



22500 Salamo Road  
West Linn, Oregon 97068  
<http://westlinnoregon.gov>

## **Economic Development Committee Meeting Notes**

Thursday, May 9, 2019

6:30 p.m. – West Linn City Hall – Willamette Conference Room

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**Members Present:** Rachael Vidin, Shannen Knight, Russel Williams, Jim Stallcup, Matt Lorenzen

**Members Absent:** Jennifer Harmon, Amanda Stein

**Staff/City Representatives Present:** Darren Wyss

**Guests Present:** n/a

### **1. Review of Agenda**

Meeting called to order at 6:36pm. No changes to agenda.

### **2. Approval of Meeting Notes**

No meeting notes ready for approval

### **3. Public Comment**

n/a

### **4. Old Business**

#### **a. Economic Development Action Plan**

Recap of the EDC joint meeting with Council. Council is interested in the EDC studying the viability of a City shuttle service. The Historic Willamette Group has funding to operate a shuttle between the Willamette Falls Drive business district and Willamette Park during June/July/August on weekends. Council supports looking at zoning along Hwy 43 to create a better flow of land uses. Council suggested surveys at Farmers Market asking what the City could do better for economic development. Ride with Via (ride share vans) was discussed and Council thought the EDC could look into this option (was researched during meeting and it only operates in four major metro areas, so probably not a viable option in West Linn). Council discussed the possibility of a Health/Wellness District along Hwy 43 if rezoning were to occur. Council suggested the EDC create/maintain vacant commercial property inventory to be available to investors and brokers on the City's website. Council likes the idea of the EDC

working on water tourism and suggested meeting with the Parks Board for a discussion.

**b. Review, prioritize, and strategize Action Plan tasks**

The EDC engaged in a discussion about what rezoning along Hwy 43 would look like, what the ultimate goal would be, and the expected timing of redevelopment opportunities. The process to get projects on the Planning Docket was discussed.

***Motion and Second: Place Hwy 43 rezone project on planning docket and prioritized (passed by vote of 5 to 0)***

Jim Stallcup requested being a member of any working group that is formed to address Hwy 43 zoning.

Discussion about conducting a survey of summer shuttle riders to glean if there is interest in a year-round shuttle around West Linn. Consensus that a two-pronged approach would work: 1. Short written survey on 3x5 card that is filled out by shuttle riders. 2. Couple of days where volunteers survey riders as they wait for the shuttle or get off the shuttle. ***Darren to check with Community Development Director about printing the surveys.*** Potential survey questions were discussed. Matt Lorenzen agreed to draft a survey and send to staff for distribution and feedback.

The group discussed the Council idea of a survey at the Farmers Market and what is the goal. The group decided it was not a priority as there is no identified goal of the survey.

Staff was tasked with reaching out to the Parks Board for a joint meeting to discuss water tourism in the City.

**5. New Business**

n/a

**6. Other Items of Interest**

1. A discussion about a more ambitious approach to economic development in the City and the EDC looking at bigger projects in the future.
2. Discussion on Council asking about penalizing vacant properties and past legal advice was it would cost too much to enforce the policy. There is a feeling that rents are too high in West Linn and the property owners would rather leave spaces vacant than negotiate a lower lease rate. The group discussed incentives to get vacant buildings occupied may be the more proactive path forward.
3. Sign code enforcement on "For Lease" signs. Staff clarified the sign code allows these signs to remain until the property is sold or leased.
4. Amanda Stein has resigned her position on the EDC. The vice-chair position is now open and the EDC will need to vote on her replacement for the remainder of 2019.

5. Staff updated the EDC on the Metro Commercial Compost Program that will need to be implemented by the City.
6. The Transportation and Growth Management (TGM) grant program was discussed in relation to potential rezoning along Hwy 43
7. Historic Willamette wine tour is Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> and only a couple of tickets are available.

**7. Announcement of Next Meeting**

June 13, 2019

**8. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.