

## TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

### MINUTES

June 4, 2018

The meeting of Economic Development Advisory Committee of the Town of Fort Frances was held in the Committee Room, Civic Centre on June 4, 2018 from 11:39 a.m. to 12:52 p.m.

PRESENT: G. Rogozinski, Chair, J. Cumming, K. McCaig, J. Gillon, M. Caron, C. Mallory, R. Avis and K. Perry

ALSO PRESENT: D. Brown, CAO (11:53 a.m. to 12:52 p.m., G. Gillon, Regional Economic Developer, N. Gaudio, Economic Development Coordinator, RRFDC (11:39 a.m. to 12:00 Noon), L. Mose, MNDM (11:39 a.m. to 12:48 p.m.), K. Lawson, Secretary

REGRETS: J. McTaggart, D. Fortes, G. McBride, T. Drysdale, Consultant (RRFDC)

**1. Call to Order 11:39 a.m.**

**2. Non-agenda Committee items which because of urgency cannot be deferred to a subsequent meeting, identified to be considered later in the meeting.**

2.1 C. Mallory re: Funding Opportunities for available 2nd storey residential apartments on Scott Street.

**3. Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof - none identified**

**4. Approval of Previous Advisory Committee Minutes**

4.1 May 14, 2018.

Cumming-Mallory: THAT the minutes from the May 14th, 2018 regular meeting be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

**5. New Business**

5.1 Update re: Rally at the Border - May 18, 2018.

- Doug Brown and Natasha Gaudio provided a verbal update on the recent Rally at the Border. Natasha thanked those who took the time to attend and noted that it was a great way to start off the summer tourism season.

5.2 Summer Meeting Schedule.

- a discussion was had concerning the difficulties of holding regular meetings in the summer months resulting from holiday and other summer activities. As there were no

urgent items for committee consideration at this time, members agreed to cancelling the July and August meeting and resuming in September.

McCaig-J. Gillon: THAT the July and August 2018 meetings of the Economic Development Executive Committee be cancelled; that the regular meeting schedule resume on September 10th, 2018; and further that it is understood that a meeting of the Committee can be called at any time during July and August should a matter requiring urgent/and or immediate consideration be brought forward.

CARRIED

- 5.3 C. Mallory - funding assistance to enable businesses on Scott Street the availability for rental of second storey footage.  
- Charleen noticed there were spaces above the storefronts on the 2nd and 3rd blocks of Scott Street that appeared to be vacant and unused. She felt that store owners should be encouraged to look into funding opportunities with the idea of developing this unused space as apartments. It was identified that there were private sector impediments and landlord issues that would challenge the building owners from advancing these development ideas.
- 5.4 Open Forum - Items for Discussion. Geoff lead the discussion by presenting a You Tube selection presented at the World Economic Forum - Published July 18, 2016

It is titled What is the Fourth Industrial Revolution?

*These notes were provided in conjunction with the You Tube video:*

*Ubiquitous, mobile supercomputing. Artificially-intelligent robots. Self-driving cars. Neuro-technological brain enhancements. Genetic editing. The evidence of dramatic change is all around us and it's happening at exponential speed.*

*Previous industrial revolutions liberated humankind from animal power, made mass production possible and brought digital capabilities to billions of people. This Fourth Industrial Revolution is, however, fundamentally different. It is characterized by a range of new technologies that are fusing the physical, digital and biological worlds, impacting all disciplines, economies and industries, and even challenging ideas about what it means to be human.*

The Committee then opened up with a discussion on Opportunities for Fort Frances. The following ideas were provided.

- coding for young people
- working with Seven Gens to expand their programming
- avoid sending our best and brightest away to schools where their education and skills and not used
- internet studies
- fibre optics - very much improved - apprenticeship programs tax incentives being lost
- cloud centre - cloud farms

Members were asked over the course of the summer to come up with additional ideas.

**6. Non-agenda Items**

- 6.1 C. Mallory noted that there appeared to be a considerable amount of businesses with upper storey availability on Scott Street. She felt that there should be incentives to encourage the owners to look into funding opportunities for developing these spaces as residential apartments on Scott Street. A discussion was had with members and it was identified that there were private sector impediments and landlord issues which would discourage most business owners from advancing these ideas of apartment development.

**7. Adjourn 12:52 p.m./ Next Meeting Date - July 9, 2018 (changed to September 4, 2018)**