

**Revelstoke and Area  
Minutes of the Economic Development Commission  
Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.  
in the Revelstoke Business Information Centre,  
301 Victoria Road West**

PRESENT: Council    Mayor Sulz  
             Members   Roberta Bobicki, Brett Renaud, Nathan Weston, Ken Norrie,  
                             Erin Kerwin, Lisa Longinotto, Steve Cross, Mark Baron, Shaun  
                             Aquiline, David Brooks-Hill, Tracey Buckley  
             Staff        Ingrid Bron, Director, Community Economic Development  
                             Brooke Burke, Recording Secretary  
             Guest       Kevin Dorrius  
ABSENT:                Craig Tennock, Alex Cooper

**1.     CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by chair, Roberta Bobicki at 4:00 pm.

**2.     ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved by Tracey Buckley

Seconded by Mark Baron

THAT agenda be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3.     ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

Moved by Brett Renaud

Seconded by Shaun Aquiline

THAT the minutes from April 3, 2019 be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**4.     BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

New Business – 7.1 – Maximizing value and term of lease arrangements on City property – No update at this time.

New Business – 7.2 – Request timeline on development permit status – No further updates available.

**5.     ACTIVITY REPORT**

**5.1    April 2019 Activity Report**

Report was reviewed by commission and the following was discussed:

- Resort Development Strategy (RDS) is now completed and will go to council on May 28. Reviewed the amount for 2019 is \$747,000 and is now a budget line with the provincial government. Reviewed that a larger percentage is now able to be put towards arts & culture under the new strategy.
- Confirmed additional funding has been awarded towards the City's tech strategy. Will be working on an RFP to be sent out. A working group will be formed instead of the traditional committee. There are other groups in the community that will feed into this strategy and that is who will be targeted. Anyone has interest in this working group to contact Ingrid.
- Wayfinding RFP had gone out and a decision has been made on the contractor. Ingrid is meeting with them tomorrow to go over a contract and discuss further action. A working group will be formed for this process with the contractor working with various groups. Ingrid will ask the contractor to attend the next Commission meeting to discuss and get any input from the members.
- Briefly reviewed the upcoming collective impact conference in June. All members from the Commission have been invited to attend.
- Recent filming in town had hired 70 locals during the time they were here. Episode will air this summer and the City will have a celebration of sort to showcase this.
- When can Telus data be used/shared? Waiting for more details from Telus to be sorted and once that is done then more information could be used. Ingrid will have stories created to help to get the word out to the community and further, this way it gives more of a perspective to people and really know the impacts.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Caribou Consultations**

Mayor Sulz opened with his recent trip to the SILGA conference. He referred to the signing of the Section 11 agreement between the federal and provincial governments. This could have a major impact with backcountry closures that would then effect mills closing, ski and snowmobile industry and the trickledown effect could be a massive destruction of our community. He spoke on asking the provincial government for the affected communities to sit at the table to discuss herd management. Mayor Sulz and Sicamous Mayor Rysz will be traveling to Victoria to speak with government officials about the dire situation that closing the backcountry would have on many communities. It was noted that if the closure

does happen it is very difficult to get it open again. Talk about needing to manage the predators in the area to help with the caribou survival. Concern from Commission members about the federal government holding all the power, no matter what is presented to them. It is hoped the federal government will not close the backcountry as they did come to the province to ask for assistance with the matter. We as a community need to keep speaking up to the government. Mayor Sulz referred back to 1995 and the hard work that went into that agreement.

Ingrid introduced Kevin Dorrius from Community Futures and the role they would like to take on. Kevin spoke that CF has access to all the documents that were created back in 1995, as they played a role back then too. He noted CF is willing to take a lead to move forward and doing an economic impact study based on Revelstoke, as it seems the information from the province is more broad based. Need to have an unbiased look at the situation as it is more complex than it seems on the surface.

Reference was made to a letter Mike Copperthwaite, CEO of RCFC sent to the editor where he produced actual statistics on the protected lands for the caribou. Question was asked on what can we do more? Hard to say when the scientists don't even know exactly why the decline. We as a community need to identify best practices in this process and need to get that message to the province. The sense is if we can produce this information before the end of May the hope is the federal government will not take any action in closing any areas.

Ingrid asked the Commission what they would like her to do next. Supporting a best practices or process showing the impacts on the back country area. Wanting to sit at the table to assist in managing the herds with the province is the message council wants to send. General discussion.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**8. FOR INFORMATION**

**8.1 Stats**

Stats include for information to Commission.

**8.2 Correspondence**

Letter included as information.

### 8.3 Up Coming Events

Timber Days – May 18<sup>th</sup>

Night Market at Trading Post – May 19<sup>th</sup>

Metal Mind Forge, Après Business event with Chamber – May 30<sup>th</sup>

### 8.3 Roundtable

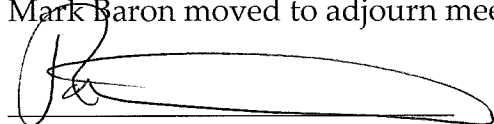
The following was discussed:

- Asked about potentially hiring local building inspectors versus out of town. Mayor Sulz addressed this by reporting the City has approached various local contractors about becoming an inspector but none have shown any interest. Council has been very proactive and has been doing whatever it takes to attract employees, the public doesn't always see this though. Noted the City has hired consultants to cover for 2 planners currently on medical leave.
- Revelstoke Golf Club has 140 new members.
- Columbia River Treaty talks have started between Canada and the US.
- EZ Rock hosting a fundraiser with the Revelstoke Hospital Foundation for a new heart rate monitor for babies and moms.
- Hold up on Big Eddy lots, is this because of no current planner? No there are other reasons for this.
- Revelstoke is one of the only communities that does not have an online building permit system. Is this something the City could look to have? Mayor Sulz added the City would like to streamline inspections and the permit process and welcomes input from contractors on what type of software to investigate. It was noted that the City needs to update their technology which would improve efficiency in this department.
- Updates to the OCP will be done and the City will be hiring a contractor to do this. Updates will start on specific neighborhoods first.
- Tourism Management diploma course currently has 9 people enrolled with OK College.
- A feasibility study will be done for a possible new boat launch this year to help increase the water access in the community.

### ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting will be June 12, 2019.

Mark Baron moved to adjourn meeting at 5:51 pm.



Roberta Bobicki, Chair