



CITY OF REVELSTOKE
MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING
HELD IN
VISTIOR INFORMATION CENTRE BOARDROOM, JANUARY 7, 2015
COMMENCING AT 4:00

PRESENT:

Members: Brett Renaud, John Simms, Ken Norrie, Cindy Pearce, Judy Goodman, Mike Brown, Nicole Fricot, Orlando Dias, Kristina Welch, Loni Parker, Jeff Arnold, Councillor Connie Brothers

Staff: Alan Mason, Director of Community Economic Development
Brooke Burke, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Brett Renaud called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: John Simms

Seconded by: Judy Goodman

THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER MEETING

Moved by: Loni Parker

Seconded by: Cindy Pearce

THAT the Minutes of the Meeting held October 8, 2014 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a. Page 1, Item 4 c. Open for Business Award** – Alan Mason reported that he still needs to contact the successful communities about their applications in the hopes of improving our chances.
- b. Page 2, Item 5 f. BC Timber** – Alan Mason reported a letter had been drafted on logging within the city scape and he is waiting to receive addresses from the Ministry of Forest before sending them. There will be a public meeting on January 13th from 6 – 9 pm.
- c. Page 3, Item 9 c. Victoria Road & Highway 1 Intersection** – Alan Mason reported no meeting has been scheduled.
- d. Page 3, Item 9 d. Food Costs** – Alan inquired if the committee would like to move forward with inviting the 2 grocery store managers to a future meeting. Discussion was held.

5. ACTIVITY UPDATES

- **Affordable Housing** – Alan Mason reported there has not been much done since the election but there seems to be more support from the new council and City staff. There were some redesign work that needed to be done and the project will go out to tender again. Discussion was held.
- **Labour Market Study** - Alan reported the consultants have been meeting with local businesses on such things as training and replacement of retiring employees. The study should be completed by the end of March.
- **Bioenergy Project** – Alan Mason reported the technologies that would be used with this type of project have not been proven in BC and there are not many companies experienced to operate the machines.
- **Resort Municipality Activities** – Alan Mason reviewed the chart of revenues received from the province since the program started. He noted that all projects are recommended to the province and City council for final approvals.
- **Food Security Strategy** – Alan Mason reported this study has been completed and will be presented to council for review. The next step would be hire someone to implement the plan. Community Connections has expressed interest in this project.
- **Potential College/University Programs** – Alan Mason reported he has been in talks with Selkirk College who are interested in bringing a program to Revelstoke. Alan will keep the committee updated on this.
- **Trans Canada Corridor Project** – Nicole Fricot reviewed for the committee about this joint marketing strategy with other communities such as Field, Golden, Revelstoke and Sicamous possibly. A meeting was held and a report should be completed soon. Discussion was held.
- **Business Retention & Expansion Project** – Alan Mason reported a co-op student has been hired with funding from CBT. He will meet with local businesses to find out what the sort of issues they are facing. He will be starting the third week of January. Discussion held around the student interviewing members of the committee.
- **Forestry Project** – Alan Mason reported Downie and the City will do a joint socio-economic forestry study. There should be no additional costs as Downie can get students in to work on the study.
- **Resort Shuttle Service** – Alan Mason reviewed the resort shuttle is operated jointly through the City and RMR. The ridership numbers are up so far and an average of 45,000 people ride the shuttle each season. Discussion around the possibility of a purchasing a new shuttle bus in the future.
- **Hydro Car Charging Station** – Alan Mason reported a charging station will be installed beside the Visitor Centre, it will be a plug and pay station. The equipment has arrived and is awaiting installation.

- **Road Closure Meeting** – Alan Mason reported there has been a couple of meetings with parties involved to try and come up with better solutions to road closures. Alan reported that communication has improved some between involved parties. The Chamber has taken a lead role in matching up stranded travellers with accommodations either in hotels, B&B's or with local homes. Discussion around possible liability issues that the City does not want to be involved with the matching up of accommodations. Brett questioned who is responsible for clearing the intersections on the highway.
Action: Alan will ask for clarification on which party is responsible for maintenance on the highway intersections.
 - **Invest Kootenay Project** – Alan Mason reviewed this is a free service for businesses that are for sale to be listed. Someone will be hired to go to businesses that are for sale and let them know of this free service and once they are listed with Invest Kootenay the business can also be listed on the Opportunities BC website.
6. **REDUCING RED TAPE INITIATIVE** – Alan reviewed this initiative is to better help the community and the City work together more efficiently. A task force will be set up to find out the issues businesses are having with getting approvals for such things as business licenses and permits. Discussion was held on different ideas on how to start solving some issues.
Action: Alan will look into finding out how many permits are currently being processed and an average time line to completion.
 7. **FIBRE OPTIC INITIATIVE** – Alan Mason reviewed that a fibre optic task force will be formed to look into bandwidth issues. Discussion was held.
 8. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DATA** – Alan Mason reviewed information charts given to the commission. It was asked that Alan possibly provide a breakdown of the different businesses who currently have licenses and how many employees they have.
 9. **2015 COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKPLAN** – Alan Mason asked the commission to review the workplan handed out and reported back any questions they may have at the next meeting.
 10. **EDC MEETINGS** – Alan Mason asked the commission to consider that he prepare a written report to send out for review prior to the meeting, this would open more time for new business items to be discussed. It was agreed upon to this change. Discussion was held on having specific or theme based meetings in the future.
 11. **NEW BUSINESS** – none.

12. **NEXT MEETING** – The next meeting will be held February 11th at 4:00 pm.

Moved by: John Simms that the meeting be adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Brett Renaud, Chair

DRAFT