

TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

April 9, 2018

The meeting of Economic Development Advisory Committee of the Town of Fort Frances was held in the Committee Room, Civic Centre on April 9, 2018 from 11:46 a.m. to 12:48 p.m.

PRESENT: J. McTaggart, Vice Chair, D. Fortes, C. Mallory, J. Gillon, J. Cumming, K. Perry, M. Caron

ALSO PRESENT: D. Brown, CAO, G. Gillon, RRFDC, T. Drysdale, Consultant, RRFDC, R. Thoms, B.93 The Border and K. Lawson, Secretary

REGRETS: R. Avis, G. Rogozinski, L. Mose, MNDM.

1. Call to Order - 11:46 p.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 T. Drysdale and D. Brown - Update on recent meeting with Resolute Forest Products.

2.2 J. Cumming re: Recent Brochure (Future of the Point Park) produced by the Town for distribution to it's residents.

3. Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof

4. Approval of Previous Advisory Committee Minutes

4.1 March 5, 2018.

Fortes-Mallory: THAT the minutes from the March 5, 2018 regular meeting be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

5. New Business

5.1 G. Gillon re: Update on west end AG projects.

- Geoff provided a hand out titled Presentation to Fort Frances Economic Development Committee - April 9, 2018 - Agricultural Sector Projects of the Rainy River District and gave a verbal update on the many projects going on in the district and the financial and economic benefits being derived.

5.2 Tourism Centre 2018 Opening.

- Tannis provided an update on this years opening of the Tourist Information Centre, presently scheduled for May 18th, 2018. Committee members had a discussion about holding a rally outside of the Tourist Information Centre building on the "Fishing Opener" weekend and/or the weekend following to welcome tourists to town.. Tannis will look after producing posters and welcome signs. Advertisement for the event will be sent out using the Town web site, Twitter and Facebook. She was hopeful that committee members would volunteer some time to participate in the event. Doug Brown advised that the Town was successful in negotiating a reduced rate for the Centre's lease.

5.3 Go Local 5 Year Update.

- Tannis advised that the Go Local initiative is now well into its 5th year and still growing with numbers holding strong. The current objective is to attract 5 new members. She advised that her office watches membership numbers very closely and is always working on strategies to attract new consumers. She recently visited Go Local retailers and delivered cup cakes with an opportunity to win prizes.

6. Standing Items

6.1 Rainy Lake Square (update and information of official opening).

- Tannis advised that plans are going ahead for the official opening of the Rainy Lake Square, set for Thursday, May 17th. Invitations are now being set out. There will be remarks from assorted dignitaries and invitees and there will be an official ribbon cutting. It was hoped that all EDAC members will make an appearance.

- Tannis advised members about the upcoming event schedule being organized for the facility. A competition via social media is now underway to vote from 11 local artists to pick potential bands to be highlighted in the Rainy Lake Band Series. 300 votes have been received to date and voting concludes April 16th. She also indicated that two new billboards will be going up in the next couple of weeks to promote the Square.

7. Non-agenda Items

7.1 T. Drysdale and D. Brown - recent discussions with Resolute Forest Products.

- Tannis and Doug provided a brief update on recent discussions with Mr. Michael Martel, Vice-President Operations, Wood Products (Ontario) and how appreciative they are that Resolute is willing to undertake having open communications between the Town and Resolute. Mr. Martel has offered to participate in monthly conference calls. They advised that Resolute made no commitment to selling the Mill as a going concern, however are looking for a company which would be interested in re-developing the current mill infrastructure for non pulp and paper type businesses. Doug advised he forwarded pictures of the wall on the mill's lap building which is in disrepair. They spoke briefly about Resolute beginning to sell certain wood lots in the districts over the next couple of months.

- 7.2 J. Cumming re: Recent Brochure (Future of the Point Park) produced by the Town for distribution to it's residents.
- Ken and Doug provided a brief update on the brochure and the current state of the dispute with Agency One Bands over the Point Park, Road Allowances and Two Chain properties.

8. Adjourn - 12:48 p.m. / Next Meeting Date - May 7, 2018