

TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

Economic Development Advisory Committee

AGENDA - August 10, 2015 11:30 a.m.

MEETING - Civic Centre

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1. **Call to Order**
2. **Non-agenda Committee items which because of urgency cannot be deferred to a subsequent meeting, identified to be considered later in the meeting.**
3. **Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof**
4. **Approval of Previous Advisory Committee Minutes**
 - 4.1 July 13th, 2015 meeting minutes. 3 - 5
5. **In-Camera**
6. **Items Referred from Council**
7. **Standing Items**
 - 7.1
 - 1) Land Sale Policy Review (materials to be distributed).
 - 2) Harmony of Nations Festival
 - 3) Tourist Centre
 - 4) Planning Market Square Committee
 - 5) Community Foundation
8. **New Business**
 - 8.1 **Strategic Plan Initiatives - Economic Development Advisory Committee Responsibilities (for future discussion - Time lines to be adopted by Council).**
 - 1) Beautification/revitalization of the Town of Fort Frances
 - examine the recommendations put forth from the Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce regarding the beautification & revitalization of the Town of Fort Frances.
 - 2) Investigate the expansion of free WiFi offerings
 - investigate the viability of expanding free WiFi offerings in the community
 - 3)Industrial park strategy
 - examine the current policies regarding the marketing of the industrial

park lots and make possible amendments

4)Sports tourism initiative

-examine all aspects and potential opportunities related to sports tourism within the community, including the potential for expansion of existing services and event offerings

6)Branding

-ensure that a complete and effective implementation of the Town's recent branding initiative is implemented throughout the Community & its operations

7)Kiwanis Sunny Cove Camp

- will investigate the long-term use and potential of the camp for youth programming and economic development opportunities

9. Non-agenda Items

10. Adjourn / Next Meeting Date

10.1 September 14, 2015



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

July 13th, 2015

A meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Committee was held in the Committee Room, Civic Centre, Monday, July 13th, 2015, at 11:30 a.m.

The following members were present: G. Rogozinski, M. McCaig, K. Perry, M. Caron, K. McCaig, C. Mallory and J. Cumming.

Also Present: T. Drysdale, Consultant (RRFDC), K. Lawson, Secretary.

Regrets: D. Fortes, E. Fagerdahl, J. McTaggart, J Lampi-Hughes, J. Gillon and G. Gillon, (RRFDC)

1. Meeting was called to order at 11:45 a.m.
2. **Non Agenda Items:**
 - i) Mayor Avis - Update on Duncan Keith visit;
 - ii) Councillor Perry - Update on 2015 Tug 'O War.
3. Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof: None
4. **Approval of Minutes** – June 8th, 2015.

C. Perry-M. Caron: That the minutes from the June 8th, 2015 meeting having been circulated be approved. CARRIED.

5.
 - i) **Review of the Industrial Park Strategy:** This item was deferred. The Municipal Planner will bring a draft Land Sales Policy with revised wording as suggested by the group at the August 10th meeting.
 - iii) Tannis Drysdale gave brief updates on the following items:
 - a) Snowbirds Event – June 10th – this event was a huge event with at least 2,000 persons in attendance. Mayor Avis indicated that after speaking with members of the Snowbirds, they were impressed by the participation of the community and that this event was much better attended than in larger venues they had been at.
 - b) New Gold Session with Developers – Tannis advised she has met with New Gold a couple of times and that a session with developers is ready to go. She advised that Phase II housing development in Emo has now been maxed out. New Gold is totally committed to this project and they are time and on target. Heavy machinery is scheduled to arrive in August.

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- c) Harmony of Nations – there is a new tent for this year's event. Volunteers are still very much appreciated. Ticket sales are improved over last year, and it is anticipated most sales will take place at the door. A brief discussion was had about the possibility of placement of a permanent tent.
- d) Community Foundation – Fundraising Workshop – Tannis updated members on a recent workshop to have an introductory conversation to assist community leaders respecting the possibility of adopting a Community Foundation. She advised that unfortunately Cathy Emes has had to resign. Approximately 45 people attended the workshop and people stepped forward at the workshop with the intention of volunteering funds. She felt it would be reasonable to accept donations by next Spring.
- e) Possible Culinary Celebration Event – Tannis advised this event is tentatively scheduled for November and are looking to include at least 6-7 local restaurants.
- f) Ontario Tourist Centre – Moose Arrival Event – The “Moose” arrived at the end of July, and Tannis is looking forward to the delivery of new panoramic displays. Staff is tracking visitor attendance and many pictures are being taken by visitors. Mayor advised he would be discussing tourism when he attends the AMO Conference in August.
- g) Telecommunications – Tannis advised funding has been approved unofficially and the goal is to upgrade bandwidth capacity and help fill gaps in cell phone reception.
- g2) Fort Frances Market Square – Tannis advised that she has toured at least 30 market squares over the last while, most of which had developed an the open market concept (no roof). Parking did not seem to be an issue. It was suggested that there was a need for openness from the border to the market location. A suggestion was made to write a letter to Bell to determine if their current infrastructure needed to be maintained at the Church Street location.
- iii) Tour of Former Rainy Lake Property (exterior)- GIS mapping was distributed – a tour will be deferred to a later date as the project unfolds.
- iv) Infrastructure Consultations Coming to Northwestern Ontario – Mark announced that both he and the Mayor are keenly aware of these sessions and are scheduled to attend the Kenora session on July 22nd.

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6. Non-Agenda –

- i) Mayor and Mark provided an update on activities taking place during the Duncan Keith visit;
- ii) Councillor Perry provided update on Tug 'O War. International Falls was unable to put a team together this year, but are hopeful for next year.

7. Next Meeting Date: August 10, 2015.