

Citizens Economic Development Commission Subcommittee Update

Tourism Sub-Group Meeting of October 1, 2013

Members attending: John Dewhirst, Roger Hertrich, Kevin Garret (Teresa Wippel absent)

City Staff attending: Cindi Cruz, Francis Chaplin

Summary:

John Dewhirst reported that no progress with the mobile app called "VisitWA." In phone discussions with Chuck Loomis, this project will not be done as envisioned by one of his classes. He referred the project to the intern placement office at EDCC. In order to have an intern from EDCC, The City of Edmonds would need to be the sponsor, supervise, sign time sheets, and provide a desk and a computer. The question becomes whether the City has the time and resources to accommodate the EDCC requirements. City staff needs to reach a decision after internal discussion. Staff expressed concerns about time constraints between now and end of the year, but a potential exists in early 2014. In the meantime, suggestions were advanced to start collecting data, and do some test runs. Roger Hertrich stated that he has been collecting information that may be useful to such a project and will bring to the next meeting.

John Dewhirst reported on further research on the new Bainbridge Art Museum, Lightcatcher in Bellingham and expanded upon the La Conner Museum. The list of questions was also refined to guide future community discussion:

1. What would be the purpose of an Edmonds Art Museum? What niche will such a facility fill? What type of fine arts museum/ facility is missing in the region? Can this niche compete with the established regional collections/facilities? Will it be able to attract visitors from Seattle and the region?
2. What type of art museum would fit with/connect to Edmonds while appealing to the region? How much interest is there locally and regionally?
3. Does an art collection come first? So a facility can be built to house a collection; or is an art facility built first and the collections come later? What size?
4. What would be the impact of an art museum on the existing local art facilities and programs?
5. Who might partner in this venture?
6. Capital Funding? Sustainable O&M funding?
7. Who will be the champion for this facility and work to see it happen in the long term?
8. What process will be used to answer these and other similar questions?

How these questions will be answered was discussed. The hope is that the participants from the Art Summit will develop solutions. The general agreement was that such a facility needs to be highly visible in or around the Downtown to facilitate interaction between the two.

Roger Hertrich had no additional information on public rest rooms in the Downtown except that using sewer funds is not promising. A suggestion was made to find out the reasoning behind the inability to use sewer funds. Research will continue.

No work on cruise ship passenger trips to Edmonds was reported by Roger Hertrich. However, he is interested in investigating the use of the old Edmonds High School as a location of a new swimming pool. Research will continue

My Edmonds News published a long article about B&Bs in Edmonds.

Next Steps/Action Items:

- Work on "VisitWA" app process with City Staff.
- Continue research on the fine art museum
- Develop new information on public restrooms and cruise ship passenger visits, and pool locations
- Look into year-round farmer's market potential