CITY COUNCIL JOINT WORKSHOP OF THE CITY OF REDMOND AND REDMOND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD WAS HELD MAY 6, 2024, IN CIVIC ROOM 207.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: **Tobias Colvin – Clifford Evelyn – Ed Fitch – John Nielsen – Kathryn Osborne – Cat Zwicker**

COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED: **Shannon Wedding**

STAFF PRESENT: **City Manager Keith Witcosky – Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer Jason Neff – City Attorney Keith Leitz – Director of Public Works/City Engineer Jessica MacClanahan – Communications Director Heather Cassaro – Planning Manager Kyle Roberts – Airport Director Zachary Bass – City Recorder Kelly Morse**

CHAMBER BOARD PRESENT: **Jake Waardenburg – Ryan Churchill – Brenda Turner – Judy LaPora**

MEDIA PRESENT: **None**

Mayor Fitch called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

INTRODUCTIONS

The Council and Redmond Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) Board members introduced themselves.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Mayor Fitch explained the purpose of the meeting is to give both the City and the Chamber an opportunity to discuss the various issues that have occurred over the past few years. He noted the City issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for tourism and marketing. Chamber Board President Jake Waardenburg stated the Chamber felt under described their desire to understand the City's direction adding that they were waiting for direction. Councilor Colvin opined the intention of the meeting is to ensure both the City and Chamber are aligned moving forward.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Tourism / Marketing

1. Brief History

President Waardenburg stated the Chamber considered whether to submit an RFP but submitted an alternative proposal asking the City to acknowledge the value of the Visitors Center and consider supporting it monetarily as well. Chamber Board Member Sean Neary discussed whether an alternative proposal would have to be funded outside of the RFP monies. Mr. Neary opined the Council should consider who would be putting the relocation packets together.

Questions from the Council were addressed regarding the Chamber's goals and operations.

2. Request for Proposal

Mr. Waardenburg addressed the Chamber's concern regarding communication from the City prior to the RFP, adding he wished this meeting had taken place six months ago so they had better direction.

Ms. Turner explained that the Chamber looked at the RFP, but the scope of work was more than what the Chamber felt was a fit with the rest of their plans, adding it was not done out of spite or not wanting to partner anymore.

3. Current Status

Mayor Fitch addressed unintentional co-mingling of funds and the proper use of tax dollars adding the sense of frustration from Staff on not getting clarity on receipts and documentation over the past year.

Ms. Turner suggested a channel of communication to help clarify things between City and Chamber staff and deliver first-hand communications to the Chamber Board. Mr. Neary noted a Council liaison attended all Chamber Board meetings, so the finances were available to the Council.

4. Business Details
   a. Documentation and Clarification of Expenses

   The Council and the Board discussed accounting for the tourism funds spent by the Chamber/Convention Visitors Bureau and possibly left over after July 1st.

   b. Unwinding Business Contract

   Mr. Waardenburg addressed the Chamber's vision of a successful relationship between the City and the Chamber moving forward without the RFP. He discussed the disentangling of tourism dollars used for uses disallowed by statute as well as the Chamber paying for things the City should have paid for.

      i. Monies, Assets, and 'Property'

      Councilor Zwicker addressed the business partnership between the City and the Chamber and the funds being spent on items for marketing the City including intellectual property. The Chamber and the Board discussed the use of the Visit Redmond trademark going forward and the Chamber's intention to retain it.

      Councilor Nielsen asked if the Chamber would commit to warm handoff if someone else is taking over a function the Chamber is currently doing. Mr. Neary commented it would make sense to continue having a liaison for the next year or so to ease the transition and would have to put the suggestion to the Board.

      Mr. Waardenburg asked about the Tourism Committee minutes being available online which would be helpful to the Chamber. It was confirmed the December 2023 minutes were posted in the Committee's agenda packet.

OTHER BUSINESS (if any)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:47 pm.

Prepared by ABC Transcription Services
Reviewed by Kelly Morse, City Recorder

APPROVED by the City Council and SIGNED by the Mayor this 11th day of June 2024.

/s/ Ed Fitch
Ed Fitch, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Kelly Morse
Kelly Morse, City Recorder