

Whatcom County Business & Commerce Committee

1801 Roeder Avenue ■ Bellingham, WA 98225 ■ wcbcc@portofbellingham.com ■ (360) 715-5118

WCBCC May Meeting Minutes (5/20/24)

WCBCC Members Present

Dan Dunne, WCBCC Chair

Ryan Allsop, Other For-Profit

Pam Brady, Energy

Clark Campbell, Recreation

Pete Dawson, Commercial Real Estate

Casey Diggs, WCBCC Vice Chair

Rob Fix, Port of Bellingham Executive Director

Mayor Korthuis for Jori Burnett

Troy Muljat, Other For-Profit

CJ Seitz, Higher Education

Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive (in @ 11:30a)

Mark Stremmer, Whatcom County Councilmember

Russell (RB) Tewksbury, Internet Technology

WCBCC Members Absent

Debbie Ahl, Healthcare

Paul Burrill, Food Processing

Matthew Green, Higher Education

Mayor Lund

Brad Rader, Agriculture

Sarah Rothenbuhler, Other For-Profit

Heather Steele, Public K-12 Education

Chris Trout, Manufacturing

Dana Wilson, Marine Trades

Non-Members/Public Present

Chris Behee, Barbara Chase, Andrea Doyle, R. Perry Eskridge, Jessie Everson, Jasmine Fast, Frank's I-Phone (last name not provided), Peter Frazier, Brady Gustafson, Brian Heinrich, Hollie Huthman, Scott Iddings, Mauri Ingram, Lindsey Johnstone, Todd Lagestee, Troy Lautenbach, Rob Lee, Derek Long, Guy Occhiogrosso, Kori Olsen, Mindy Pelton, Scott Pelton, Sabah Randhawa, Margaret Reich, Donna Sanchez, Paul Schissler, Simon Sefzik, Gina Stark, Bruce Tabb, Julia Tzortzatos

Call to Order

WCBCC Chair Dan Dunne called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Quorum not reached. April minutes will be presented at June 2024 WCBCC meeting.

Discussion

Per Chair Dan Dunne, sub-committee updates will occur post-presentations at future WCBCC meetings.

WCBCC May Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Western Washington University (WWU): Professional Programs, Services, Updates

WWU President Sabah Randhawa and WWU Career Services Center Director Mindy Pelton provided an overview of WWU's current initiatives/projects.

- Creating a branch campus on the peninsulas (population base currently half-million w/no provider). Forecasted to serve 1,200-1,300 students by 2030.
- Focusing on outreach + continuing education. Half-million Washingtonians have work experience w/out a degree; WWU focused on opportunities to provide a credential.
- Completing a strategic visioning exercise for long-term facilities plan + services:
 - Lincoln Creek property in consideration for housing/development
 - Kaiser Borsari Hall renovation, \$120 mil., expected completion Jan. 2025
 - Student Development Center (welcome center + will house all student-related services)
 - House of Healing, construction began spring 2024
 - WWU increasing childcare capacity from 60 to 90 (continues to have a long waitlist)
- [Career + Business Services](#)
 - Industry summit planned for Fall 2024; Key industry sectors to discuss workforce needs + partnership opportunities with WWU.

WCBCC Workforce Sub-Committee, Guest Speaker:

Northwest Workforce Council Workforce Programs Manager Scott Iddings provided an overview of [workforce program services](#) available to local businesses.

More info.: nwc-connect.org.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.