

Doug Anderson – Chair	Betty's	P	Chamber of Commerce Representative	A
Ted Debenetti – Co-Chair		p	Annely Armstrong	A
A Buck or Two			RRFDC – Geoff Gillon	A
George Emes		P	John Albanese – Town Councilor	A
IPC Securities			Town of Fort Frances	A
Richard Boileau		A	Shelley Wepruk	P
McTaggart's			Secretary	
Marie Therese Metke		p	Jenny Greenhalgh	P
Pharmsave				
Pat Gartshore		a		
Gartsh's				
Jennifer Horton-Chepil		A		
Curvy Chick				

Guests present were Blair Anderson, Mark Caron, Paul Pirie, Jordan Forbes & Tanis Drysdale

## 1.Call to Order , Call for Conflict of Interest, Call for Agenda Additions

Doug Anderson opened the meeting. The meeting to was called to order at 6:00 a.m. The Agenda and minutes were circulated to the members for review. Members were asked for any agenda additions or conflicts of interest, none were noted.

Motion #1      Shelley Wepruk/George Emes  
TO accept the Agenda as Presented  
Also to ratify all motions made on that date.  
No against or abstentions  
CARRIED

## 2. Approval of Minutes

### B.I.A Annual General Meeting – 12 April, 2013

Copies of the minutes from the 12 April, 2013 Annual General Meeting were circulated for review and approval. The following motion was made;

Motion #2      Shelley Wepruk/Jennifer Greenhalgh  
TO accept the minutes presented of the 12 April, 2013 Annual General Meeting as presented.  
Also to ratify all motions made on that date.  
No against or abstentions  
CARRIED

### **3. Accounts Payable & Financial Report**

There were no bills presented.

**Motion #**

To accept the total payable dated

No against or abstentions

All in agreement -

### **4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**Finance and Administration Committee** – George went through the budget for 2014 to bring everyone up to date on our final figures. Once again have a surplus from last years budget. George explained all of the figures and we anticipate a surplus again this year. We are now in a financial position to be able to move forward with our proposed Rainy Lake Hotel property plans, which the Town would very much like to partner with us on. The promotions portion of the budget has been increased to help with advertising costs for the downtown businesses.

**Motion #3      George Emes/Jennifer Greenhalgh**

TO accept the budget for the year 2014 as presented.

Also to ratify all motions made on that date.

**No against or abstentions**

**CARRIED**

**Promotions Committee** – The three hundred block has been blocked off for numerous promotion with the end result of nothing happening on that block. In the future, the street will be designated as “PARKING” only.

**Maintenance Committee** – 23 birdhouses were acquired this year. They were finished by students and put up by high school students along with the wind chimes. There has been very positive feedback and outlook expressed by the public regarding their placement. We will be looking at building on the birdhouses due to the positive reaction.

A new by-law was passed regarding vandalism. It is a NUSANCE By-law and people who are caught doing mischief are fined and asked to apologize to the store owner.

New planters and free parking signs were put in place this past year.

We spent a lot of money on tree trimming this year, however, it will not need to be done again for a number of years.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Tanis Drysdale was present and presented an update on the Rainy Lake Hotel property. Travis Robb will be in charge of the project. The Rainy River Farmers Market is on board and anxious to move to a new location, that being the proposed site. The Town will own the site but the BIA will manage it. Persons using the facility will pay a fee for its usage of space. The proposed building will be a 4 seasons building. The committee is hopeful we can keep something from the hotel as a historical element. Demolition is expected to be in the 1.2 million price range and hopefully will occur this summer.

Jennifer and Paul conducted a workshop regarding a strategic plan for our town. We need to focus so everyone wins.

1. What kind of downtown do we want?
  - BIA & Chamber working together to make it happen
  - We need concurrent planning sessions
  - Need to work together with educational systems
2. What are the obstacles standing in our way?
  - Lack of common sense and ignorance
3. What can we do as a first step?
  - Need to get ALL businesses downtown and in the area involved with EITHER the BIA or Chamber
  - Plan and carry thru with festivals downtown
  - Promote that we are a ‘VIBRANT’ downtown and somewhere where you would like to visit
  - Promote our uniqueness
  - Consider our becoming a seniors community
4. What would we like to be our outcome?
  - a place where people would like to visit, live and come back to

The town has a “Branding” committee in place already. We need to know what they are going to carry forward with as a brand before we can finalize our vision. However, we feel that VIBRANT and UNIQUE will fit in with whatever they come up with.

## **5. . Closing & Setting of Next Board Meeting**

The next meeting date will be 9 April, 2014 @ 8:00 a.m. at the BIA office.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL MEETINGS WILL NOW BE HELD ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 8:00 A.M. AT THE BOARD ROOM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED.**

Meeting closed at 7:30 p.m.

**Motion #4 Marie-Therese Metke**