



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

**Thursday, July 8, 2021 – 10:30 am via Zoom Meeting**

*EAC Meetings are video recorded and posted on the Town's website at:*

[http://www.sidney.ca/Business/Economic\\_Advisory\\_Committee.htm](http://www.sidney.ca/Business/Economic_Advisory_Committee.htm)

**Present:** David Calveley (Vice Chair), Councillor Peter Wainwright, Alyssa Gerwing, Rod Hunchak, Stasia Hartley, Jennifer Michell, Al Smith and Doug Walker, Councillor Terri O'Keeffe (guest) and Shannon Toogood (guest)

**Absent:** Brad Edgett (Chair), Annilee Armstrong, Frank Austin and Deanna Mathewson

**Staff:** Randy Humble, CAO, Andrew Hicik, Director of Corporate Services, Sandi Nelson, Recording Clerk

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**1. Call to Order**

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

**2. Review and Approval of Agenda**

*Moved by D. Walker, seconded by A. Gerwing, that the Agenda be approved as distributed.*

**CARRIED**

**3. Review and Approval of Minutes - May 13, 2021**

*Moved by A. Gerwing, seconded by D. Walker, that the Minutes of the May 13, 2021, be approved as distributed.*

**CARRIED**

**4. Referrals from Council**

**a. Community Profile (Council Meeting - May 25, 2021)**

Randy Humble advised that the Town has been selected by the South Island Prosperity Project (SIPP) to develop a community profile for the Town. He noted it would be at no cost to the Town, except for a small amount of staff time, and that it would be hosted on SIPP's website.

Andrew Hick noted that the previous Economic Development Committee updated Sidney's Community Profile that is on the Town's website.

*Moved by A. Gerwing, seconded by R. Hunchak, that the report regarding the Town's participation in the development of a standardized Community Profile as part of the South Island Prosperity Project's business and attraction mandate, be received for information.*

**CARRIED**

**b. Update from SIPP (Council Meeting - June 14, 2021)**

A report from Councillor O’Keeffe providing an update on SIPP’s key initiatives: the Greater Victoria’s Next Chapter series, Centre for Ocean Applied Sustainable Technologies, and Indigenous Prosperity Centre.

*Moved by J. Michell, seconded by A. Smith, that report, providing an update on SIPP’s initiatives, be received for information.*

**CARRIED**

## **5. Council Liaison Report**

Councillor Wainwright advised that the Town’s Official Community Plan Review process is moving to the next step, and that there is significant decision coming up on Monday’s Committee of the Whole Meeting regarding the future of Beacon Wharf.

## **6. Roundtable Discussion**

**Alyssa Gerwing - SEAG:** advised the Sidney Museum will be closed for renovations until September 1<sup>st</sup>; the Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea is open and providing summer programs; and the Mary Winspear Centre is continuing to be a designated vaccination site and are hosting the Sunday Street Markets.

**Rod Hunchak – Victoria Airport:** reported there is a return to air travel - Sunday was highest number of passengers since last March; Swoop welcomed in June and Flair return on July 1; with respect to the York Development, the Towns’ official involvement is complete and any further work on the project is with the VAA; the VAA conducted community consultation through the month of June reaching out to every resident in West Sidney and responded to all emails received - overall folks are pleased with the design alterations; VAA will continue to work on the development and the traffic plan mainly the roundabout at Beacon and Galaran; advised the Terminal building will open up to the public on August 1 and restrictions will be lifted in September.

**Al Smith - Chamber of Commerce:** reported a busy month; the Information Centre is open and starting to see more traffic - there are challenges with trucks stopping and washrooms not being opened; advised Bocce tournament coming up on September 13, Mayors’ Breakfast on September 22 and Crystal Awards in October; noted members are wanting to return to in-person events/meetings - Chamber will follow the health regulations; and they are looking to create a customer database with statistics for members.

**Stasia Hartley - (service industry):** stated Home Care continues to be busy; that for the most part all health care employees and clients have been vaccinated, and are still wearing PPE and following health guidelines; and, with respect to the heat wave, advise that pretty much all facilities have been upgraded with air conditioning, and did not hear of any issues.

**Doug Walker - (resident):** stated that with the COVID Recovery comes a good deal of angst and uncertainty with the inconsistency of peoples’ behavior (wear or not to wear a mask) and this is affecting customers and businesses.

**Jennifer Michell - West Sidney:** advised they have moved into their new building and are just working on getting their operations back up and running.

**Randy Humble - Town of Sidney:** advised that SIPP will be working with the Town in the development of an Economic Development Strategy for the Town; SIPP’s proposal outlining their

scope of the work has been received and they will soon be developing a draft Request for Proposals for consultants; the draft RFP will be presented to Council and referred to the EAC for review and comment; and advised there will be some involvement of the EAC at selecting a consultant.

**Andrew Hick - Town of Sidney:** noted Councillor Wainwright's comments about Monday's presentation on the Beacon Wharf will be quite interesting and encouraged members to hear what the parties have to say.

**Shannon Toogood - BIA Business Development Manager:** noted opportunities for collaboration with the Chamber; they are working with SIPP on the Community Profile Initiative; advised the Sidney Digital Readiness package is ready to launch soon, which will provide businesses the tools they need to get what they need to start on-line; they have signed a contract with Small Business BC for education programs for all businesses to access; and are busy applying for grants.

## 7. **Adjournment**

*Moved by D. Walker, seconded by S. Hartley, that the meeting be adjourned at 11:15 am.*

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Chair

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Date