

**Revelstoke and Area
Minutes of the Economic Development Commission
Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.
in the Revelstoke Business Information Centre,
301 Victoria Road West**

PRESENT: Members Roberta Bobicki, Brett Renaud, Nathan Weston, Ken Norrie,
Craig Tennock, Alex Cooper, Steve Cross, Mark Baron, Shaun
Aquiline, David Brooks-Hill, Tracey Buckley
Staff Ingrid Bron, Director, Community Economic Development
Jamie Mayes, Recording Secretary
Guest Richard Toperczer
ABSENT: Erin Kerwin, Lisa Longinotto

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by chair, Roberta Bobicki at 4:02 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Shaun Aquiline

Seconded by Tracey Buckley

THAT agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. PRESENTATION

**3.1 Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology, Rural Development Regional
Manager – Richard Toperczer**

Richard gave a quick overview of the Rural Development department, the region he covers and the focus on rural community economic development. He provided an objective perspective of Revelstoke through an economic lens stating that the community has a strong identify, desirable demographic of residents and a diverse industry base. He sees the challenges for Revelstoke as being isolation – logistics and access to air services. He outlined the Ministry's key focus areas which include: resilient and sustainable rural development, indigenous community engagement, technology, connectivity, housing, tourism and destination development and forestry industry revitalization. Richard discussed the recent caribou consultation and community engagement process and the improvements that can be made for future processes such as having community consultation take place before herd management plans are developed. He also highlighted that the provincial government has infrastructure funding available and that our community should

look at ways to capitalize on this with projects such as sewage treatment plant and bridge infrastructure. He can connect Revelstoke with other Ministry departments with regards to infrastructure and asset management. A key focus for Richard to support in Revelstoke is being part of indigenous partnership building and is happy to hear that Revelstoke has upcoming meetings with three of six regional bands.

Action: staff to research history of bridge infrastructure in Revelstoke and identify responsibility of maintenance.

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Moved by Tracey Buckley

Seconded by Mark Baron

THAT the minutes from May 8, 2019 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

5. ACTIVITY REPORT

5.1 May 2019 Activity Report

Report was reviewed by commission and the following was discussed:

- Final draft of the Resort Development Strategy (RDS) was approved by council. Waiting on Ministry approval which should be provided in the next week. Once Ministry approves a press release and project application will be released to the community.
- Working to develop job description for Tech 2.0 (tech strategy) position. 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 contractor, Cygnus Design, has been hired to complete the wayfinding strategy. Engagement workshop led by consultants have taken place with community groups, staff, and tourism stakeholders.
- A response from City Council was submitted to the Provincial and Federal governments regarding caribou recovery and Section 11. A stakeholder group will be formed to undertake economic impact analysis of potential closures. Commission mentioned to include Michael Copperthwaite in this stakeholder group.
- Collective impact sessions were successfully launched.

- Business profiles of Downie Timber and Terra Aqua will be released soon.
- Two Indigenous consultation meetings planned for July with Council.
- Update on BC Transit and Everything Revelstoke and learnings from Resort Collaborative meeting that other Resort Municipalities have been successful in using BC Transit for shuttle services. Ingrid will explore this further. Question on Bike to Work week metrics and reporting for Revelstoke compared to the rest of the province.
Action: staff to obtain Bike to Work Week metrics.
Action: staff to initiate service review with BC Transit including route extension/combining transit with shuttle service.
- Question from the Commission on current business licenses. Also requested breaking down licenses by industry and NAICS codes.
Action: staff to work with Development Services to ensure business licenses issued are tracked by industry/NAICS codes.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Caribou Consultations

Discussion took place on caribou consultations during Activity report. Update provided by Ingrid.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 CED Workplan

2018 Annual Report Community Economic Development Highlights presented. Provided an overview of department activities over the past year including investment attraction and business development, caribou recovery strategy, tourism, technology, transportation, housing, and social development. Much of this work was completed/spearheaded by Nicole Fricot. Ingrid invited feedback for workplan going forward and what the commission would like the department to focus on. Commission reviewed Economic Development services list and provided feedback to arrange and modify priorities in order of importance as follows:

- Investor Inquiries
 - Priority to develop an available lands inventory in partnership with Development Services – commission suggested exploring highest and best value for land.
- Business Support
- Liaison with Industry Stakeholders
- Liaison with Community Partners
- Communication and Promotion

- Regional and Provincial partners
 - Including indigenous partners
- Identify & Respond to Funding Opportunities
 - Explore best practices to provide the community with inventory of funding and communicate opportunities regularly
- Identification of Needs
- Event Planning

8. FOR INFORMATION

8.1 Stats

Stats include for information to Commission. Discussion took place around MRDT and OAP funds.

Action: staff to clarify if OAP is only collected and remitted by Airbnb or if other online accommodation providers collect and remit MRDT.

8.2 Roundtable

The following was discussed:

- Asked about the City's plans for hiring a new CAO. Concerns brought forward that we are at a crossroads as a community and the CAO position is one of the most important roles in guiding our community's future. Suggestion to have the interview process be conducted by a professional HR firm to support the City and Council with this process.

Moved by Mark Baron

Seconded by Ken Norrie

THAT the commission recommends a letter be sent to Mayor and Council requesting clarity on the process for recruiting a new CAO; and that they consider engaging an outside firm to support the selection process.


CARRIED

- Revelstoke Cycling Association received approval for the Sunnyside trail network. There have been concerns from neighboring residents. If commission members hear of any concerns or questions, please direct people to contact the Cycling Association.

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting will be September 4, 2019.

Alex Cooper moved to adjourn meeting at 6:04 pm.



Roberta Bobicki, Chair