

TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

MINUTES

SESSION NO. #8

September 8, 2021

The meeting of Economic Development Executive Committee of the Town of Fort Frances was held in the Civic Centre on September 8, 2021 from 12:00 to 1330.

PRESENT: Chairperson D. Judson, Councillors M. Behan and Mayor J. Caul (ex-officio)

ALSO PRESENT: D. Cridland, J. Pryde, T. Ryll, F. Anwar, CAO, J. Ruppenstein, CAO, FFPC, T. Drysdale, Economic Development Consultant, G. Gillon, RRFDC, K. Haney, Deputy Clerk, Randy Thoms, B 93, Merna Emara, Fort Frances Times

REGRETS: Councillor McTaggart, C. Vangel, CBO/Municipal Planner,

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 7 - 04 August 2021

4. Items Referred from Council - None

5. New Business

5.1 Tax Incentive Zones Report - Discussion involved lobbying Provincial and Federal Government and engagement with Northern Development and Mines and Ministry of Economic Development and Trade as well as consultation with land owners/partners.

6. Outstanding Items

6.1 **Ranier Bridge** - Letters to Stauber and Klobuchar - Concerns re rail bridge. C. Vangel to communicate with CN Public Affairs group and bring further information back to next meeting. Working group to be created and consist of C. Vangel, J. Caul, J. McTaggart and D. Cridland. 2021/06/09: Working group to meet within next two weeks
2021/07/07: Conversation with CN Public Affairs and C. Vangel re future status of Ranier Bridge. Concerns identified included flood risk and economic gateway between two communities. Project in infancy stage with 3-5 year potential. TOFF requested to be kept apprised of consultation process. **2021/09/14 - No new developments. Decision made to keep on agenda for future updates.**

Orea White Paper Small Towns Big Opportunities - Further information re action plan/seeking organizations that can assist in lobbying to be sought. Item identified at RRDMA - on radar, may assist in lobbying going forward. Query pilot project.
2021/06/09: Item to proceed to NOMA in January with CAO involvement. 2021/07/07: No updates. Keep as item on agenda. **2021/09/07 - Decision to strike as an outstanding item from agenda.**

Winnipeg to Thunder Bay tourism route initiative - Work in progress. NOMA tourism panel aware - possible intent to draw people to Hwy 11 and onto 71 corridor.
2021/06/09: No updates. 2021/06/29: Heart of Canada Touring Route 2021/07/07: In final stages of touring route between Winnipeg and Thunder Bay. Regional initiative and a focus on Highway 71 corridor. Recommendation via Committee for Council to support RRFDC by way of resolution a seat on affiliated steering committee. Public launch of initiative to occur at 2022 Rendez-vous Canada. 2021/08/04: We need to ensure we are included in marketing and get our message out there. RRFDC is our representative at the Steering Committee. **2021/09/07 Part of RRFDC Workplan. Tourism panel fully aware of Fort Frances' support and information has been forwarded on our Tourist attractions. Draft for website coming. Regional meeting planned.**

Cross Border Fishing Activity - Status of reciprocal agreement re walleye report to be determined. 2021/06/09: Correspondence forwarded. No further updates. 2021/07/07: Correspondence outstanding. Keep as item on agenda. 2021/08/04: Greater police presence observed on the lakes. Mayor Caul to initiate discussion with Marcus Powlowski at the meeting scheduled for Friday, 06 August 2021. **2021/09/07: Concerns re fishing following border opening forwarded to Minister Rickford and Marcus Powlowski forwarded via email. Confirmation of receipt of email received. Item to remain on agenda.**

7. Information

7.1 RRFDC Report September 2021 - Brief overview provided.

8. In-Camera - None

9. Adjourned @ 1230 hrs / Next Meeting Date - 06 October 2021

Executive Committee Chair

F. Anwar, CAO