

# **Council Economic Development Committee**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
City Hall**

**February 28, 2019**

**1:30 p.m.**

## **Members:**

Council member White  
Council member Gutiérrez  
Council member Cousens

## **Staff:**

Cliff Moore, City manager  
Rob Peterson, Airport Director  
Scott Schafer, Public Works Director  
Glenn Denman, Building Official  
Cally Price, Assistant to the City Manager

## **Others:**

Luz Gutiérrez  
John Cooper  
Verlynn Best  
Andrew Holt  
Joe Mann  
Jean Brown  
Chelnn Gienger

## **Executive Minutes**

White called the meeting to order.

### **1. Review draft minutes from January 24, 2019 meeting:**

The January 24, 2019 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as presented. .

### **2. Discussions:**

#### **a. Fulcrum 20 minute presentation – Chelann Gienger**

Chelann Gienger, Owner of NUYU Juice bar, author of Dear Millennial and Founder of Entrepreneur Before 25 presented on the innovation center project she is working on in downtown Yakima and provided her background. The innovation center would provide living space and working space and resources where people could work on creating innovative ideas. Specific ideas for the space include: apartments, offices, dining and coaching opportunities, and would serve as a location for community events. A “Think Big” festival will be held in October – details will be provided. Gienger invited everyone to the next fireside chat that is being held on March 13 at 6:00 p.m. – location to be determined. For updates on what Fulcrum is doing you can sign up for the newsletter at [fulcrumyakima.com](http://fulcrumyakima.com).

#### **b. Downtown destination**

Moore reminded Council this was added as a Strategic Priority.

c. Economic Development Plan – update timeline

Workgroups are to send updates to Cally. An updated timeline will be presented at the next meeting provided Price receives all the updates.

i. Competitiveness

1. Private sites – nothing reported
2. City sites – nothing reported
3. Mill site – Moore reported that a meeting was being held to discuss issues with the mill site.
4. Public Port Authority – Moore reported that the Chamber is hosting a luncheon on March 13 to talk about port districts. Rob Peterson and a representative from the Tri-Cities Port District will be presenting.
5. Incentives – Jean Brown reported that the opportunity zone tax deferral is available. The mill site, downtown area, and Union Gap all have opportunity zones and are listed on Choose Yakima's website. Moore added that there are some bills in the legislature to help increase density/infill that the City is watching.
6. Education Alignment – Peterson reported that he hasn't heard anything from CWU, however, he remains in close contact with them. Brown reported that Choose Yakima established a technical committee and they are developing a program database that will be available soon.
7. YKM – Peterson reported that the FLYYKM campaign has been very successful. Grant funds for this program expire in December. There was discussion about the Fly Alliance – an opportunity to expand air service. Committee members support the Fly Alliance and Gutiérrez moved and Cousens seconded a motion to bring support for the Fly Alliance to the full Council for consideration.
8. Convention Center – Cooper reported that the RFQ's were reviewed and a firm was selected for the convention center expansion project. Agreement details are still being worked on.

ii. Traded Sector

1. YKM –
2. Clusters –

- iii. Community pride – Gutiérrez reported that the image campaign was to promote a positive image to Yakima residents and those visiting. New videos need to be made.

d. Council policy requests

Shipping container draft ordinance – report from Glenn Denman

Denman reviewed the draft shipping container ordinance with the Committee members. Gutiérrez motioned and Cousens seconded to bring the ordinance to the full Council for consideration.

**3. Staff and Partner Announcements**

a. Downtown infrastructure criteria – report from Scott

Schafer distributed a memo on staff's evaluation of the downtown core and identified short and long term strategies that need to be addressed. Short

term items include things like traffic signals, pavement condition index, lighting, cleaning up signage, etc. The pavement condition index report is budgeted for in 2020. Long term strategies include traffic signals, complete grind and overlay of Yakima Avenue, landscaping, and a few other things. City staff will be meeting with DAY representatives to talk about low water use gardens.

- b. Everett abandoned/vacant building ordinance fee update  
Information was included in the packet. White suggested that Yakima use Everett's ordinance as a model for Yakima. The Committee members will meet and discuss this prior to making a recommendation to the full Council. After the Committee members meet then another meeting with DAY, Choose Yakima, and City staff needs to occur.
- c. Update on vacant buildings/lots in DYBID – report from Andrew Holt  
Holt reported that he has been in contact with CWU to talk about internship opportunities. The building vacancy list needs to be updated and this might be something students can do.
- d. Filling gaps information included in packet – no discussion

#### **4. Future agenda items**

- a. Update on Chamber port authority discussion – Peterson
- b. Committee members will meet to discuss vacant building ordinance
- c. Update on the Main Street conference – White and Cousens

#### **5. Audience Participation**

  
Jason White, Chair