

MINUTES

SESSION NO. #2

July 6, 2022

The meeting of Economic Development Executive Committee of the Town of Fort Frances was held virtually and in the Civic Centre on July 6, 2022 from 12:00 to 1:11 p.m..

PRESENT: Councillors M. Behan and J. McTaggart, W. Brunetta, Mayor J. Caul (ex-officio)

ALSO PRESENT: F. Anwar, CAO, J. Ruppenstein, FFPC, G. Gillon, RRFDC, C. Vangel, CBO, K. Haney, Deputy Clerk

REGRETS:

1. Call to Order @ 1200 hrs/Roll Call

2. Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof - none

3. Approval of Previous Committee Minutes

3.1 Session no 1 - 05 January 2022 - Accepted as presented

4. Items Referred from Council - None

5. New Business

5.1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair - Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Deputy Clerk opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair person. Councillor McTaggart was nominated and accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received.

Subsequently the floor was opened for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Councillor Brunetta was nominated and accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received.

5.2 Priorities - short & long term

- Hiring of EDO - Planning to advertise position next week
- RRFDC Report - Geoff to add on a go forward basis
- Strategic objectives of this committee - What's the purpose and what are we trying to achieve/accomplish. Terms of Reference to be reviewed next meeting
- Develop economic growth strategy over next five years
- Immigration pilot project - attraction and retention

5.3 Forest Biomass Action Plan

- RRFDC update to follow
- Biomass action plan. RRFDC to obtain further insight on process of unmarketable wood

5.4 Erin Crescent Residential Lots - Building Incentives

- Marketing objectives. Discussion re signage, advertising, potential fee waivers. CAO and CBO to discuss further options and bring back back to next meeting to present to Council for endorsement.

5.5 Unmarketable wood - Tied in with biomass item

- 5.6 Micro Grid Study - Power Corp CEO to update further.
- 5.7 Business Retention & Succession Planning - Discussion re involvement of EDO position and Chamber of Commerce.
- 5.8 Immigration Benefits for Northern Ontario - Mayor Caul has communicated with Ministerial Association and Kiwanis Club and will follow up re further contacts.
- 5.9 Small Business Diversification - Discussion re business retention/expansion strategies to attract different types of businesses. Charging stations downtown could benefit surrounding area. Community improvement plan could have incentives in place. On hold until EDO person in place.
- 5.10 Downtown revitalization - Important for new EDO as this area has to be strong. Attract new businesses downtown. Make more vibrant. Need to promote downtown as a place to stop.

6. Outstanding Items - None

- 6.1 Fort Frances International Bridge - Discussion held. Item to be removed from agenda.
- 6.2 Winnipeg to Thunder Bay Tourism Route Initiative - RRFDC to obtain further info for next meeting.
- 6.3 Cross Border Fishing Activity - Item to be removed from agenda
- 6.4 Labour Force Shortages - Ties into Immigration and Business diversification program. To be added to a list for EDO to determine labor market shortages.
- 6.5 Tax Incentive Zone - Presentation conducted at ROMA. Acknowledgement received. Will redo at AMO. Seeking assistance from the province re reduction of industrial tax rates.

7. Information - None

8. In-Camera - None

9. Adjourn @ 1:11 p.m./ Next Meeting Date - August 3rd, 2022

Executive Committee Chair

F, Anwar, CAO