



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 15, 2025

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*This meeting was conducted in person at Snoqualmie City Hall and remotely using Zoom.*

**CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL:** Chair Kristina Hudson called the meeting to order at 8:04 am.

**Commissioners:** Kristina Hudson, Joelle Gibson (remote), Paula Shively, and Nichole Pas (remote) were present.

Commissioners Nick Postiglione and Vasudha Sharma were not present.

Commissioner Adrian Webb arrived at 8:15 am.

Councilmember Wotton was present.

**City Staff:** Mike Chambless, City Administrator; Emily Arteché, Community Development Director; Mona Davis, Senior Planner; Nicole Wiebe, Community Liaison; Gretchen Garrett, Deputy City Clerk/Legal Assistant; and Andrew Jongekryg, IT Support.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** — There was no public comment.

### MINUTES

1. The minutes of October 16, 2024, were approved as presented.

**AGENDA APPROVAL** — The agenda was approved as presented.

### LIAISON REPORTS

Community Liaison Nicole Wiebe spoke about:

- Tourism website launched at the end of August 2024. Still building out website.
- Troll update. Following up with artist Thomas Dambo.
- Contacted *Visit Bellevue*. Where do people who are visiting Bellevue want to go?
- Holiday lighting program. Snoqualmie has become a lighting destination which is important to local businesses. Lights will remain on until February 2025. Future focus will be on “winter lights,” not Christmas lights.

Commissioner comments and questions were:

- Enjoyed the lights, especially the train lights which are unique to Snoqualmie.
- Pursue funding for lights from local businesses?
- Status of wayfinding signs?

Councilmember Wotton spoke about:

- Appreciation for broad community representation on Commission and their different business perspectives.
- Encouraged Commission to focus on establishing priorities. Mentioned past priorities such as affordable housing, SR 18, and business recovery after COVID. Affordable housing priority moved on to Council and is moving forward. SR 18 is an ongoing project, and it moved from the Commission on to Council and is now a state priority.

## **SPECIAL BUSINESS – ADD ON**

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Commissioner Hudson was nominated by Commissioner Shively. No further nominations.

Commissioner Hudson stated that she is happy to be the chair and wants Snoqualmie to be the best it can be.

**Appoint Commissioner Hudson as Chair for 2025.**

PASSED 4-0 (Hudson, Gibson, Shively, Pas)

Commissioner Hudson nominated Commissioner Shively for Vice Chair. No further nominations.

Commissioner Shively wants to be the best it can be as well.

**Appoint Commissioner Shively as Vice-Chair for 2025.**

PASSED 4-0 (Hudson, Gibson, Shively, Pas)

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Next roundtable meeting will be in February 2025. Commissioners were encouraged to reach out and promote attendance at roundtable meetings by email or phone or maybe even in-person.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

2. Council Priority Tracker. Community Development Director Emily Arteché spoke to this item. Council Priority Tracker shows what Council is looking at, its priorities. Commission to align its priorities with Council's. Commissioners were encouraged to review Council priorities and see what might be missing, such as being proactive with an emergency response. What do businesses need? What can the City do to help? This will help Council with their priorities too.
3. Roundtable Review and Summary. Community Development Director Emily Arteché spoke to this item. What did we learn from the three roundtable meetings last year? What topics were raised? What does Commission want to do with these topics?

Commissioner comments and questions were:

- *Visit Bellevue* connection will bring more tourists to the area.
- What can we do to bring in more foot traffic?
- Commission takes each topic, one at a time, and brainstorm possibilities.
- Prioritize topics.

- What local businesses were impacted by bomb cyclone? Small Business Administration (SBA) is offering low interest loans and there is funding available for businesses and residences from State and King County.

#### **ITEMS OF COMMISSIONER INTEREST**

4. How will the increase in minimum wage in unincorporated King County impact Snoqualmie? This item needs to be on the next agenda in “Items of Commissioner Interest.”

#### **UPCOMING SCHEDULE**

5. Draft 2025 Work Program. The Draft 2025 Work Program identifies what the Commission can work on each year. Discussion about vacancy rate in business park and recruiting businesses. Vacancy rate is small but will peak in 2026. Commissioners encouraged to have conversations with business owners in business park about their plans for next year, ask them if they are in the right location, and if they want additional space. Commissioners can help City identify opportunities and develop a work a plan around these opportunities.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 am.

*Minutes by Gretchen Garrett, Deputy City Clerk/Legal Assistant.*

*Recorded meeting audio is available on the City website after the meeting.*

*Minutes approved at the April 16, 2025, Economic Development Commission Meeting.*