



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES JOINT WITH CITY OF NORTH BEND SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

This meeting was conducted in person at Meadowbrook Farm Interpretive Center.

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL: Snoqualmie Chair Hudson and North Bend Chair Kunz called the meeting to order at 8:10 am.

Snoqualmie Commissioners: Kristina Hudson, Nichole Pas, Joelle Gibson, Nick Postiglione, and Paula Shively, and Gary Skiba were present. Commissioner Webb was not present. Mayor Katherine Ross and Councilmember Rob Wotton were also present.

North Bend Commissioners: Beth Burrows, Anne Granderson, Tad Haas, Nick Jensen, and Michael Kunz were present.

Snoqualmie City Staff: Mona Davis, Community and Economic Development Director; Mike Chambless, City Administrator; Nicole Wiebe, Community Liaison; and Deana Dean, City Clerk.

North Bend City Staff: James Henderson, Community and Economic Development Director; and Caitlyn Hepworth, Associate Planner.

Introductions were made.

AGENDA APPROVAL - The agenda was approved as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Update on Special Projects for North Bend and Snoqualmie. This item was introduced by Snoqualmie Community and Economic Development Director Mona Davis and included the Snoqualmie Valley Health expansion, mixed use project in downtown Snoqualmie called The Rails, and Pacific West Rail's Model Train Museum. Additional information provided by Snoqualmie Community Liaison Nicole Wiebe and included there are no vacancies in businesses on Railroad Avenue, updates on Mini Treehouse, Snoqualmie Ice Cream, Books and Bottles, and three art studios. On Snoqualmie Ridge, the now vacant Bartell Drugs and best use, Infusion Bar has left being replaced with a golf and sports venue, and the Splashpad grand opening. North Bend Associate Planner Caitlyn Hepworth indicated they are working on a bike mobility plan. North Bend Community and Economic Development Director James Henderson noted they are looking for a tenant for the Bartell Drug location and there is a preapplication with a grocer. He also spoke to the North Bend Golf Club at the former bike store location. They are also working on an affordable housing project and Snoqualmie Valley Health Clinic.

2. Creative Economy Discussion was introduced by Snoqualmie Chair Hudson with information provided by Director Henderson. Discussion followed on public art in each city as well as an explanation of what would be considered creative economy and partnering and engaging with the local businesses.
3. World Cup 2026. Director Henderson introduced this item, provided a handout of the schedule, and discussed what North Bend is doing to promote and prepare for this event. Community Liaison Wiebe noted there would be Snoqualmie Lodging Tax Advisory Committee funds for next year. Discussion followed on how to promote and activate the area, how to attract and manage visitors. Both cities will move forward on ideas and next steps.
4. Discussion of Future Economic Development Collaboration including continued Joint efforts between the two cities such as funding mechanisms and tourism promotion, as well as joint meetings, establishing creative economy, public art, World Cup and planning for and attracting visitors, local business coordination and involvement, establishing priorities at the city level and pairing those priority sets to put recommendations in place. It was discussed to have three similar priorities by March of 2026 and the commissions should approach their council's now. Next step is for directors to work with their commissions to generate a list and then set another joint meeting.
5. General Updates and Announcements. Community Liaison Wiebe spoke to the upcoming Halloween event between Snoqualmie and North Bend. Snoqualmie Councilmember Rob Wotton spoke about the upcoming Snoqualmie Valley Economic Alliance meeting on October 1st.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 am.

Minutes prepared by Deana Dean, City Clerk.

Minutes approved at the _____ Economic Development Commission Meeting.