



AD HOC DOWNTOWN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday, March 2, 2023

- **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER: 9:04 AM**

- **ROLL CALL:**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Eric Davidson, Glen Pentland, Greg McHenry, Mia Richardson, Scott Meaker, Susan Sturgill, and Kevin Owens.

Gurdeep Bains was excused. Bruno Freschi was absent.

STAFF: Stacie Pratschner, Community Development Services Director; Alex Wenger, Economic Development & Tourism Coordinator; Stacy Clauson, Community Planner II.

Committee members briefly shared their experiences the last two weeks during the Connection before Content section of the agenda.

The Committee granted their consent to approve the minutes from February 16, 2023 with minor corrections noted.

- **LIAISON REPORTS.**

Mr. Davidson provided a report as City Council liaison. The Planning Commission had not met since the Committee's last meeting, so there was no information for Mr. Owens to report.

- **UNFISHED BUSINESS - SWOT Analysis Memo.**

Staff provided an overview of the SWOT Analysis Memo. In addition, Mr. Wenger provided an overview of Blaine's participation in the Whatcom County & small cities Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and the SWOT Exercise that was completed as part of CEDS process. Several members noted the desire to see more public engagement and accountability around the Blaine initiatives identified in the CEDS.

- **UNFISHISHED BUSINESS - Downtown Visioning**

Staff provided an overview of the draft Downtown vision statement. Mr. Owens provided an alternative vision statement for consideration. Mr. Pentland mentioned his email that was sent to the Committee addressing the need for more refined SWOT analysis to inform the vision statement.

The Committee discussed the vision. There was a call for consensus on whether more community outreach and further information gathering is needed before the Committee takes action on the vision, and this did not gain consensus. There was Committee consensus to continue to work iteratively on the vision, with the vision being brought back for further discussion. The Committee discussed dedicating a limited time on upcoming meeting agendas to refine the vision statement incrementally.

- **NEW BUSINESS.**

The Committee ran out of time to scope the parking discussion. There was consensus to postpone the next meeting to March 23, 2023.

- **Adjournment 10:30 AM.**

DRAFT