

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

December 3, 2012

A meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Committee was held in the Committee Room Civic Centre December 3, 2012 at 11:30 a.m.

The following members were present: Gary Rogozinski, Chair, Bob Armit, John McTaggart, Teresa Hazel, Jane Gillon, Dales Lawrence-Fortes and Councillor Ken Perry.

Also Present: Tannis Drysdale, Geoff Gillon (RRFDC) and L. Pattison, Secretary.

Regrets: Mayor Roy Avis, Mark McCaig, Jim Cumming, Marc Caron and Aaron Beckett.

1. Call to order at 11:45 a.m.
2. Non agenda items: a) Community Foundations
b) Economic Summit
c) Economic Development
3. Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof: None.
4. Approval of Minutes – November 5, 2012 (amend to have Community Foundation Conference in Winnipeg mentioned)

Dale Lawrence-Fortes – Ken Perry – that the minutes from the September 10 meeting and the amended minutes from the October 1, 2012 meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED.

5. Discussion and Action Items:
 - i) Tourist Information: Council approved our resolution that we put forth to have the Town actively pursue advancing timelines for the sale of the current Tourist Information Centre building and concurrently prepare a business plan for tourist information there or at an alternate location. We are currently on the list to purchase and we are going through the appraisal process.
 - ii) Incentive Program - this incentive grant if approved will provide up to \$2,000 in in-kind services from the Town of Fort Frances which will include: Waste Disposal Fees
Demolition Fees
Building Permits
Capping Fees ?

All fees will be paid in advance and will then be reimbursed.

- iii) OLG Lottery Gaming – Information – Spring 2012 – we were not identified as a possible location – Kenora was identified – we have tried to obtain meetings with the Ministries at the AMO conference and to date have been unsuccessful.

We are the only border town without a casino – maybe some lobbying could be done.

- iv) Mayor Dennis Brown – Path of the Voyageur – discussion took place and will contact Mayor Brown and try to set up a meeting on another day convenient for him and change the date of our EDAC meeting to coincide with that date.

6. Non-Agenda Items:

- i) Community Foundation – our EDAC report will go forward to the next council meeting scheduled for December 10, 2012 – will report outcome.
- ii) Economic Summit – was suggested to have some sort of a meeting with some key representatives to discuss some avenues to possibly investigate and let the public know that we are taking some actions to recover from current situations (Resolute). Councillor Ken Perry will speak to Mayor and make some arrangements for some sort of a summit.
- iii) Economic Development – use the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund to access expert advice and more detailed direction in regards to how to proceed due to the current situation at our local mill (Resolute) – work with other municipalities who have experienced similar situations (Dryden, Kenora).

Work on a plan to expand, retain and diversify employment opportunities, increase property values and the assessment base and attract and retain citizens.

Go Local Initiative – 50% buy in for program – the goal is to expand into the region west of Thunder Bay in partnership with those communities. The long term goals are to encourage greater spending and maybe encourage tourists to stay longer by having maps, storefront signage and common materials in place.

7. Next Meeting Date: January 7, 2013.

