



**Town of Sidney - Economic Advisory Committee
MINUTES**

Thursday, August 26, 2021 – 10:30 a.m. via Zoom

*EAC Meetings are video recorded and posted on the Town's website at:
http://www.sidney.ca/Business/Economic_Advisory_Committee.htm*

Present: Brad Edgett (Chair), David Calveley (Vice Chair), Councillor Peter Wainwright, Councillor Terri O'Keeffe, Annilee Armstrong, Frank Austin, Rod Hunchak, Deanna Mathewson, Al Smith, Doug Walker, Shannon Toogood

Regrets: Alyssa Gerwing, Stasia Hartley, Jennifer Michell

Staff: Randy Humble – CAO, Andrew Hicik – Director of Corporate Services, Anna Morton – Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

2. Review and approval of the Agenda

Moved by D. Calveley, seconded by A. Smith, that the Agenda be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

3. Referrals from Council

a. Draft Request for Proposal – Economic Development Strategy

R. Humble introduced the draft request for proposal (RFP) for the Town's Economic Development Strategy and asked the Committee for feedback.

Discussion:

- There was an overall consensus that a longer economic strategy is necessary.
- Concerns and feedback were provided re:
 - o Benefit of the cost investment of the development of an Economic Development Strategy and where it potentially intersects with work of the BIA.
 - o The wording in the RFP referring to ownership of the plan not being clear (under section Stage 3: Final Strategic Plan). Should belong to the Town of Sidney.

Moved by A. Smith, seconded by A. Armstrong, that the RFP be rejected and the distribution of the funds reassessed.

DEFEATED 2:5

Moved by D. Walker, seconded by D. Mathewson, that the RFP be accepted with consideration to feedback given.

CARRIED 5:3

4. Council Liaison Report

Councillor Wainwright advised that there was nothing significant to report.

5. Late Item – Vancouver Island Economic Alliance (VIEA) Letter

R. Humble provided an overview of the letter received from VIEA.

Discussion:

- The BIA has a good relationship with VIEA and have found value in their work. The associated cost is nominal. D. Walker noted that their website provided thorough statistical information.

Moved by D. Calveley, seconded by D. Walker, that the item be added to the September 9, 2021 agenda.

CARRIED

6. Roundtable Discussion

Al Smith – Chamber of Commerce: They have heard a significant amount of concern regarding vaccine passports, mask mandates and lack of clarity re: enforcement.

Brad Edgett – Sidney BIA: The vaccine clinic has wrapped up and was successful. Elections Canada is now filling the space. The BIA will distribute further information re: vaccine passports.

Randy Humble – Town of Sidney: Noted that WorkSafeBC will be helpful resource and that Town is waiting on more information from the Province.

Deanna Mathewson – hospitality/tourism: Business is very busy. They surpassed their goal for the month by August 22 despite being closed two days/week and have surpassed their 2019 earned revenues for August. As of last week, over 10,000 people have seen their new exhibit that opened on July 9.

Rod Hunchak – Victoria Airport Authority: The York development announced their tenant as Amazon and construction will commence in September. Information was released on a PCR COVID testing facility at the airport opening on August 30 which will be available to the public. Passenger numbers are looking very good at 60% of 2019, and they expect to have over 100,000 passengers in the month of August.

Annilee Armstrong – home-based business: Home-based businesses are very busy.

Frank Austin – marine industry: They are staying busy. Masking has been implemented inside buildings and when distance cannot be maintained.

Shannon Toogood – BIA Business Development Manager: The business database is 75% complete. A COVID survey will be sent in the fall.

7. Adjournment

Moved by F. Austin that the meeting be adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Chair

Date