

## TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

### MINUTES

November 2nd, 2015

The meeting of Economic Development Advisory Committee of the Town of Fort Frances was held in the Committee Room, Civic Centre on November 2nd, 2015 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:16 p.m.

PRESENT: G. Rogozinski, M. McCaig, K. Perry, C. Mallory, E. Fagerdahl, J. McTaggart, K. McCaig, J. Lampi-Hughes, D. Fortes, M. Caron, J. Gillon and R. Avis

ALSO PRESENT: T. Drysdale, G. Gillon (RRFDC), A. Byrnes, P. Briere, K. Lawson

REGRETS: J. Cumming

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.**

2.1 Tourism in other communities.

2.2 J. McTaggart re: Retirement of Mark McCaig.

3. **Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof**

4. **Approval of Previous Advisory Committee Minutes**

4.1 October 5, 2015.

Perry-Mallory: THAT the minutes from the October 5, 2015 meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

5. **In-Camera - None**
6. **Items Referred from Council - No new items**
7. **Standing Items**

- 7.1 1. **Revitalization and beautification of the Town of Fort Frances (continuation of October 5th discussion - items 2 [By-Law Enforcement was in attendance], 4 and 5)**

- November 2015

The town will examine the recommendations put forth from the Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce regarding the beautification and revitalization of the Town of Fort Frances.

Mr. McCaig captured the following recommendations from EDAC and will present to Council.

1) **Project Petunia** – EDAC recommends that the Town continue it's involvement with Project Petunia and work with other local stakeholders, be they residents or local businesses, to fund the purchase, installation and removal of the hanging flower baskets. RRFDC representatives indicated that they would consult with the Town regarding the continuance of this program. The Operations and Facilities Executive Committee should arrange to meet with RRFDC at an upcoming meeting to discuss this matter further.

2) **Garbage Cleanup** – EDAC recommends that the Town initiate and facilitate a prudently marketed campaign in the spring of 2016 to help eliminate blight within the community. EDAC consulted with the By-Law department representative in attendance

regarding the various possibilities. EDAC envisions a campaign and a scheduled period where Town resources are allocated and commercial in-kind resources are solicited in the interests of cleaning up Fort Frances. Aspects such as the waiving of landfill tipping fees, the allocation of Town and commercial resources to help with neighbourhood cleanups, and the assistance to residents who do not have the suitable equipment to remove larger scrap items from their property. This initiative could help foster civic pride and maybe even become an annual event such as the school cleanups that occurred in years past. Suggested names for the campaign were “Fight the Blight” or “Bite the Blight”. This campaign would require a great deal of planning and consultation. EDAC recommends that the Town refer this discussion to all of its executive committees in consultation with the By-Law department who would serve as the lead facilitators of this event.

3) **Vacant Buildings** – This item was not the responsibility of the Town and that business owners, the FFCC and the BIA monitor and consult regarding these instances among their members.

4) **Banners on Paper Mill Lap Building** – RRFDC advised that there would be no action taken regarding the deteriorated banners until the status of the mill is verified. At that point RRFDC is committed to addressing the banners in a relevant manner.

5) **East and West Entrances to Town** – EDAC identified that there are actually 4 entrances to Town with the international crossing to the south and the entry from the airport. By-Law advised that property standards are enforced when there are contraventions, but that many of the identified areas are not violating any by-laws. EDAC’s recommends a more active and regular program of ditch cutting, is adopted by the Town. They also recommend that previous Town studies regarding community entrances be revisited.

7.2 2. Market Square Committee.

-Tannis advised that an RFP is being developed and reviewed.

7.3 3. Community Foundation.

-Tannis advised that although there has been a great deal of interest and financial commitments, however to date there has been no one stepping up to chair this committee.

**8. New Business**

8.1 Video Presentations - Final Cuts - Tourism and Economic Development. - Tannis presented to members.

8.2 Go Local Month - Update.

-Tannis advised that the Go Local initiative has issued 1.2 million points to date and retail membership has increased by 5 new businesses, with it's area now including Emo.

**9. Non-agenda Items**

9.1 Tourism - a request was made to have an item on a future agenda respecting how other communities are handling tourism, i.e. Atikokan.

9.2 Retirement of Mark McCaig, CAO. - John McTaggart expressed his thanks to Mark for his guidance and support on this committee.

**10. Adjourn 1:16 p.m. / Next Meeting Date - December 7, 2015**