

Council Economic Development Committee

**2nd Floor Conference Room
City Hall**

February 1, 2018

1:30 p.m.

Councilmembers:

Councilmember Coffey
Councilmember Cousens
Councilmember White

Staff:

Ana Cortez, Assistant City Manager
Cally Price, Asst. to the City Manager

Others:

Joe Mann
Maria Rodriguez
Joe Schmitt
John Cooper
Luz Bazan Gutiérrez
Tony Courcy

Executive Minutes

Coffey called the meeting to order.

1. Election of Chair
Cousens nominated Coffey as the committee Chair. It was committee consensus that Coffey would continue as Chair.
2. Establish Committee meeting date and time
Committee members discussed the meeting date and time and agreed to leave it as it is currently scheduled – 4th Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m.
3. Discuss approach for providing Board reports
Cortez asked for Committee direction on how reports and updates should be shared with members. Committee members agreed that having a list of boards and name of representative would be appreciated. Representatives should be prepared to give updates at the monthly committee meeting.
4. Board appointed reports
 - a) Choose Yakima Valley – White
Joe Schmitt distributed year end statistics for Yakima County and highlighted the numbers specific to Yakima. Cortez will work with Jonathan Smith and schedule a presentation to the full Council.
 - b) Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce – White
No report – Council unable to attend last meeting

- c) Lodging Tax Advisory Committee – Coffey
Coffey gave a short background on how the lodging tax is collected and distributed.
- d) Public Facilities District – Coffey
Cooper reported that the Public Facilities District is a government entity that works on operation and development management of the Convention Center. The state refunds a portion of the local sales tax collected in the community to approved facilities in the community. In order to remain competitive in the convention market, the Convention Center needs to consider a future expansion and a headquarter hotel. Current bonds will be paid off in 2026.
- e) Supporting Investments in Economic Development Board – Coffey
SIED update was given as part of the Choose Yakima Valley presentation.

5. Minute approval

The December 7 minutes were reviewed and approved as presented.

6. Discussions

- a) Should plaza advisory committee be included in board appointed reports?
Committee members discussed whether or not the Plaza Advisory Committee should be listed under the economic development board appointed reports agenda item. Committee members agreed that yes, the Plaza Advisory Committee should be listed under the board appointed reports on future agendas.
- b) Introduction/Revisiting economic development plan.
Cortez reviewed the economic development plan with committee members and discussed if it needed to be updated or changed or if staff should continue using it as a roadmap.

Cortez distributed handouts and articles related to the mill site, port districts, media relations, and new business ventures.

There will be updates on all economic development objectives at the next meeting.

Gutiérrez stated that community members and staff spent a great deal of time on the economic development plan and would like to see it keep moving forward.

- c) February 2018 agenda
 - Report from Choose Yakima Valley
 - Report from Center for Business Development
 - Report from Yakima Chamber of Commerce
 - Report from Yakima Hispanic Chamber
 - Report from Yakima Valley Tourism
 - Report from Yakima Airport
 - Report from Economic Development

7. Audience participation


Kathy Coffey, Chair