

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

February 6, 2012

A meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Committee was held in the Committee Room Civic Centre February 6, 2012 at 11:30 a.m.

The following members were present: Gary Rogozinski, Chair, Bob Armit, Dales Lawrence-Fortes, Shanda Begin-DeGagne, Jane Gillon, Gord McBride, Jim Cumming, Councillor Ken Perry, John McTaggart, Teresa Hazel, Mayor Roy Avis and Mark McCaig, CAO.

Also Present: Tannis Drysdale, Geoff Gillon, Rainy River Future Development Corporation, Charles Fisher, Border Services Officer, Travis Rob, Sustainability Coordinator and Lori Pattison, Secretary.

Regrets: Geoff Gillon, Rainy River Future Development Corporation, Aaron Beckett

1. Call to order at 11:45 p.m.
2. Non agenda items:
 - i) Signage
3. Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof: None
4. Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2012.

Gord McBride – Jim Cumming: that the minutes from the January 9, 2012 meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED.

5. Information and Activity Reports:
 - i) Community Sustainability Plan (Travis Rob) – Travis explained that the purpose is to develop a sustainability strategy for the Town of Fort Frances that will serve as a guiding document for future planning and development within the municipality of Fort Frances. The document will guide the services that the Town currently offers into the future while insuring their sustainability.

Funding is now open – in process of applying for grants that are available. There is Heritage Funding available for economic related issues up to \$50,000 (50%).

Set up a steering committee to provide direction and input to consultants and identify key issues – Tannis/Geoff, Dale and Jane to compose steering committee.

- ii) Bassfan Article – re Jeff Gustafson – enclosed for committees information The Fort Frances Canadian Bass Tournament was mentioned in this article so some positive advertising for us. With Fed/Nor money have put together a commercial for Fort Frances.
6. Discussion and Action Request Items:
- i) Rainy Lake Hotel Committee – slide presentation at meeting tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. for any interested parties. BIA and Chamber should make a presentation to EDAC – possible uses of building/land
 - ii) Community Foundation Committee Update: set up a sub committee from the EDAC – Teresa, Tannis/Geoff, Shanda and Dale volunteered to be on the committee – it was suggested to invite Councillor Tibbs to be a member on the committee. Set up a meeting for noon on February 23, 2012 at the Civic Centre Committee Room.

Ken Perry – Gord McBride – that the Economic Development Advisory Committee recommends that the Community Foundation be structured to include all communities in the Rainy River District. That this foundation include all First Nations and the geography from Atikokan to Rainy River. However, within the fund the committee wishes to encourage the Development Committee to be formed to create individual funds under the Rainy River District Community Fund.

CARRIED.

- iii) Social Media – Funding is in place - put out an RFP – firm waiting to get us up and running.

Encouraged committee members to go online and write reviews for Fort Frances ie. restaurants, hotels, etc. Museum and other town sites will be up over the next month.

- iv) Canada Border Services Agency – Bridge Centennial – Charles Fisher, Border Services Officer was in attendance to talk about the Bridge Centennial to be held in August 1, 2012 – will Town participate – Sherry George to put together something from the museum – Tug of War committee to possibly help with organization. Invite Premier, Governor and Rafferty.

Jim Cumming – Dale Lawrence-Fortes: that the Economic Development Advisory Committee recommend that the Town of Fort

Frances embrace commemorations of the 100th Bridge Anniversary.
CARRIED.

7. Educational Opportunities: (contact Tannis or RRFDC a week in advance)
 - i) 7 Deadly Sins of Community Marketing – well attended – was very well presented.
8. Non-Agenda Items:
 - i) Signage - Tannis distributed pictures of new signs for committees info
 - all banners have been changed at the Border
 - waiting to hear back from hotels to purchase space for advertising on sign in International Falls
9. Next Meeting Date: March 12, 2012.