THE CORPORATION OF THE
MUNICIPALITY OF EAST FERRIS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the Virtual Economic Development Meeting of July 15th, 2020

PRESENT: Claude Champagne, Phil Koning, Jake Lacourse, Angela Knight van Schaayk, Veronica Mulligan, Steven Trahan, Councillor
Greg Kirton, Manager of Planning and Economic Development
Kari Hanselman, Recording Clerk

EXCUSED ABSENT: Steve Austin, Rod Clouthier

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Michael Blair - East Ferris Internet Advocacy Group, Dominique Marleau - Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, Jason Trottier - CAO/Treasurer, Pauline Rochefort - Mayor

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m.

2. **Adoption of Agenda**
Motion No. 2020-16
Moved by Steven Trahan Seconded by Veronica Mulligan

THAT the draft agenda circulated to the Economic Development Committee and dated the 15th day of July 2020 be hereby adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. **Acceptance of Minutes of the Last Regular Meeting Held on June 17th, 2020**
Motion No. 2020-17
Moved by Steven Trahan Seconded by Claude Champagne

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Committee held June 17th, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

4. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest –** None for this session

5. **Chair's Comments**

Mr. Lacourse welcomed everyone to the meeting.

6. Updates/New Business

6.1 Presentation from Michael Blair – East Ferris Internet Advocacy Group

Mr. Blair presented to the Committee. The East Ferris Internet Advocacy Group (EFIAG) is a group of local citizens whose mission is to advocate for reliable, affordable, and sustainable high-speed internet in East Ferris.

Chair Lacourse asked if Mr. Trottier's presentation from the previous meeting had been shared with the EFIAG as many of the Group's questions were addressed in that presentation. Mr. Trottier advised he had shared the report with Mr. Koning.

Ms. Knight van Schaayk asked Mr. Blair if the EFIAG believes that the Municipality is putting all their eggs in one basket. Mr. Blair said it is difficult to say without having all the information. Ms. Knight van Schaayk also asked what was meant by leveraging resources. Mr. Blair spoke about developing a sub-committee, and members within the group that can participate. Visual support from the community is needed.

Councillor Trahan mentioned the CRTC funding and the possibility that we may not receive any funding. Councillor Trahan requested some clarification on what the EFIAC can do for the Committee. Mr. Blair advised that community involvement is important, and they want to show they are actively involved. The group wants to show their support and help however they can.

Mayor Rochefort advised that there is a letter from Council on the way. Mayor Rochefort thanked the group for writing and coming forward with ideas. Internet has been spoken about for many years and there is a history of advocacy. Mayor Rochefort agrees with Mr. Blair's statement that advocacy is for internet not funding. Mayor Rochefort does believe that advocacy is important.

Chair Lacourse said there is a lot of information between both groups that needs to be reviewed. There is no action that can be taken at the moment.

Ms. Knight van Schaayk asked Mr. Blair if the group feels the Municipality is not communicating effectively with the public as to the work in progress with internet. Mr. Blair advised they want to ensure the community has all the information and they can understand the process. The EFIAG does want to know more.

6.2 Priority #2 (Update Economic Development Strategy – Phil, Veronica, Angela, Greg – Update

Mr. Kirton advised that he reviewed and identified action items from the 2013 plan. Mr. Koning was then provided the document to review and modify. Mr. Koning is hopeful the sub-committee can get together over the next month.

6.3 Priority #4 (Farmers/Artisan Market) – Jake, Veronica, Greg

Chair Lacourse advised they have a created a nine-member steering committee which includes six non-committee members. The first meeting is to be held on July 20th. Mr. Kirton advised there is a separate e-mail list for those who were interested in joining the steering committee, but could not make the time commitment.

6.4 Community Profile – Final Copy

The Community Profile is now completed. Mr. Kirton will circulate a copy to committee members.

6.5 Business Showcase Initiative – Greg

This idea came from looking at the Economic Development Strategy. Volunteers from the community can provide a small showcase piece on their business. The initiative could potentially be launched in conjunction with small business week and can be shared through the Municipality's social media outlets. The Committee will further discuss this idea at the next meeting.

7. Action Items – None for this session

8. Ongoing/Unresolved/Inactive Items

8.1 Priority #1 (Internet)

8.2 Priority #3 (Review Policies) – Greg

8.3 Priority #5 (Light Industrial Park Feasibility) –Greg

Mr. Kirton advised both the NOHFC and FEDNOR applications have moved onto phase two.

8.4 Priority #7 (New Business Welcome Package) – Steve T., Phil, Steve A.

Mr. Kirton advised there has been no update on the progress of the new website.

8.5 Sub-committee (Centennial Committee Project) – Steve T., Steve A., Angela

8.6 BizPal Program – Phil

8.7 Digital Mainstreet – Follow up on Phil's Report

9. General Follow Up/Roundtable Discussion

Ms. Marleau circulated information to the Committee regarding the application intake for the $150 million Improving Connectivity for Ontario program. Deadline for submission is August 21st, 2020.

10. Adjournment

No. 2020-18

Moved by Angela Knight van Schaayk Seconded by Phil Koning

That the Economic Development Committee adjourn at 2:20 p.m.

CARRIED

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CHAIR RECORDING CLERK