covington would like to try out the program this year.
- Old Nursery on Wax Road interested in building assisted living facility.
- Wendy's opening March 16, Ribbon Cutting March 19.
- Chick-fil-A still working on design in former Burger King building, do not like the placement of the drive through.
- Construction underway on Covington Way and then will continue on SE Wax Road.
- Victorian Meadows single family lots starting construction.

Speaker: Chief Kevin Klason, City of Covington Police

- Reviewed mission statement, mandates and expectations, and organizational structure of Covington Police, currently have 14 FTE patrol officers, 1 detective, 1 traffic enforcement officer, and 1 school resource officer.

- 2014 accomplishments include: Loss Prevention Summit for Covington businesses, Annual Citizens Academy, Shop with a Cop program, National Night Out.
- Covington is a 911 driven department, over 4500 dispatched calls in 2014.
- The City determines the number of officers and level of services offered. City pays cost of patrol and supervision services, contracts with King County for support services and only pays proportionate cost of services used.
- Overall Covington is a safe community to live and work, most common issues are residential burglary, vehicle prowling, vandalism, traffic congestion, and retail theft.
- Future Concerns: just getting by now but officers have been busier and callers are experiencing longer response times. Anticipate needing more officers in the long term due to increased commercial and residential development.

Anticipated future needs include:

- 2 officer minimum on all shifts 7 days a week
- 2 Special Emphasis Detectives
- Shared Sergeant with Maple Valley Police Department to supervise SED's
- Additional Traffic Enforcement
- Crime Prevention Program
- DUI Officer
- Increased Office Space
- Dedicated Support Staff

Speaker: Angie Feser, Parks Planner, City of Covington

- Park Impact Fees are one-time fees for new development for capital costs of facilities needed by new development. Can pay for system improvements, cannot be used to pay for repair, replacement or renovation.
- Currently new residential developers have the option of paying a Fee-in-lieu (currently \$3,900 for single family unit) or building a park on their property.
- Newly proposed Park Impact Fees would replace the current Fee-in-lieu program and are calculated based on growth forecasts and cost per person.
- Proposed Impact Fee per Dwelling Unit would be \$3,922 for single family units and \$2,700 for multi-family units.

Discussion on 2015 CEDC Initiatives:

- Collaborating Across Organizations (Steve): Committee met and decided this committee was not the best use of CEDC resources. They do see a need for improvement between the chamber and CEDC, however the chamber needs to develop a long term plan first. Recommend disbanding the committee at this time.
- Healthy Community (Zach): Aim to focus on healthy community projects that lead to economic development, make people want to live and work in Covington, create something different from other Cities. Discussed working on programs already in place, such as the Passport Program (similar to the Play Unplugged program) and the Fun Runs linked with Kent and Auburn runs. How can we improve these programs? Would like to invite Pam Kramer or Colleen McMeen to a CEDC meeting to discuss the challenges of the Passport Program.
- Business Expansion and Education (Krista):
 - Business Expansion Updates: Cutters Point moved out of Covington, Las Margaritas may expand in future, Best Buy Mobile closed, concerned Nikki's and IHOP are struggling, Alpine Mortgage closed Covington office and merged with Kent office.

- Business Survey: would like to send out via email mid/late March and visit some businesses in person early April to follow up.
- Business Breakfast: Spring Breakfast scheduled for April 29, Colin Lund and Derek Brandes confirmed to speak, waiting to hear back from Joe Fain as a potential third panel member. Fall Breakfast will be late September or early October.
- Branding (Steve): Money allocated for promotion of branding has been used, additional funds are needed to purchase promotional items. Motion made by Steve to request additional funds from the city for the purpose of purchasing promotional items to continue the rollout of the new logo. Motion seconded by Kevin. Discussion: Zach recommended determining a specific amount. Ed amended the motion to request additional funds in the amount of \$5,000. Amended motion seconded by Kevin. Motion passed 7-0.

Comments:

- Ed: Asked what is happening to Hawk Lake.
- Kevin: Asked about research on traffic impact with transportation changes.
- Steve: Commented on the TBD coming up for vote in April. Last time lost by 35 votes. Tried to improve marketing materials this time to give a clearer message to voters.
- Krista: Commented on CEDC attendance policy, the chamber should reach out to Sherry and make sure she is still able to commit to CEDC meetings.
- Zach: The chamber recommended having Lakeside Industries speak to CEDC about the economic impact of moving their business out of the city. CEDC members expressed concern that this is not the appropriate forum to hear self-interest issues of a specific business. Should be a more general discussion of the economic impact of manufacturing or light industry jobs in Covington. If they were to speak at CEDC, the council would request a written presentation first for review.

Next Meeting: March 26, 2015 6:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 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
 Kathryn Groves, Covington Chamber of Commerce Manager