

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, April 11, 2018 commencing at 8:00 a.m.

Members Present: Rocky Blondin, Blondin Enterprises Inc., EDSC Chair
Lesa Lacey, Lacey Developments Ltd.
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, Ann Harper Inc.

Members Absent: Wade Peary, Riverside College
Craig Toews, University of the Fraser Valley (UFV)

Staff Present: Stacey Crawford, Economic Development Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by D. Schubert and seconded by E. Sarfeld

That the agenda of the April 11, 2018 meeting of the Economic Development Select Committee be amended to include an update of the Development Cost Charge (DCC) after the Business License Review.

4 (d) Chamber of Commerce EDSC member appointment.

CARRIED

3. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Moved by P. Ritch and seconded by A. Harper

That the minutes of the March 14, 2018 meeting of the Economic Development Select Committee be amended to include a more detailed overview regarding the discussion on EDSC members having a more visible presence within the community, offering support with their individual areas of expertise.

CARRIED

4. NEW BUSINESS

(a) Business License Update – Steve Simmonds, Director of Development Services

S. Simmonds provided an overview of his role within the municipality.

As part of Councils 2016 - 2018 Strategic Plan, staff were asked to review a cost recovery process for business licences. This process included a variety of research, public consultation and surveys, with staff presenting the report and findings on March 26, 2018 at an open meeting of Council.

Once the proposed fees were shared with the business community the feedback was extensive with over 500 surveys completed. The overall input was that the rates are too high, and if adopted should be phased in over a number of years.

The fees have not been approved by Council, and Council have now requested the fee amounts be readdressed.

R. Szabada suggested that this is a good topic for the EDSC to work with the MRCC on.

S. Simmonds left the meeting at 8:37 a.m.

The Development Cost Charge (DCC) Bylaw is now under review. A DCC is a one-time charge to a developer against a lot, with the purpose of providing funds to assist the municipality in covering capital costs. In Mission the costs vary between \$12,000 and \$26,000 per lot.

This will undergo a similar process to the business license review. A survey has been sent to the public, development community and relevant associations, with a public consultation session occurring on April 17, 2018 at the Leisure Centre from 12:00 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. For further information go to www.mission.ca/DCC

EDSC will be involved in the process with L. Lacey and E. Sarfeld keeping the group informed.

(b) EDSC Nomination Committee – R. Blondin

The gap analysis determined that the criteria for vacant positions in the EDSC be sought through areas of expertise in land development, transportation and workforce & business development. The vacancy will be posted for two weeks, with all submissions then reviewed by the nomination committee.

A survey was sent out to determine interest from the current members for renewal of their positions and interest in the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair.

It was noted that C. Seeley has a new role as Manager of Tourism, which will change her function at the EDSC meetings in the long term, she will continue with administrative support for EDSC during 2018. R. Blondin suggested the EDSC support the economic development function through helping with areas such as the organization of the 2018 business tours.

(c) EDSC Roundtable

R. Blondin gave an overview of his business and industry background, highlighting the lack of labour availability locally and regionally to achieve economic growth and how automation can support this.

B. Toews shared aerial shots of Fraser Pacific Enterprises land and gave an update on recent development and business projects, including a connection to the Experience the

Fraser trail along the edge of the property. The head office has also now relocated to Mission.

D. Schubert gave an overview of Schubert Plumbing & Heating, employing over 50 staff, with the largest challenge being hiring and retaining skilled trades.

E. Sarfeld has an industrial engineering background and focus of heavy industrial construction project management and now runs a consulting company in Mission and volunteers within the community. He would like to see the EDSC have an active role in the future strategic plan outlined by council reaching beyond 2018.

L. Lacey has a construction firm based in Deroche with approximately 14 staff, undertaking residential and commercial work including building custom homes, repairs and renovations. They have also noticed a shortage of labour in skilled trades and are working closely with UFV and Riverside College to address this. There has been increased funding for women in trades on a Federal level and next week sees the Skills Canada BC Provincial Competition taking place at Tradex, in Abbotsford, on April 18, 2018. Provincial changes have brought uncertainty within the industry in particular with the Speculation Tax.

R. Szabada advised that SRCTec have now participated in two successful tech forums; one they organized in Mission and one in Maple Ridge and sees the focus on technology as helping alleviate some of the issues in Mission regarding industrial land and labour shortages. The push for an innovation zone in Mission will support this sector development.

P. Ritch advised that Mission Community Skills Centre Society run many programs including the WorkBC Employment Centre in Mission, this seven year contract is currently up for renewal. They also undertake employment services, training, wage subsidies and labour market training. They have a number of working groups including a North Fraser Ag-food and Processing Working Group, which includes looking at the feasibility of creating a food hub and innovation centre. There is also a Continued Education Working Group that partners with Riverside and other educational establishments and has identified a number of key skills areas including training on the implementation of the fibre optic network.

A. Harper gave an overview of her accounting firm, which she has now merged with a larger accounting company. They have also noted the labour shortage and have concerns with how many costs the provincial government are passing on to the small business owner.

(d) Chamber of Commerce EDSC Member Appointment – S. Crawford

Sean Melia has been suggested as the new EDSC representative for the MRCC. He is the Branch Manager of Prospera Credit Union in Mission and is a past-chair of the EDSC. He will be invited as a guest of the committee subject to his appointment being approved by Council.

5. NEXT MEETING

EDSC Special Meeting with Council – Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at Mission Library.

6. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by R. Blondin and seconded by P. Ritch

That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.