

Minutes of the regular meeting of the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION held at the Community Futures Boardroom on November 18, 2010 at 7:30 am.

PRESENT: Chair Bruce Sampson
Director Kent
Pat Foster
Mike Kelly
John Morris
Marsha Stanley

ALSO

PRESENT: John Koury, Councillor North Cowichan
Geoff Millar, Manager, Economic Development
Kathy Lachman, Business Development Officer
Judy Mills, Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Director Morrison
George Robbins
Jenn George
Jane Worton
Director Kuhn
Tom Anderson, GM, Planning & Development

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

Two addenda were added.

It was moved and seconded the agenda be accepted.

MOTION CARRIED

**ADOPTION OF
MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the October 28, 2010 EDC meeting minutes be accepted.

MOTION CARRIED

**BUSINESS ARISING
OUT OF MINUTES**

Not applicable.

DELEGATIONS

**D1
CANADA'S
SHRINKING
WORKFORCE**

The Economic Development Manager introduced Ken Stratford of the Greater Victoria Economic Development Commission. Ken gave an overview of their Commission. There are one and a half million business start ups per year in BC and half will fold within 3 years. There is a huge opportunity for job creation. They assist 2,500 business start ups in Victoria. Greater Victoria EDC receives no direct Government funding. Facing retired baby boomers and declining birth rate which leads to labour shortage. Forecast shortfall by 2030. Government plans to increase immigration to 8% to handle job capacity. Expansion is on our

doorstep. Expecting 2-3% Tourism expansion. Will see more automated tasks and job pirates. This is an opportunity for Cowichan to brand itself differently. Now is the time to re-invent your community. It is not the time to be conservative. Handout was distributed on startupInteractiveBC.ca.

CORRESPONDENCE**C1
TRANSIT FUTURE
PLAN**

BC Transit, in partnership with the CVRD is developing a 25 year Transit Future Plan for the region. An invitation has been extended to attend the first of three workshops being held on Thursday, December 2, 2010 from 3-5 pm at Island Savings Centre. Director Kent and Kathy Lachman will be attending. If an EDC member wishes to attend and represent the Commission please let Judy Mills know (jmills@cvrd.bc.ca) so we can ensure you are registered.

REPORTS**R1
ENVIRONMENT
COMMISSION
APPOINTEE**

It was recommended the Economic Development Commission seek Board approval for the re-appointment of John Morris to the Environment Commission for a one year term to expire December 31, 2011.

MOTION CARRIED**R2
LEASE**

The Economic Development Manager discussed the lease at 135 Third Street is coming up for renewal in February 2011. The Commission recommended a five year renewal due to the strong working relationship that has been established between the Economic Development Department and Community Futures Cowichan.

**R3
SUSTAINABLE
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
STRATGEY UPDATE**

Over 60 on-line surveys were completed as of November 12, 2010. As of the survey deadline, November 22, 2010, 164 resident surveys and 88 Business surveys were completed. The consultants have conducted focus groups and one-on-one sessions with 130 people representing a diverse cross section of the community. The first draft will be ready around mid December.

Director Kent left at 8:35 am.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS****UB1
COMMISSION
STRUCTURE**

Establishment by-laws were distributed for the Economic Development and Environment Commissions in order to review how the CVRD differentiates the two Commissions. The

governance of the Economic Development Commission will be covered in the Sustainable Economic Development Strategy. Member discussion took place. Further in-depth discussion is required.

NEW BUSINESS

NB1
DNC ECONMIC
DEVELOPMENT
WORK PLAN

John Koury, District of North Cowichan Councillor, discussed the DNC Economic Development Work Plan approved in Council on November 17, 2010. There are eight elements:

1. Provide infrastructure and zoning for development
2. Marketing, business development and promotion
3. Create attractive waterfronts/downtown(s)
4. Enhance/protect resource sector
5. Tourism infrastructure and packaging
6. High Tech and Knowledge sector
7. Waste conversion opportunities
8. Infrastructure for development

CLOSED SESSION

Not applicable.

ADJOURNMENT

It was recommended that the Regular meeting adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 am. Next meeting will be an informal breakfast meeting on December 16, 2010 at the White Spot Restaurant, 101 Trans Canada Hwy at 7:30 am.

Certified Correct:

Chairperson

Secretary

Dated: _____