

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

January 7, 2013

A meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Committee was held in the Committee Room Civic Centre January 7, 2013 at 11:30 a.m.

The following members were present: Gary Rogozinski, Chair, Mark McCaig, Aaron Beckett, Bob Armit, Jim Cumming, John McTaggart, Marc Caron, Councillor Ken Perry, Teresa Hazel and Dale Lawrence – Fortes.

Also Present: Geoff Gillon (RRFDC), Jane Gillion, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and L. Pattison, Secretary.

Regrets: Tannis Drysdale and Mayor Avis.

1. Call to order at 11:40 a.m.
2. Non agenda items: a) Strat Plan – Forestry Adhoc Committee
3. Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof: None.
4. Approval of Minutes – December 3, 2012.

Aaron Beckett – Ken Perry – that the minutes from the December 3, 2012 meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED.

5. Information and Activity Items:
 - i) John McTaggart – verbal update meeting with John Valley (Resolute) Mayor Avis, Mark McCaig, Tannis Drysdale and John McTaggart met with Richard Gartineau, John Valley and Roger Barber from Resolute
 - mill intends to honour their commitments to pension plans
 - repositioning mill for new product – significant cost to them – they are currently in the testing phase with a product
 - co-gen is a positive factor
 - they can run on one machine and still be profitable
 - hopeful over renewal – new attitude within the mill

- reassessment – mills property – willing to talk – usually side in favour of the mill – keeping dialogue open is a positive step.
 - ii) Go Local – Geoff – has been very positively received to date – hoping to have up and running by the end of February – machines are in and currently waiting for consumer cards to arrive. To date there are 40 businesses on board – this project is more involved than initially thought. After phase 1 is tested, the goal would be to expand into the program region west of Thunder Bay in partnership with those communities. The Go Local Alliance will determine relevant themes: Eat Local, Play Local, Made Local and Shop Local. The equipment installed will provide marketing data and allow for alliance members and track premium points. Overall we hope to encourage greater spending and longer visitation by tourists by having maps, storefront signage and common materials in place.
 - iii) OLG Lottery Gaming – town is still pursuing potential for a casino/resort in Fort Frances.
 - iv) Community Foundation – Update – have forwarded request on to Council. Council is waiting for more financial information – they are looking for the amounts that would be required to start up the foundation before a decision can be made.
6. Discussion and Action Items:
- i) Ontario Tourism Building – deferred to the next meeting
 - ii) Economic Development Plan – Geoff went through the plan – the focus is currently on the mining incentive – FedNor money has been applied for – Northern Ontario Heritage Fund has been applied for an additional 260,000 over 3 years so the total for 3 years is 480,000.
7. Non-Agenda Items:
- i) Forestry Adhoc Committee – bring in other stakeholders as necessary. Jane will send members out a link to access the Forest Management Plan for the Crossroute Forest. The committee would like some more info about this whole process. Jane to contact the Ministry of Natural Resources to arrange a special meeting and presentation for January 21, 2013.
8. Next Meeting Date: February 4, 2013.