

Meeting began at 11:35 with Mayor Condon. He handed out his 2019 vision pamphlet and did a shortened version of his State of the City address. He took questions and talked a bit about our communities concern over the vagrancy issues plaguing downtown and our businesses. Special emphasis was placed on using the correct term of “Vagrancy” vrs “Homelessness”. Specifically, the Downtown Starbucks (next door to Red Robin) is completely full each day of vagrants and there is no sitting area for our VisitSpokane team to sit and chat with clients during site tours etc. The downtown hotels continue to see increased vagrant trespassing and issues with them entering our businesses and sleeping in stairwells or lounging in our lobbies. The Mayor concluded his conversation at 12:20pm

The General Meeting was called to order at 12:22 by Matt Jensen and lunch was served. He thanked the Convention Center and team for hosting us today.

Toby Hattley gave updates on Hill Climb, the Lime Bike sharing program, downtown parking issues, and the vagrancy issue. At the state level, he also gave updates regarding the mandatory Diaper Changing Station in both men and women’s bathrooms (for new builds only), Restrictive Scheduling (2 week scheduling and penalties if that schedule changes), and Short Term Rentals (must have regulations, insurance, inspections and pay taxes). Toby asked that we all stay engaged with our local leaders. Dean Feldmeier also mentioned that everyone should have received an email that contained a very simple email link that would help us write and email our local officials regarding where we stand on the Restrictive Scheduling issue.

Meg Winchester from VisitSpokane was introduced and she went over the recent sales activities of the office.

Cherie Qwinn introduced their new team member, Anna Henry, and also gave an update on the recent activities of the Spokane Sports Commission.

Stephanie Curran spoke and gave a small update regarding the new Sports Plex – new drawings have just been sent to her and will be shared soon!

Phil Champlin gave a quick update on happenings at The Hub and that they are gearing up now for PNQ Volleyball and Middle School Basketball.

Elizabeth Mills of Greater Spokane Incorporated gave a quick update and reminded us to attend Business After Hours if possible.

Meeting concluded at 12:45pm/