

TOWN OF FORT FRANCES - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

December 5, 2016

The meeting of Economic Development Advisory Committee of the Town of Fort Frances was held in the Committee Room, Civic Centre on December 5th, 2016 from 11:40 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

PRESENT: G. Rogozinski, Chair, K. Perry, C. Mallory, J. McTaggart, J. Gillon, K. McCaig, E. Fagerdahl, M. Caron, D. Fortes

ALSO PRESENT: T. Drysdale, Geoff Gillon (RRFDC), J. Cumming, R. Thoms, B93.1, D. Brown, K. Lawson

REGRETS:

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Non-agenda Committee items which because of urgency cannot be deferred to a subsequent meeting, identified to be considered later in the meeting.**
3. **Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof**
4. **Approval of Previous Advisory Committee Minutes**

4.1 November 7th, 2016.

McTaggart-Fortes: THAT the minutes from the November 7th, 2016 meeting be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

5. **In-Camera - none**
6. **New Business**

6.1 Update re: New Gold Activities.

-Tannis advised that New Gold is in the height of procurement mode. RRFDC is actively pursuing businesses and vendors/contractors with larger employee bases who may be interested in industrial lots. Grant Goddard, General Manager has extended an invitation to anyone who might be interested in touring the mine facilities on December 12th from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Proper safety gear must be worn and will be provided. Members were encouraged to take advantage of this invitation. Sandra Whalen will send out additional information.

-Dale spoke again about the challenges with the labour market related to small businesses.

6.2 Update re: GoLocal Initiatives.

- Tannis advised that last week the GoLocal campaign issued it's 3 millionth point. She further advised that RRFDC has a new intern starting in January.

7. Standing Items

7.1 Community Foundation. - nothing new to report.

7.2 Rainy Lake Market Square.

- Doug advised that both he and Travis Rob met with the architects, and the final drawings should be back within the next 6 weeks. Construction is anticipated to begin in the spring. Tannis advised she is looking into funding opportunities and the development of entertainment programming. She is currently looking into activity driven programs. Jim said that the Smokey Bear Park provides entertainment throughout the year and

wondered who might be active in arranging or promoting these entertainment ideas. Members felt that the market square would provide a real chance for young people to showcase their talents.

7.3 Presentation from D. Kircher - Property Matter.

-John spoke further respecting the recent presentation from D. Kircher. He advised that Mr. Kircher is still actively pursuing the ideas he presented. Doug reminded everyone that Resolute still owns the property and is actively looking at selling the mill. Jane advised that the Province already has a trade school operating, which was built within the last 10 years. A discussion was had about training opportunities and the potential for producing product for sale on site. Members agreed that educating tradespeople should be the primary focus.

Members felt that this was an "intriguing out of the box idea", and the matter will remain as a standing item.

7.4 **Strategic Plan Initiatives (continuing discussion).**

1) Sports Tourism Initiative - Item No. 11 - Target Date - September 2016

The Town will examine all aspects and potential opportunities related to sports tourism within the community, including the potential for expansion of existing services and event offerings.

- Tannis advised that she is assisting with the OFSSA Hockey Tournament, and marketing is in full swing. She also advised that the International Early Iron Club is hosting the Canadian Coaster's 50th Anniversary Cross Canada Tour and has been in touch looking for marketing ideas for their event in conjunction with the Canada 150 celebrations.

- Dale asked if there was any statistical information available surrounding previous OFSSA Hockey Tournament events or from the recent Dudley Hewitt Tournament with respect to economic impact analysis.

2) "Boundless Branding - Item No. 39 - Target Date - October 2016

The Town will ensure that a complete and effective implementation of the Town's recent branding initiative is implemented throughout the Community and its operations.

- The entry signs to the Town now includes the word "Welcome".

3) Kiwanis Sunny Cove Camp - Item No. 25 - Target Date - November 2016

The Town will investigate the long-term use and potential of the camp for youth programming and economic development opportunities.

- a brief discussion was had about looking into solar or geothermal energy sources for the facility and the feasibility and merits of expanding the facility. Members were reminded of the agreement with the Kiwanis Club to retain it's original vision for the camp and the Town's promise to honour same.

- This item is now considered complete and will be removed from the standing items.

4) WiFi Expansion - Item No. 12 - Target Date - March 2017 -

The Town will investigate the viability of expanding free Wi-Fi offerings in the Community.

- Geoff advised that WiFi is complete in several areas within the Town and being offered currently by both Shaw and TbayTel.

8. Non-agenda Items

8.1 Canada 150 Celebrations.

- Charleen brought forward the idea of holding a block party as part of the festivities and members felt this was a excellent idea worth pursuing as the event unfolds.

Members were advised that the Museum is taking the lead on behalf of the Town for the Canada 150 Celebrations.

9. Adjourn 12:30 p.m. / Next Meeting Date - January 9th, 2017