

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEF:
GREATER SEATTLE PARTNERS (GSP)**

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

At its June 8 meeting, the Executive Council:

- **Received a Board Report from Bill McSherry.** Bill formally welcomed Brian Surratt, GSP's new CEO who has now been in the position for six months. GSP's hiring committee had a robust applicant pool and Brian was the "obvious choice". Bill also relayed that the finances of the organization are strong, however staffing capacity has recently decreased due to two departures since the last Executive Council Meeting.
- **Received a CEO Report from CEO Brian Surratt.** Brian Surratt elaborated on staffing capacity, sharing that his goal for GSP was to create a long term, sustainable, organization which includes ensuring the organization is adequately staffed with the right skills. Brian also shared an update on the remainder of GSP's 2022 work which includes an International Leadership Mission to Japan, finalization of GSP's regional marketing plan, and focus on the "Job Hubs" initiative outlined in GSP's Forward Together Framework.
- **Received a presentation on the region's economic outlook from Chris Mefford.** Chris relayed that the economy is in a "wobbly" recovery phase, with high economic uncertainty worldwide driven by supply chain issues and inflation. Locally, tourism and hospitality metrics continue to recover, with total employment nearing pre-pandemic levels. Finally, Chris relayed that the region's rapidly increasing housing prices are having meaningful impacts on business activity including talent attraction.

The next meeting of the Executive Council is scheduled for December. Councilmember Conrad Lee represents Bellevue on the Executive Council.