



Minutes

Economic Development Advisory Committee

Regular Meeting

February 20, 2018

6:30 pm

Council Chambers, Town Hall

Member Present Chair Andrew Atlin, Carey Pope, Cathy Forster, Matt Staffen,
Tammy Adkin

Member Absent Deb Hotchkiss, Al Strathdee

Staff Present Kelly Deeks-Johnson, staff liaison

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None declared.

3. **AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The committee noted that the agenda stated the start time at 6:30 am when in fact the meeting was held in the pm.

Moved By Cathy Forster

Seconded By Tammy Adkin

THAT the February 20, 2018 EDAC agenda be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

4. **DELEGATIONS**

None.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

5.1 January 25, 2018

Moved By Tammy Adkin

Seconded By Matt Staffen

THAT the January 25, 2018 EDAC minutes be approved and signed by the Chair.

CARRIED

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Bill 148 Session

The committee suggests that the Town hold a session on Bill148 legislation. K. Deeks-Johnson to speak with area business leaders and the BIA to gain interest level and research a possible speaker for the event.

7.2 Job Fair

The committee proposed that we organize a town wide job fair that serves both permanent and summer employment. It was noted that summer jobs are already in motion and it is likely late to promote. Discussion was that we should wait on a job fair for now and focus our efforts on building a partnership with DCVI and discuss education around the type of industry and jobs available here. Also we will work on developing the Opportunities Live Here website that is meant as an online means for job fairs and job promotion. K. Deeks-Johnson will work on a strategy for this.

7.3 Exploring Fibre-Optics in St. Marys - "The Last Mile"

K. Deeks-Johnson noted that she and Jed Kelly, Director of Public Works, will work together to determine our needs for "last mile fibre". The committee requests a discussion with Quadro to get more information and the possibilities for St. Marys. K. Deeks-Johnson will look into this and also noted that SWIFT will be bringing another delegation to Council in the near future.

7.4 Economic Development and Tourism Highlights

K. Deeks-Johnson gave an update on tourism print and web advertising materials and discussed progress for making the foyer at Town Hall more visitor friendly. Member C. Forster suggested we look at getting materials in border crossings as there is an interest in these locations. Member C. Pope noted that virtual tourism is also something we need to work on.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Roundtable with John Nater and Lisa Raitt

K. Deeks-Johnson informed the committee that MP John Nater would be hosting Lisa Raitt, Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada for a tour of our local industry followed by a roundtable meeting with a few of our top employers. CAO Brent Kittmer, K. Deeks-Johnson and Councillor Jim Craigmile would be attending.

9. UPCOMING MEETINGS

9.1 March Meeting Date: Thursday March 15 OR Thursday March 29

It was decided that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday, March 28 at 7:30 am.

10. ADJOURNMENT

THAT this meeting of EDAC be adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Chair Atlin