



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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

Thursday, June 11, 2020

Members Present: Rachael Viden, Shannen Knight, Drew Hanson, Julia Williams, Russel Williams, and Mayor Russ Axelrod

Members Absent: and Shannon Ilas

Staff Liaison: Jennifer Arnold, Associate Planner, and Lynn Schroder, Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order

Chair Viden called the meeting called to order at 6:41pm.

2. Review Of Agenda

Chair Viden asked if members wanted any changes to the agenda. Committee members agreed with the agenda.

3. Public Comment For Non-Agenda

None

4. Introduction Of Committee Members

Committee members introduced themselves.

5. Election Of Officers

Chair Viden announced her resignation from the EDC. She requested nominations for Chair and Vice Chair.

i. Chair

Member Williams nominated Shannen Knight to serve as Chair. Member Hanson seconded. EDC members approved Member Knight as Chair of the EDC (5-0-1 with Chair Viden abstaining).

ii. Vice Chair

Member Knight nominated Drew Hanson to serve as Vice Chair. Chair Viden seconded. EDC members approved Member Hanson as Vice Chair of the EDC (6-0).

6. Discussion: Analysis Of Highway 43 Zoning and Pedestrian Connectivity Council Docket Project

Staff Liaison Arnold presented a draft proposal to evaluate Highway 43 zoning and uses a mixed-use designation or overlay zone recommendation. The goal of the evaluation would be to create a long term plan for the area. She noted that the project was proposed at the Council level. The City is seeking a Transportation and Growth Management Program grant to fund a consultant to evaluate and recommend zoning changes and transportation improvements.

The EDC has been appointed by the City Council to be the working group for this project. Staff Liaison Arnold proposes to develop the full scope of work with the EDC in November 2020.

The area of evaluation for the grant is from the West Linn City Limits on HWY 43 from Lake Oswego to Hidden Springs/HWY 43 intersection.

Member Knight supported extending the project to review rezoning for all of Highway 43. Mayor Axelrod commented that the funding for the first phase of the project from Lake Oswego border to Hidden Springs is already lined up. The Council is seeking funds for the second phase that extends the project to Highway 205. Arnold noted that the priority for the grant is the north section of Highway 43 Corridor.

Mayor Axelrod clarified that the big-picture goal is to evaluate the zoning for the entire length of Highway 43. The grant allows the City to leverage the funding and staffing for the whole corridor. Mayor Axelrod noted that the City was able to get Highway 43 into Metro's proposed T2020 transportation funding measure proposed for the November ballot. He said that EDC support of Metro's T2020 measure would be helpful.

Staff Liaison Arnold proposes to have a draft grant proposal for EDC review at the July meeting. The grant application is due July 31, 2020. Grant awards would be issued in September 2020. If awarded, staff would seek additional guidance from the City Council in October. Staff will also seek feedback from neighborhood associations. The EDC will develop the full scope of work in November 2020.

7. Item Of Interest From EDC Members

Member Knight was concerned about what the EDC will be working on for the remainder of the year. She was disappointed that the EDC did not have a role in addressing the COVID impact on West Linn businesses.

Staff Liaison Arnold responded that the EDC established goals in December 2019. These goals include ADU Code changes, brownfield development, West Linn Waterfront project, and joint meetings with City Council to discuss potential projects and opportunities.

Chair Viden noted that the EDC is an advisory board to the Council. She stated that the purpose of the committee is to advise the City Council on priority projects.

Mayor Axelrod responded that the City Council looked at opportunities to help mitigate the COVID impact on businesses. The City quickly put together a matching request from the State. The matching State funds allow the City to provide \$50,000 of assistance to West Linn businesses. The Council will award grants to businesses next week.

Member Williams asked about the City's process of finding tenants for empty commercial space. Arnold responded that the staff could acknowledge and advertise opportunities.

Mayor Axelrod stated that the City participates in efforts by Greater Portland Inc. to help create commercial business opportunities. Mayor Axelrod noted that he has been working with the Post Office to take over the McDonald's property, but it is a difficult process.

Member Hanson asked for an update on the construction on Willamette Falls Drive.

Mayor Axelrod responded that the construction is proceeding well. The original proposal for a grand opening in July is postponed because of COVID.

Member Knight asked that the Street Seat program be reconsidered to mitigate the impact of COVID.

Member Williams suggested that the City allow food cart trucks. Members generally supported the proposal. Staff Liaison Arnold noted that the current City Code does not allow food trucks.

8. Items Of Interest From Staff Liaison
Staff Liaison Arnold asked for feedback on meeting noticing.
9. Adjourn
Chair Viden adjourned the meeting at 7:51pm.