



## **JOINT MEETING OF THE NORTH BEND AND SNOQUALMIE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 8:00 – 10:00 AM**

**North Bend City Hall  
920 SE Cedar Falls Way, North Bend, WA 98045**

**This meeting is in person at North Bend City Hall Council Chambers.**

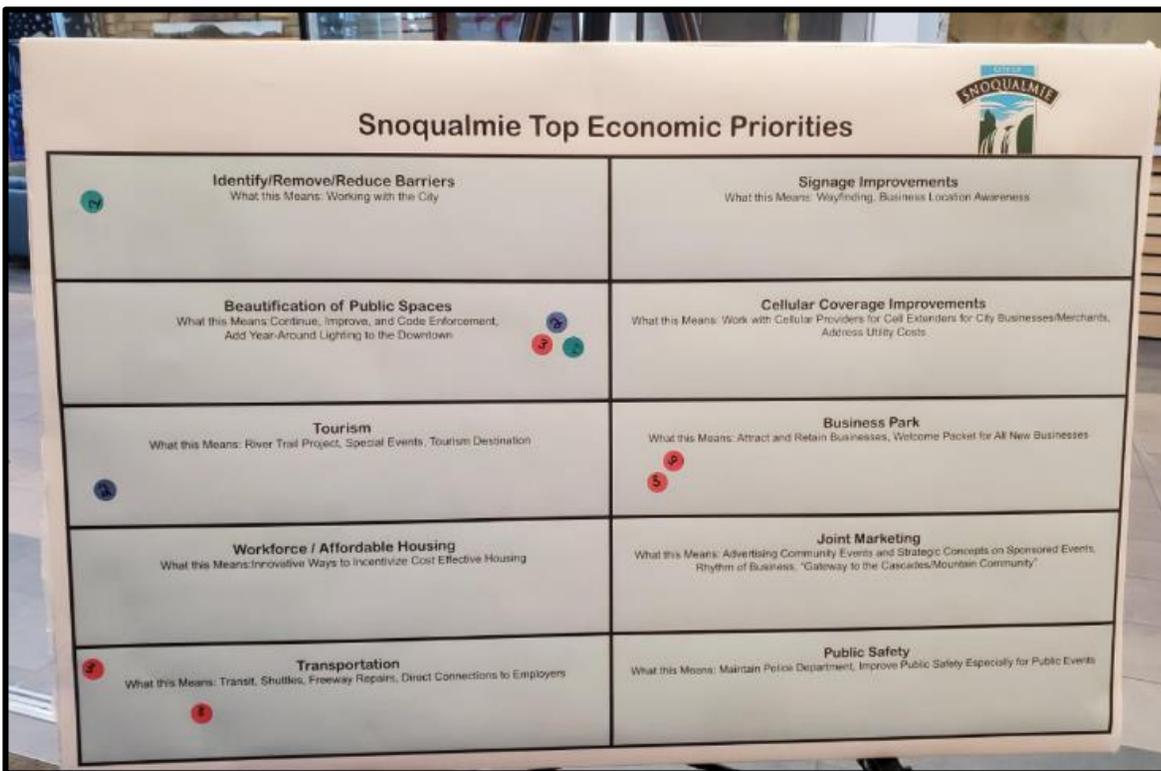
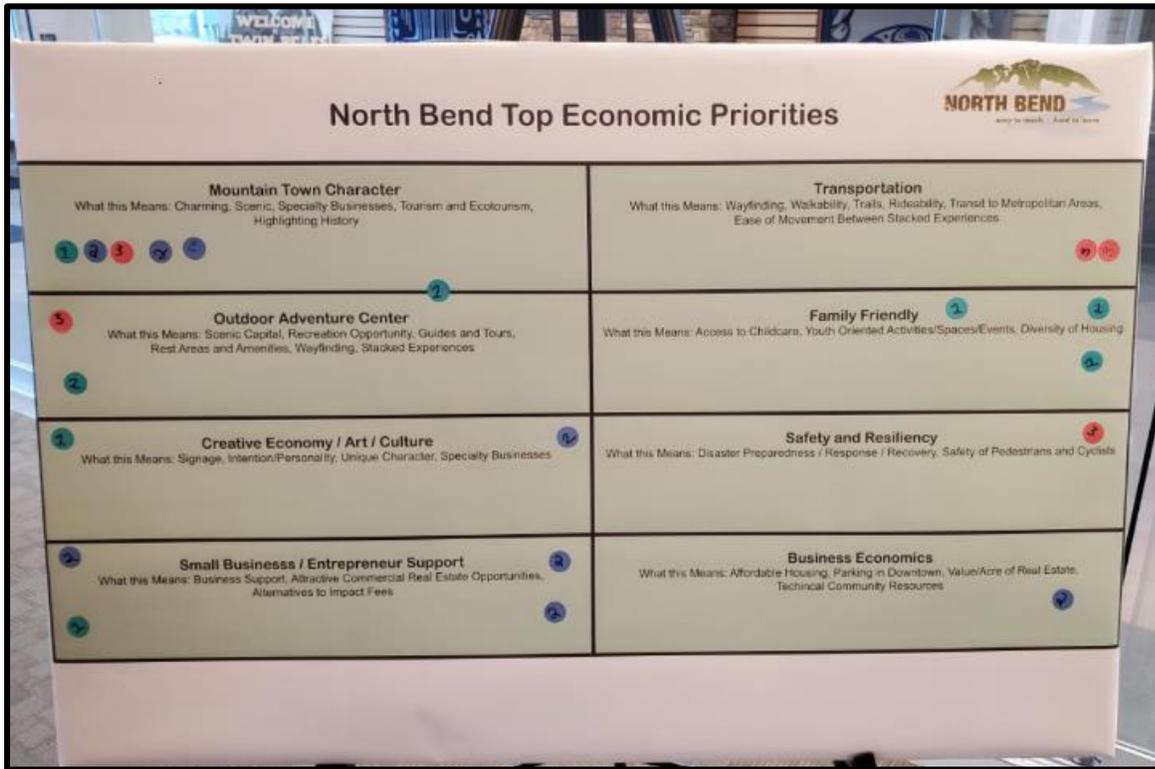
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### **AGENDA**

- 1) Call to order and roll
  - **Meeting was called to order at 8:09AM.**
  - **Present:**
    - **North Bend Economic Development Commissioners**
      1. **Tad Haas**
      2. **Beth Burrows**
      3. **Anne Granderson**
      4. **Michael Kunz**
    - **Snoqualmie Economic Development Commissioners:**
      1. **Kristina Hudson**
      2. **Paula Shively**
      3. **Gary Skiba**
      4. **Nick Postiglione**
      5. **Nichole Pas**
  - **Absences:**
    - **North Bend: Nick Jensen**
    - **Snoqualmie: Joelle Gibson**
- 2) Public Comments
  - **Councilmember Rob Wotton from City of Snoqualmie expressed gratitude to the commissions for coming together to collaborate**
  - **The Snoqualmie Chamber of Commerce provided an update on upcoming projects happening in the valley. Classes are being offered by the chamber to businesses. Encouraged participants to come visit the HQ. There is a wellness guide coming out as well other supportive resources.**
- 3) Update on Special Projects for North Bend and Snoqualmie
  - **Snoqualmie:**
    - **New stoplight on SE 99<sup>th</sup> and the Parkway as part of SVH hospital project**
    - **New pharmacy at the Safeway location (Starbucks was removed).**
    - **Decorative features in the downtown.**
    - **Lost a few tenants up on Center BLVD. Evaluating ways to re-vitalize the street.**
    - **Two fitness businesses coming in on Center Blvd.**
    - **Learning to work with food trucks; lack of regulations on the topic currently.**

- **Down to Earth business was sold but flower shop was relocated further south on Railroad Avenue and just opened last weekend**
  - **New Plant/Gift store coming in where Down to Earth was called Whit & Co.**
  - **Mini Treehouse is being relocated to Railroad.**
  - **New Coffeehouse/Used Bookstore is proposed in the old Mini Treehouse location.**
  - **New river trail is coming in near the downtown along Railroad Ave**
  - **North Bend:**
    - **Welcome to North Bend on behalf of Mayor Miller**
    - **Updates:**
      - **World Cup 2026: Entered into contract with NBDF for collateral material for the event. Printed materials, kiosk, short form videos, and updates to the Adventure North Bend website (for both promotion to North Bend and also as a economic development tool for business attraction/retention). Funded through both Port Grant and City funds. Work should be completed by May/June.**
      - **Joint Creative Economy Plan: Funded by both Snoqualmie and North Bend through Port Grant funds. City has interviewed two consultants and a third in early March. Final plan will be completed by the end of the year.**
  - **Joint Creative Economy Plan:**
    - **Provided clarification on the formalization of actions being taken on the joint plan.**
- 4) **North Bend and Snoqualmie Economic Development Priorities**
- **Priority Identification “Dot Exercise”**
    - **Caitlin Hepworth explained how the dot exercise works. Caitlin noted that there are some overlapping priorities which will be assessed together when appropriate.**
    - **James Henderson explained that after the dot exercise is complete, small breakout groups will be created to discuss priorities and identify mutual strategies to address the priority.**
    - **James Henderson provided a summary of North Bend’s selected priorities.**
    - **Mona Davis provided a summary of Snoqualmie’s selected priorities.**
    - **Commissioners went to each of the boards and placed the location of their top 3 priorities.**

**Figure 1: Joint EDC Bubble Dot Priority Results**



- Breakout Discussions on Identified Priorities
  - Instructions were provided to commissioners and break out groups started at 8:45am
    1. James Henderson provided the 15-minute warning at 9:00am
    2. James Henderson provided the 5-minute warning at 9:10am.

3. Caitlin Hepworth noted that the 30-minute discussion period ended at 9:15am.
- Breakout groups:
    1. Mountain Town Character and Public Space Beautification: Mike Kunz and Gary Skiba
    2. Business/Entrepreneur Support and Public Space Beautification: Beth Burrows, Tad Haas, Nick Postiglione, and Paula Shively.
    3. Family Friendly and Public Space Beautification: Anne Granderson, Nichole Pas, Kristina Hudson
  - Economic Development Priority and Collaboration Discussion
    1. Mountain Town Character and Public Space Beautification:
      - a. “Continuity” is something that is missing between stuff to do, events, etc.
      - b. What does mountain character mean to people? Can be mixed based on who you ask
      - c. Focus on 1 or 2 elements of the brand vision to invest in.
        - i. More lighting downtown or stretches of roads.
        - ii. Split of downtowns and the ridge/outlet mall/truck town. How do we bring these all together?
      - d. Wayfinding and directions
        - i. When people go to Raging River or Mt Si, they are missing what else is available in the vicinity for activities and leisure
      - e. Programming stacked experiences
        - i. i.e. from the falls, how do you know where to go? Are there visual cues? Building out the congruency between things to do and places to go before/after.
        - ii. Are we making connections multimodal?
      - f. Health, wellness, experience, history are elements of the character.
      - g. We have some of the best recreation opportunities in the immediate vicinity.
      - h. Design of buildings seems overly prescriptive to achieve the character. Joint signage is a method that could work.
      - i. Could build additional itineraries to place on the website of things to do.
      - j. Need to be purposeful in brand development and advertising. Other mountain towns do this really well (i.e. Bend, OR) and it is something we can work on.
      - k. Chamber of Commerce: There are no marketing funds at the Commerce; Redmond has about \$1.5 million annually
    2. Business/Entrepreneur Support and Public Space Beautification:
      - a. Important to support both visible (retail and restaurants and brick/mortar stores) and non-visible businesses (IT consultants, home businesses)
      - b. Networking opportunities for organic support and information sharing
        - i. One Million Cups business networking events – opportunity to do this jointly and hear out what resources or guides the cities can help find/put together
      - c. Broad economic support is needed

- i. **Cost barriers for small businesses to buy certain properties.**
  - 1. **Mutual risks in environmental cleanup or buildings needing significant TI work between city/ small business**
  - 2. **Credit opportunities for small businesses**
- ii. **Investor Funding Pool for small businesses**
- iii. **Supporting home business engagement with the City – city resources and incentives.**
- iv. **Putting our artists to work – finding opportunities to connect artists with opportunities.**

### **3. Family Friendly and Public Space Beautification:**

- a. **Existing reputation for being mutually family friendly between the cities. It is valuable to have that reputation.**
  - i. **High parks/recreation access**
  - ii. **Quality schools**
  - iii. **Community Events**
  - iv. **Access to nature**
- b. **Anything we do needs to incorporate the existing community and visitors to the community**
- c. **Family friendly is inclusive of young kids, teens, and older adults.**
- d. **Key Elements:**
  - i. **Activities: Bolster activities that are year around and indoors like an aquatic center. Essential for kids to have kid friendly activities, for all ages. Teen bus to ski at the mountain, access to a pool with activities for all ages.**
    - 1. **Stacked experiences year-around for different age groups**
  - ii. **Multimodal: More opportunities to safely walk, bike, shuttle to key locations and facilities.**
  - iii. **Childcare: There is a very high need for childcare options locally. There are not enough facilities and it drives the cost/demand. Costly to run the business and to pay for the service.**
    - 1. **A lot of costs come from the state level for childcare; Snoqualmie has lesser cost demands for this business type.**
    - 2. **Identify ways to try to reduce cost impacts and work with the state to reduce cost impacts**
  - iv. **Funding: Challenges to afford the infrastructure. What creative funding mechanisms are available to help fund these projects? What things can we tap into individually or collaboratively to pay for the infrastructure?**
    - 1. **Opportunities to look at our neighbors to see how their projects were funded.**
    - 2. **Capital campaign funding options and private sponsors**

### **4. City Beautification**

- a. **Clean, a place you want to bring children**
- b. **Trash collection over the weekends when it is busiest in each community**
- c. **Doing the basics – code enforcement and taking care of our public spaces impacts how our communities and visitors perceive Snoqualmie and North Bend.**

- i. Invite people to continue to visit/invest in the area
- d. Beautify and repair the buildings in disrepair; opportunities to support improvement projects
- e. Address continuity in pathways throughout town. Areas where the sidewalk ends even with development. Help small businesses happen to address some of these elements at a reduced rate or an alternative implementation timeline.
- f. Greater code enforcement overall on elements that are within control and have a visual impact

5. Affordable housing was brought up even when it was not within a group topic since there is a significant impact on business growth and retention.

Cute mountain town but steep cost for any type of housing.

- a. Hard to find employees
- b. Significant increases to wages to try to keep people
- c. Long commutes to both cities for work. Shuttles?

- Next Steps
  - Staff will revise meeting minutes and share with the greater group to evaluate next steps in each EDC.

5) General Updates and Announcements

6) Closing Remarks and Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 10:00AM.