



The **Minutes** of the **Economic Development Select Committee** meeting held in the **Boardroom** at the Economic Development Department Offices at B7337 Welton Street, Mission, British Columbia, on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 commencing at 8:00 a.m.

Members Present: Rocky Blondin, Blondin Enterprises Inc., EDSC Chair  
Wade Peary, Riverside College  
Pia Ritch, Mission Community Skills Centre Society  
Edgar Sarfeld, Vinegar Hill Consulting Co. Ltd  
Dan Schubert, Schubert Plumbing & Heating Ltd  
Raymond Szabada, Sumas Regional Consortium for High Tech. (SRCTec)  
Beverly Toews, Fraser Pacific Enterprises Inc.  
Ann Harper, Representative for the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce (MRCC)

Members Absent: Lesa Lacey, Lacey Developments Ltd.  
Craig Toews, University of the Fraser Valley (UFV)

Staff Present: Stacey Crawford, Economic Development Officer  
Gina MacKay, Manager of Long Range Planning & Special Projects  
Ron Poole, Chief Administration Officer  
Clare Seeley, Executive Assistant  
Dale Unrau, Fire Chief

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order.

### 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by A. Harper and seconded by W. Peary

That the following item be added to this agenda under "New Business"

4. (a) Opening Remarks - Rocky Blondin and;

That the order of New Business be revised with residential fire sprinklers moved above the planning update on the agenda.

That the amended agenda of the Economic Development Select Committee meeting held on January 10, 2018 be approved

CARRIED

### 3. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Moved by E. Sarfeld and seconded by A. Harper

That the minutes of the September 12, 2017 meeting of the Economic Development Select Committee be approved.

CARRIED

#### **4. OPENING REMARKS**

R. Blondin noted that the Downtown Core has many businesses reaching their one year anniversary and reminded the group that this is often a critical time in a business life cycle. He requested that as part of the retention and expansion objectives that the committee consider offering their support and assistance to these companies.

S. Crawford advised that this was a focus for the department in 2018 and that the Biz-e-news is covering new businesses this year, plus there will be a partnership for the 2018 Business Walks with the Chamber of Commerce.

#### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **(a) Residential Fire Sprinklers**

This item of discussion was requested prior to the meeting by L. Lacey.

Under the new municipal bylaw (5679-2017) an approved fire sprinkler system is required in all new buildings, additions and renovations pursuant to building/sprinkler permit applications made after December 31, 2017.

The Fire Chief gave an overview of the new legislation, including a rundown of the provincial working committee which had consisted of key stakeholders such as the Canadian Home Builders Association, municipalities, fire departments and insurance underwriters. The main goal of the updates was to ensure consistency to housing construction across the province, with each municipality given the choice to opt-in to one of a four tier fire sprinkler requirement system.

The District included considerations such as urban and rural fire requirements, number of crew available, time to reach any given location, geographical constraints, increased density in the urban area and improvement to life safety.

Through research undertaken by the District it is understood that the costs are approximately \$1 to \$2 per sq.ft. for sprinkler installation, plus site servicing expenses estimated to add a further \$1,700.00 to the overall costs.

It was noted that communication regarding the changes had been lacking, in part due to the tight timeline.

An invitation was extended to the committee to contact the Fire Chief with any follow up questions they may have, as well as to consider attending the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC Home & Family Sprinkler Summit on February 22, 2018 at the Langley Events Centre.

The Fire Chief left the meeting at 09: 27 a.m.

##### **(b) Planning Update**

2017 saw 131 development inquiries and 70 development applications.

G. MacKay gave a presentation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Improvement Project, which is currently scheduled for completion in August, 2018.

The committee acknowledged this as G. MacKay's last meeting with the EDSC and offered their thanks and appreciation for her contribution to the District, wishing her every success in her new position.

**(c) Economic Development Update**

Waterfront redevelopment is on hold until the current private lands for sale have a decision and clear direction.

The District met with the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC), it will be a challenge to get land out of the Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR) this has been communicated to the land owners. The District is awaiting the decision on Abbotsford's ALR exclusion application and the completion of the OCP before looking at the next steps.

**(d) EDSC Administrative Review**

Noted changes to the current EDSC Terms of Reference, that the committee would like to seek approval from Council to change:

- 7.0 ii. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall serve in their elected capacity for a term of **two** years.
- 8.0 ii. Regular meetings will be held at 8:00 a.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> **Wednesday** of every **month**, excluding July and August when the committee will be at recess.
- 8.0 iii. **Two** of the regularly scheduled meetings will serve as **Special Meeting of Council**, where the EDSC meet with Council for discussion and reporting.

There is currently one seat available on the Committee. Recommendations on sectors to consider in the composition were the Downtown Business Association (DBA), manufacturing, tourism, retail and forestry.

A. Harper advised that she will no longer be a member of the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce Board in April, 2018 and at this time a new representative will be assigned to attend the EDSC meetings. She is willing to continue as a financial representative for the EDSC until the end of the current EDSC term in June, 2018.

It was noted that a nominations committee will be formed in March, 2018 to look at renewal or additional committee members for the July, 2018 election process.

Changes to agenda items:

- It was reflected that at the beginning of each meeting, a declaration of conflict of interest should be raised.
- The Planning Update Report will occur quarterly.

**6. NEXT MEETING**

EDSC Regular Meeting – Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.

**7. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED COMMITTEE MEETING**

Moved by D. Schubert and seconded by A. Harper

That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.