



The **Minutes** of the **Economic Development Select Committee** meeting held via Zoom Video Conference on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 commencing at 1:03 pm.

Members Present: Edgar Sarfeld, Vinegar Hill Consulting, Chair
Rocky Blondin, Blondin Enterprises
Lesa Lacey, Lacey Developments
Chris Hartman, Polygon Homes Ltd.
Allan Main, Community Futures North Fraser
Sean Melia, MRCC & Prospera Credit Union
Wade Peary, Riverside College
Dan Schubert, Schubert Plumbing & Heating Ltd.
Raymond Szabada, Sumas Regional Consortium for High Tech
Beverly Toews, Fraser Pacific Enterprises & Sumas Transport Inc.
Craig Toews, University of the Fraser Valley

Members Absent: Clare Seeley, Manager of Tourism, District of Mission

Council
Representative: Mayor Pam Alexis

Others Present: Stacey Crawford, Economic Development Officer
Barclay Pitkethly, Deputy CAO
Dan Sommer, Director of Development Services
Mike Younie, CAO
Lesley White, Administrative Assistant

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order.

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved Wade and seconded Chris Hartman

That the agenda of the Economic Development Select Committee meeting held on Tuesday, March 11, 2020 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

Moved Chris Hartman and seconded Craig Toews,

That the minutes of the March 11, 2020 meeting of the Economic Development Select Committee be approved.

CARRIED

4. NEW BUSINESS

a) Updates

1) Working Group Themes:

a) Transportation

Transportation Master Plan

The District of Mission is putting out a Request for Proposal for the Transportation Master Plan. It will be a very detailed planning initiative. Tracy Kyle in Engineering to include viewing Mission as a short sea shipping location.

Greg Rogge, Director of Land Operations with the Vancouver Port Authority (VPA) met with Stacey Crawford and Ed Sarfeld and learned that the VPA received Federal funding for their future revitalization and confirmed that Mission was added to the list as a future stakeholder. The VPA has invited us to complete a survey by August 20th which will identify Mission as an interested partner. The report will be wrapped up fall/winter 2020 with implementation planned for the end of the year.

b) Short Sea Shipping

Stacey Crawford will attend an online Fraser Port Authority Open House webinar at 7:00pm Aug 12th, 2020.

c) Workforce Development

d) Employment Lands Strategy

The contractor hired to write the Employment Lands Strategy will be updating the inventories, demands and leakages identified through data collection and review. Employment Lands Draft Policies have also been added to their scope of work. Timeline draft work to be completed in next couple of weeks, ready for review by the new EDSC end of July.

e) Fraser Valley Alliance – Tech Attraction Strategy

Collectively hired a consultant, with the work to be completed in the summer and ready for review in the fall of 2020, which will include a report on Tech Development.

2) Waterfront Update & Upcoming Meetings

This initiative is in the active planning phase, a progress update was provided by Stacey Crawford.

a) Communications Plan

A strategic Communications Plan is being prepared to tell the story and share the progress with the public. Taryn Hubbard, Dan Sommer, Stacey Crawford and Contractor Carla Guerrero are building key messages for inquiries. Stacey Crawford shared the timeline of reports to Council, communications and presentations.

Craig asks about reclassifying as a City, a branding exercise will come after we are reclassified. Craig offered support from UFV to help move the process along.

b) Technical Studies

Technical studies have been completed, one of three major reports are in, there has been a delay in receiving the other reports which are expected in July 2020. There were no big surprises in the reports.

c) Stakeholder Relations: Government, Landowners, First Nations

Stakeholder Relations efforts have been stalled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We continue to have conversations regarding economic recovery and continuous discussions regarding aligning our project language with these recovery offers.

FCM Brownfield Grant will be submitted in July, 2020.

Landowner Engagement letters were sent to the WF landowners and stakeholders in May, 2020.

A First Nations consultant has been hired to create a resource of guiding principles in alignment with true reconciliation and the direction of Council.

d) Development Corporation

Discussion ensued regarding legal requirements, government requirements, costs, funding and finance options and seeking the guidance of Council concerning the next steps. There is a plan to conduct a financial analysis under the lens of a development corporation to aid in understanding the potential of the initiative.

Chris Hartman inquires if the EDSC will have an opportunity to participate and contribute their lens in the creation of the August 17 presentation to Council. The close timing of the report and the change over of the EDSC members does not allow for further contributions from the EDSC. Ed Sarfeld agrees with Stacey that the timing and previous contributions are valuable. Chris Hartman understood that the EDSC was supposed to be able to provide input. Lesa Lacey agrees that the EDSC should review the report ahead of the presentation. Stacey offers that if there is a desire to review it, we should do it as a presentation on Zoom prior to the Council presentation

Action Item: Stacey will put forward possible dates for the EDSC to view the WF presentation prior to August 17, 2020 Council. ELS Report draft will be review for comment and input at the same time.

Mayor Alexis speaks to the news of the City of Surrey dismantling the Development Corporation, what can we do to prevent that from happening if we chose to create a Development Corporation? As identified in the Risk Management Document, it is important to have well-defined framework, visions and goals with the support of the stakeholders. Craig Toews, identifies City of Chilliwack as a successful example of a Development Corporation and notes a strong well-set up board is critical to their success.

It is suggested that Council may find comfort in having a discussion with the City of Surrey to determine the causes of the dismantling their Development Corporation and what lessons could be learned. A comment or message from Diane Watts would be good to add to our Development Corporation presentation to Council.

Action Item: Chris Hartman to make a connection with the City of Surrey to gather comments on the benefits of the Development Corporation and lessons learned.

e) OCP Amending Bylaw

Going forward to Council for 3rd reading on August 24, 2020.

Motion: To move to Close to discuss item 5. Adjourned at 1:50pm to Closed.

5. EDSC NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Discussed in closed.

6. THANK YOU FROM ED SARFELD. FROM MAYOR ALEXIS, THANK YOU TO THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO ARE LEAVING. LMS SOCIETY, LAND TRANSFER, FIRST TRIPARTITE IN THE PROVINCE.

NEED TO RESPOND TO A LETTER SHOWING OUR SUPPORT FOR THIS EFFORT. LETTER FROM MINISTRY OF (STACEY TO FORWARD LETTER)

MOTION TO ADJORN, WADE, SECOND CHRIS 2:18PM

7. NEXT MEETING

September 9, 2020 at 8:00a.m. to be held by Zoom Video Conference.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Wade Peary and seconded by Chris Hartman,

That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.