



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (EDC) Approved Meeting Notes of September 8, 2022

Members Present:	Chair Shannon Ilas, Vice Chair Shannen Knight, Heather Jones, Josh Cheney and Michael Bernert.
Members Absent:	Jon Robinson, Russel Williams
Council Liaison absent :	Todd Jones
Staff Liaison:	Alena Schnarr, Business Support and Econ. Development Coordinator

- **Call Meeting to Order:**
Chair Ilas called meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- **Approve Meeting Notes:**
Bernert moved to approve the meeting notes for June 9, 2022. Jones Seconded. **Ayes:** Knight, Cheney, Jones and Ilas. **Nays:** None. **Abstentions:** Bernert. This motion passed 4-0-1.
- **Discussion about EDC Goals:**
Discussion about future EDC work. Schnarr expressed desire for clarity on Council objectives for 2023. Cheney curious about our overall budget for EcoDev work. Schnarr will bring John Williams, City Manager, to future meeting to discuss West Linn's current overall Economic Development work/goals and budget.
- **Business Support Update:**
 - **Survey:** Schnarr shared general notes on Business Support survey that circulated to businesses over the Summer and Fall, will bring results to a future meeting.
 - **Business Database (CRM):** Schnarr gave demonstration of new database and we discussion about how it could be used to support our Economic Development work.
 - **Business Profiles in West Linn Tidings:** Schnarr still working on this project with West Linn High School journalism students, delayed to focus on façade grant program.
- **Façade Grant Program:** Discussed program guidelines, eligibility criteria and draft application. Program will run October 5 – October 28, 2022. Knight offered feedback on eligibility criteria. Bernert discussed concern for overall vision of program and importance of program benefitting the overall economic growth of the City vs. just giving money to private commercial property owners. Knight clarified that the funds are ARP (American Rescue Plan) dollars and City Council wanted funds to go directly to small business owners as part of Covid-19 recovery.
- **Tourism Video:** Discussed next steps in creating a TCVTV tourism video for the City of West Linn, focusing on "Top 5 Things To Do in West Linn". Several members offered to help with process and Schnarr showed [sample video](#). Cheney discussed creating a strategy for Spring footage when weather is better.

- **Livability Discussion:** Schnarr polled the EDC on what the word “*livability*” means to them. Members shared the following:
 - Welcoming community.
 - West Linn promotes a positive living environment.
 - How you connect with your neighbors
 - Welcoming community, promotes diversity
 - Access to amenities – you can live the way you want to within your community. Food trucks are a great example.
 - Affordability
- **2022 Community Development Code Amendments Working Group:**
Shannon Ilas/Shannen Knight gave brief update on code amendments regarding clear and concise code amendments mandated by the state related to housing.
- **Tax-Increment Finance (TIF) Advisory Committee Update:** Michael Bernert gave overview of the [West Linn TIF Feasibility Study](#). The EDC discussed and are in agreement of the following position regarding proposed TIF:
 - 1) We support the TIF boundaries as proposed
 - 2) We support eventual inclusion of areas in Robinwood and along the 43 corridor that could be redeveloped
 - 3) We have no opinion on the duration (20, 25 or 30 years)
 - 4) We want projects to prioritize the riverfront areas and be less focused on projects in the Willamette main street area.

Knight would like also like dollars to be focused on the Falls area as well as the ponds and industrial areas on Willamette Falls Drive - connecting the areas via the bike lane/sidewalk from Historic Willamette to Hwy 43 will substantially help businesses, especially after tolling.

- **Adjourn:** Adjourned meeting at 7:40 p.m.