

CITY OF BLAINE
BLAINE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

3:00 PM

City Council Chambers

A. CALL TO ORDER: 3:07 PM

B. ATTENDANCE:

BEDAC COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Dennis Olason, Bonnie Onyon, Mary Lou Steward, Mike Kent, Mike Hill, Ron Freeman, Doug Dahl, Bill Wright, Louise Mugar, Bob Boulé, Alexander Korelin, Van Tabb, and David Wilbrecht.

PRESENT:

Bonnie Onyon, Mike Hill, Van Tabb, Anne Bowen, Michael Jones, Jeffrey Lazenby, David Wilbrecht, Samuel Crawford, and guests Steve Price and Kellie Slater.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Review and Approve Minutes from April 4, 2017

Approval of the April 4, 2017, minutes was deferred until the July 18, 2017, meeting.

D. NEW AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Report and next steps regarding the Revenue Task Force Recommendation to the City Council – Presented by David Wilbrecht

David reviewed the recommendation from the Revenue Task Force (RTF). Some of the RTF topics covered included:

- The City should not implement a B&O tax or increase utility taxes
- The City should initiate an aggressive economic development program
- The City's website and social media outlets should be enhanced so they attract new businesses
- The City should support an annual rummage/garage sale that will bring in revenue
- The City should work closely with the Port of Bellingham to improve Blaine Harbor
- The City should create marketing materials for business prospects
- The City should contract with an economic development consultant to promote Blaine
- The City should review services and expand the volunteer program to attract more businesses

The RTF recommendation will be brought to City Council on June 26, 2017.

b. Presentation by Steve Price, Principal, Front Street Partnership regarding Economic Development

Steve Price reviewed his past experiences with the City of Bellingham, the difficulties of raising revenues as a municipality, and risk levels tolerated by business owners. He then gave several tools for increasing community development:

1. Develop community support
2. Housing for current and potential business employees
3. Having cultural assets
4. Active and up-to-date inventory of land for sale
5. Staff for economic development program
6. Outreach and improvements
7. There needs to be a champion for City and community activities

c. Next steps in completing the Strategic Economic Development Initiative – Presented by David Wilbrecht

David reported that the Strategic Economic Development Initiative is about 80% done and is close to being completed. After having some open houses in July that cover previous surveys and future steps, there will be another survey in August.

The utility pipe through Lincoln Park is nearly complete; which has increased interest amongst property owners. Along with a sewer line, a trail will be built through Lincoln Park.

E. HOLD – IN PROGRESS

- a. The next BEDAC meeting will occur on July 11, 2017.
Date changed to July 18, 2017.

F. ADJOURNED: 4:29 PM