

Citizens Economic Development Commission Subcommittee Update

Tourism Sub-Group Meeting of September 3, 2013

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

City Staff attending: Cindi Cruz, Francis Chaplin, Stephen Clifton

Summary:

John Dewhirst reported on preliminary research on a fine arts museum. He developed a list of the established art museums in the region which will be competition. Several museums in the region, plus 2 out of state, were reviewed as possible models. Suggestions were made to also research the new Bainbridge Art Museum and the Lightcatcher in Bellingham. A series of questions was also developed to guide future community discussion. Staff added several additional questions to this list. Then possible locations were reviewed and many eliminated. The general agreement was such a facility needs to be highly visible in or around the Downtown to facilitate interaction between the two.

John Dewhirst reported that no progress with the mobile app called "VisitWA." In phone discussions with Chuck Loomis, this project will not be done by one of his classes due to lack of support from the administration. He referred the project to the intern placement office at EDCC.

Roger Hertrich reported on research on Downtown public restrooms. Currently, there are discussions between the City and Mr. Rosen, owner of Milltown, for public use of the restrooms on the ground floor of Milltown off the new plaza. \$25,000 would be necessary for O&M per year. Also the vacant space between City Hall and the Rusty Pelican is being discussed. The City is investigating the possible use of Sewer Funds to finance the construction of public restrooms. Research will continue.

No work on cruise ship passenger trips to Edmonds was reported by Roger Hertrich. Staff reported on past efforts by a local business man to establish a business to bring cruise ship passengers by bus to Edmonds, tour them around town with time to walk the waterfront and shop in the downtown.

Next Steps/Action Items:

- Work on "VisitWA" app process
- Continue research on art museum and public restrooms and cruise ship passenger visits

