

Town of Concrete Economic Development Commission  
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Town of Concrete  
Economic Development Commission

Meeting Agenda

March 13, 2024 - 6 p.m.

**Economic  
Development  
Commission Members**

Rodleen Getsic

Dinah Kinney-Chair  
Pro-tem

Anne Bussiere - Chair

Wiley Moore

Guy Borgford

**Town Council Liaison**

Stephanie Semro

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Minutes –February 13, 2024 **DRAFT** (pages 1-5)
5. Old Business
  - Review/Adjust/Discuss 2024 Goal Edits
  - Town Birthday Party
6. New Business
7. Other Business
8. Announcements
  - Next Meeting April 10, 2024 6pm
9. Adjournment

**Town of Concrete  
Economic Development Commission Workshop  
February 14, 2024**

**Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call: Economic Commission Members:** Rodleen Getsic, Dinah Kinney, Anne Bussiere, and Guy Borgord. Wiley Moore had sent notice that he would be unable to attend this evening.

**Liaison:** Stephanie Semro.

**Audience Members Signed In:** John Boggs.

**Staff Present:** Deputy Clerk Heather Parker and Mayor Marla Reed.

**Election of Chair and Chair Pro-tem:** It was stated this was done at the last meeting and may just have been left on from the last agenda.

**Minutes: January 10, 2024 DRAFT:** Discussion ensued on if this needed to be approved tonight or to wait for a meeting and not done at the workshop.

Rodleen made a motion to approve. Dinah seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business: Silo Park Pavilion:** Mayor Reed stated that she thought Skagit Leadership was going to assist with this project, but that opportunity has fell through. She stated that someone from Skagit Leadership had offered to connect with the Rotary Club to see if this was something that they may be able to assist but she has not heard anything back on that. She stated she has started putting teams together that could volunteer to assist with this project, and she is going to work on putting together a materials list and estimate to see if this is something the town council would approve for funding. Anne stated this is something that is needed for the park, so people have a covered area to utilize for larger gatherings.

Discussion ensued on the need for volunteers with certain levels of expertise to assist with the project and how to get them on board. Audience member John Boggs stated that since some experts have already been lined up, it may be good to get volunteers to assist with refreshments or meals. Mayor Reed stated volunteers could also be needed for clean up assistance.

**Car Charger Funding Possibilities:** Anne stated there has been a lot of funding awarded across the state for these. Stephanie stated that some car manufacturers are moving toward hydrogen also. She stated there could be a potential for the town to make revenue from these if they partner with certain car manufactures.

Dinah asked if they need to request permission from Council to seek funding. Mayor Reed stated that she believes that would be a good idea.

Mayor Reed referred them to the Economic Development Plan that was included in their packets. She stated she learned today that this is the plan that has been approved by the Council. She stated that does not mean it cannot be changed or updated but this is the current plan. She stated that car chargers could be added, and the goals updated so it can be presented to Council for approval which would give this commission better direction. Anne stated this is listed under new business and can be discussed further then.

Town Hall Reader Board: Anne stated this was brought up previously. Mayor Reed stated it has been discussed at Council as well, but funding needs to be raised or secured. She stated the one owned by the school that is located by Cascade Burgers cost approximately \$30,000. Anne stated that one is hard to read when driving by with the moving letters and numerous graphics. Discussion ensued on how this would be great for better communications.

New Business: Review/Adjust 2024 Goals: Anne stated these were the goals that were developed by the original members of the EDC. She stated these are good things to shoot for and use as a guide but are always changing and she would like everyone to review so changes can be made and presented to Council.

Audience member John Boggs stated it might be good for all the commissions to schedule a meeting with the Council to discuss what the Council's priorities are and what they want to see in these types of plans. John discussed different items that he believes should be included or updated within the comprehensive plan.

Discussion ensued on the current EDC plan and possibly scheduling a workshop with Council. Discussion also ensued on the goals within the plan and what has been completed, what is being worked on and what work should be considered as on going.

Discussion ensued regarding the town flag. Mayor Reed stated that she wants to bring this up to Council. She stated she would like to see more consistencies between when the town flag is used and when the logo is used. She stated the logo is nice and something the town can be proud of, but the town flag is kind of old now. She stated she does not believe that any flags have sold in the last 3 years. Discussion ensued on the flag design. Mayor Reed stated that she has a lot of questions about the flag. Discussion ensued on what to do about the flag and if a town flag is even needed. It was stated to maybe hold a contest to improve the design. Anne stated there was a contest before and maybe only one submittal was turned in. Mayor Reed stated there were other submittals. Discussion ensued on the different businesses on Main Street that have the flag displayed.

Audience member John Boggs stated there was a report submitted to the town on branding and he stated maybe the commission could recommend the logo be used on the town flag and the other flags could be disposed of as excess government property or surplussed. Mayor Reed stated it would be good to improve the flag. She stated we have a nice logo. Dinah asked how this should be addressed and if it is something they should bring to Council. Mayor Reed suggested adding this to the plan. Stephanie suggested it be brought to Council. It was asked again if a town flag was even needed.

Discussion ensued on the branding report and who completed it. It was stated it would be good to see this report. Discussion also ensued on Imagine Concrete and the work they did and workshops they held.

Discussion ensued on the silos and the possibility of having them repainted. Guy suggested possibly planting climbing plants at the bottom. It was also suggested to revamp the Welcome to Concrete paint. Discussion ensued on when this was painted and that it was for the This Boy's Life movie. Discussion also ensued on the climbing wall proposal.

Anne asked which goal the reader board should be listed under. Discussion ensued on different reader board options. It was stated to include under goal #3. It was also asked where the EV chargers should be listed, under goal 4 or add new category for environmental. Guy suggested the goal be titled climate and environment. Mayor Reed asked if it needed to be a new goal or added to goal #13. It was agreed to create a new goal.

Anne suggested that everyone take the current plan home and review and come back with their suggestions and recommended updates. Mayor Reed suggested going through some of these tonight and at least get some of them updated.

It was stated to list goal #1, new website as ongoing. Discussion on the format of the plan and that using google docs would give them the ability to comment, and track changes. It was stated to change the title of #1 to marketing and communication. Audience member John Boggs suggested adding Zoom format to the discussion since Zoom does not seem to work well.

Dinah suggested combining goals #1 and #2 to include website, branding, marketing, and communications. She stated this is an ongoing, living document.

Audience member John Boggs stated he believes that goals #1 through #4 could all be put together. Dinah stated that it be could listed as goal #1 with subsets underneath for the other three goals.

Further discussion on using google docs ensued. Guy asked about the library and HPLC and listing those under a goal for arts and culture. He stated he would like to see ideas that draw artists into town. He stated artists could bring a new and fresh energy into town. Discussion ensued on the possibility of holding an art fair with displays and exhibits in different areas throughout town.

Audience member John Boggs suggested that the Commission make sure that those who are listed as partners in the plan are aware they are a suggested partner and their proposed involvement.

Anne reported that her and Dinah will be attending the EDASC dinner tomorrow night. Stephanie stated that she attended last year, and it seemed to her that the focus was more on AI than economics. She stated this year looks better. Audience member John Boggs stated it may be good to review the town's agreement with EDASC before attending that dinner, so they know exactly what EDASC is supposed to be doing for the town.

Stephanie stated that she is not sure why some of these goals are in this plan, such as Historic Preservation and believes that maybe that should be something the HPLC works on. Audience member John Boggs stated that Historic Preservation is an economic driver and can bring people and tourists into town, so he believes that is why it is included. Stephanie stated that is true. John stated there are some items in town that should be improved or preserved. Mayor Reed stated that maybe those items should be listed under that goal. John stated he is working n an update with the HPLC to present to the EDC and council regarding historic preservation.

Anne stated that goals 7, 8, and 9 all seem to relate to businesses and buildings. Guy suggested this goal should be titled commercial infrastructure and partnerships. Discussion ensued on high-speed internet being installed and this one should be marked as complete.

Rodleen asked if goal #2 would be the correct one for titling arts and culture.

Mayor Reed suggested that they get back to the other items on the agenda.

Lonestar Restaurant Solutions: Anne reported the Lonestar is closing and will be up for sale. Dinah stated that she met with the owner and asked him what made him want to get into the food business. She stated that he said it was somewhat on a whim and that he had always wanted to own a bar. She reported that he had also stated that the intention was to one day hand it over to his son. Dinah stated she also asked what had made him choose the Lonestar and Concrete. She stated that he said at the time the price was right and his son lived here. She reported that he said at this point, he has no other options but to sell, due to the debt associated with the business. Dinah reported that she also spoke with him about any assistance he may have sought from the Chamber or other entities. She stated he had not done that, but she suggested that this might be something this commission would want to do in the future. She stated reaching out to businesses to see how they are doing or discussing ways they might be able to assist businesses could be something good for them to do in the future. She stated the current owner bought the business right before COVID shut a lot of things down and he had other things come during his ownership that have made it impossible for him to continue. Dinah stated one of the issues he had was keeping, good reliable staff and having the younger hires show up for work. She stated this may be where a partnership with the school would be good and work with school board member Mike Brondi, who is a huge advocate for getting kids job ready.

Audience member John Boggs stated that working with the Boys and Girls Club on some partnerships may be a good idea as well. Mayor Reed also reported on a program for local kids that works with businesses that hire youth and reimburses that business for payroll and taxes. John asked if anyone knows if the Private Industry Council still exists. He explained what this group assisted with in the past.

Mayor Reed suggested that when approaching the school with an idea, that they also include solutions for accomplishing that idea. Rodleen reported on the task she was given through the Planning Commission for contacting the school and working to involve students in that commissions work.

Discussion ensued on ideas for working with kids and getting them more involved as well as mentoring them. Guy reported on a program in Seattle called Fair Start. He reported they have restaurants that employ homeless persons and teaches them skills while getting paid. Discussion ensued on this program and opportunities for its possible use in town. Guy stated that he will do some research on this program.

Discussion on the local radio station ensued regarding using this as a possible resource for local communications. Anne also discussed a gentleman who attended the last chamber meeting that had information regarding assistance for small businesses.

Rodleen stated the community meeting being held in March, might be a good time to get students involved and maybe invite them to attend. Guy suggested that a workshop be held at the school where the commissions could engage the students and get their ideas and what they want to see in town.

**Other Business: Planning Commission** – Anne stated a community survey regarding the comp plan update should be out soon. Heather reported that it is currently available on the town’s website. Dinah reported they continue to work on the Comprehensive Plan update at the Planning Commission meetings.

Anne reported they are discussing possibly holding a birthday party event for the town. She stated this would be the town’s 115<sup>th</sup> year. She stated this would give them an opportunity to update the town picture that was taken during the centennial celebration as well as have a community picnic with live music, cupcakes, and other events. She stated the event would take place on May 11.

Mayor Reed suggested that over the next week they work on the updates and changes and get those to Andrea before the 21<sup>st</sup> so they can be presented to Council for approval.

Meeting Suggestions: Nothing further.

**Announcements:** Next workshop March 13, 2024 at 6pm.

**Adjournment:** Dinah Kinney made a motion for adjournment at 7:51 p.m. Rodleen Getsic seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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Anne Bussiere, Chair

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Attest: Dinah Kinney, Chair pro-tem