



# Economic Development Board Minutes

## Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 20, 2024 | 7:30 am

**Economic Development Board Members Present:** Camrie Ingram, Dave Pelletier, Dustin Dekle, Kristine Birkenkopf, Paul Brar, Randy Heagle, Teresa LaFleur (attended online)

**Staff Present:** Niki Strachila, Patricia Love

**Others Present:** None

Niki Strachila called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

**1. Receive the Minutes of the June 21, 2024 Meeting**

The minutes were approved unanimously.

**2. Equipment Rentals**

The Board is supportive of equipment rentals. Staff will investigate insurance requirements and possibly requiring a security deposit for potential equipment damage.

**3. Rules of Procedure**

In 2025, for the EDB, staff will begin quarterly business roundtables and hosting speakers from local businesses and other cities in lieu of going to bi-monthly meetings. The goal being to help network and build partnerships. Some ideas included talking to the creators of Bellingham Trackside, reaching out to the City of Arlington to learn about their business dynamics and programs, and inviting the Stanwood Camano Arts Advocacy Commission (SCAAC) to discuss the potential for an Arts District.

**4. 2025/2026 Workplan and Budget**

Staff will bring a finalized workplan to the Board in January 2025. Some budget items may include and arts or historic district with an integration with technology, and bringing back third-party large events. The Board would also like to see an audit of current community events to determine what the City can do to draw more tourism with incentives such as tax breaks or a “profit masters” education program for business owners.

**5. Downtown Beautification**

The Board supports the concepts provided. There is some concern that speeding traffic moves 102nd could make it dangerous to cross that intersection. It may be worth adding “traffic calming” concepts to this area.

**6. Business License Analytics**

Staff presented business license activity from June through August 2024.



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**7. Raplee Property**

The next step for this project is to determine the level of soil and groundwater contamination as there are still underground tanks from the property's former use as a service station. If the contamination isn't too costly to remediate, the city may consider purchasing the property and remediating it. This property serves as a gateway to the west end.

**8. Roundtable Discussion**

The Board asked staff to provide an update on what is going to be developed near Grocery Outlet where preloading is currently underway.

**9. EDB Nex Meeting, tentatively scheduled for October 18, 2024**

**Adjourn: 9:00 am**

