



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Notes of November 18, 2021

Members Present: Vice-Chair Shannon Ilas, Don Williams, Russel Williams, Jon Robinson, and Shannen Knight
Members Absent: Julia Williams
Council Liaison absent: Todd Jones
Public Present: Shatrine Krake and Kesha Brewster
Staff Liaison: Chris Myers, Associate Planner and Lynn Schroder, Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order

Chair Ilas called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. New Member Jon Robinson introduced himself.

2. Public Comment for Non-Agenda items

Shatrine Krake of the West Linn Chambers of Commerce updated the Chamber activities. The Chamber is conducting a Business Recovery Survey. She will report back to the EDC. She also discussed the Chamber's Shop Local campaigns

Myers suggested that the EDC have regular updates from the West Linn Chambers and Main Street organizations.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes: Draft Meeting Notes 10.14.21

Shannen Knight wanted the EDC to follow through with EDC preparing a response to the HB 2001 policy questions. Members agreed to put the Item on the December 2021 agenda.

Knight moved to approve the meeting notes for 10/14/21. Russel Williams seconded. **Ayes: Ilas, R.Williams, D.Williams, Robinson, and Knight. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. The motion passed 5-0-0.**

4. Year-End Report

Staff Liaison Myers provided information on the year-end reporting process. He will draft a year-end report for members to consider at the December meeting.

5. Discussion: Equity Report DEI Audit and Final Report

Chair Ilas introduced the agenda item. She wanted the Committee to review the DEI Audit to develop business recommendations for the City. She noted that the City had not developed a City-wide DEI policy. Members discussed opportunities for the EDC to implement DEI objectives.

Kesha Brewster commented that discussions about DEI need to happen.

Chair Ilas left the meeting.

Member Robinson stated that there are not a lot of opportunities for businesses in West Linn because of lack of commercial land. He stated that the City has been stagnant with anti-growth sentiments for a long time, but that doesn't mean the City has to be anti-development. He noted that the City needs to be creative and involve diversity to raise the bar.

Member Knight noted that people don't understand why businesses are important to the City and why it's a problem that West Linn has very few. Robinson stated that the City needs to understand the tax base to get the most out of it. Myers responded that the Committee could invite the Finance Director to a meeting to provide a primer on how the City generates revenue.

The Committee discussed the potential impacts of HB2001.

6. Items of Interest from EDC Members

Member Don Williams stated that he is reaching out to community leaders in different jurisdictions to for perspectives on successful economic development for smaller cities.

Member Russel Williams stated his concerns about the impacts to West Linn businesses of the proposed I-205 tolls. He also stated that the City should proactively plan to capture the economic benefits of more people commuting through West Linn.

Knight discussed the role of the Community Involvement Committee.

Myers discussed upcoming committee openings. He also noted that the food cart pod project has applied for development approval.

7. Adjourn

Vice-Chair Knight adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:00 pm.