



CITY OF DALLAS
Economic Development Commission
Dallas Civic Center, 945 SE Jefferson St.
Thursday, January 15, 2015 – 12:00 p.m.

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MINUTES - DRAFT

Members Present: Chair Nancy Adams, Mayor Brian Dalton, Bob Brannigan, Jim Fairchild, Jim Fowler, Ken Jacroux, Jackie Lawson, Susan McKnaught, Peggy Mehl, Bob Ottaway, Chelsea Metcalf, and LaVonne Wilson.

Members Absent: Doris Johnston, Craig Pope

Others Present: A.J. Foscoli, Mitchell Gee, Renata Wakley and Corey Bradshaw

Staff present: City Manager Ron Foggin, Community Development Director Jason Locke, Planner Suzanne Dufner, and Recording Secretary Patti Senger.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nancy Adams called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 20, 2015 Economic Development Commission meeting were accepted as presented.

REPORTS

Commercial update:

Suzanne Dufner reported on property listings in downtown commercial, and that the old Safeway building was available lease. She also reported on getting inquiries from the state for office space, as there was an RFP process underway for a new building. Jim Fairchild asked about the state doing their own building and Jason said no and Ron clarified that the state has a policy to lease buildings, not build or own them.

Chelsea Metcalf talked about Chamber activities, including ribbon cuttings for new businesses, She reported on a career technical fair 2/3 from 6:30 – 8:30 at DHS that was open to anyone looking for a job. She also gave an update on the rural tourism process and the young professionals group. She further reported that the Chamber was committed a workshop on social media to be held at Chemeketa.

Urban Renewal Update:

Jason Locke reported on the Urban Renewal District activities, including the purchase of the old Armory site, upcoming projects, and the budget for next year.

Industrial Update:

Jason Locke reported that the city was working with property owners and our economic development partners to fill empty Industrial spaces, and that there were potential users at both the Weyerhaeuser site and the TTM building.

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Member Roundtable:

Jim Williams, Senator Brian Boquist’s office, reported on the activity at the legislature, and said it was going to be a unique session for economic development with more tax bills and it was going to be contentious session.

Renate Wakeley, MWVCOG, was working on the Mid-valley economic development lunch hosted by Dallas. The COG was also working on the “Make it in the Willamette Valley” grant and website. This involved hiring consultants and forming focus groups to talk to area food processors and manufacturers to find out what we can do support them, and the first year will identify what projects to move forward with.

AJ Foscoli – SEDCOR – talked about the job training programs SEDCOR was assisting with, trying to get kids interested in the trades and other potential career options. He also talked about the Oregon Prospector website and how Dallas could get properties on it.

Susan McKnaught – Chemeketa- reported that they have reached out on the academic part and would like to do more with Career and Technical training because it was something that will benefit the community. She said enrollment looks good this term and all going well.

Mayor Brian Dalton shared his thoughts about the upcoming Public Safety levy, and the importance of it to the community and economic development.

Presentation: Business Oregon Update

Jason Locke introduced Mitch Gee, and explained that he is our regional business development officer (BDO) and works with us and on our behalf on initiatives and issues related to employment and industrial development.

Mitchell Gee explained that Business Oregon had recently undergone some organization changes, had a new director, and would be traveling around the state to get input on the new “grow our Own” initiative, which focused on retaining and expanding current business in Oregon. There would also be a focus on making sure people understood what Business Oregon does and how they can take advantage of the various programs.

He stated that the Portland Metro area has seen a real boost, and that the rural areas of the state, haven’t, which is going to be a renewed focus. He talked about new innovation, high tech agriculture, and export assistance to Oregon companies that want to sell their products overseas and how Business Oregon could help with that. He also spoke about the importance of access to capital, and how that

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76 affected the development and expansion of existing firms. He advised that there were state loan
77 programs for gap funding, and that they work with a lot of banks.

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79 Mitch Gee also reiterated the commitment to working with local jurisdictions as a key part of the new
80 strategy.

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82 OTHER BUSINESS

83 Jason Locke stated that the subcommittee had reviewed the RFP's for the Branding and Marketing
84 Project and selected Barney and Worth. An update of the project would occur at the next EDC Meeting.

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86 Ron Foggin informed the EDC about the new Citizen's Academy process and how to get more info and
87 possibly sign up.

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89 Nancy Adams thanked everyone and said the next EDC meeting would be on March 19.

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91 Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.