



City of Port Moody

Minutes

Economic Development Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Economic Development Committee held on Wednesday December 2, 2020 via Zoom.

Present

Councillor Hunter Madsen, Chair
Lisa Beecroft
Edward Chan
Dustin Chelen
Sharleen Karamanian
Brian Krieger
Sean Ogilvie
Greg Pepler
Christopher Pope
Robert Simons

Absent

Mayor Robert Vagramov, Vice-Chair
Taryn Barker
Matt Ferguson (Regrets)
Mary Vellani

In Attendance

Joji Kumagai – Manager of Economic Development
Jennifer Mills – Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Call to Order

1.1 The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

EDC20/027

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the following items be added to the agenda:

- **Spike Awards Update; and**
- **Technology Space Anchor Tenant Update.**

Minutes

2. Adoption of Minutes

2.1 EDC20/028

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the minutes of the Economic Development Committee meeting held on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 be adopted.

3. Unfinished Business

4. New Business

2020 Economic Development Committee Annual Report

4.1 Attachment: 2020 Annual Report – Economic Development Committee File: 01-0360-20-03-01

The Manager of Economic Development provided an overview of the 2020 Economic Development Committee Work Plan and expressed gratitude to the Committee for their hard work throughout a challenging year.

The Chair advised that some work items were not completed due to the impacts of COVID-19 and that the items could be considered for the 2021 Work Plan.

The Committee noted that Committee member Mary Vellani should include the title of Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce Representative in the 2020 Annual Report.

EDC20/029

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the 2020 Economic Development Committee Annual Report be approved.

Recap of December 1, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting

4.2 The Chair advised that due to the cancellation of the Council and Economic Development Committee Workshop in November, the Committee presented the Recommendations Toward an Economic Development Master Plan to Council at the December 1, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting, and the following was noted:

- the Committee of the Whole Meeting format created a platform for open discussion and meaningful conversation to occur;
- the goal of the presentation was to achieve Council's consensus on the jobs to population ratio targets and space allocation targets;

- the results of the presentation were Council embracing the higher target of 0.42 jobs-to-population ratio by the year 2041 and requesting staff to look at ways to fast-track and incentivize applications currently in process that prioritize employment spaces;
- the future negotiations with developers may include relaxing other amenity asks to allow for more job space; and
- the City is hoping to review each neighbourhood individually to ensure the appropriate focus for each neighbourhood is considered.

The Chair and the Manager of Economic Development thanked the Committee members who presented and those who volunteered for the working groups throughout the year and noted that their efforts provided the base for the Recommendations Toward an Economic Development Master Plan.

The Committee noted that budgetary challenges due to the impacts of COVID-19 may affect the motion to proceed with further analysis of the Economic Development Committee Recommendations Paper and the request for proposals for consulting services to provide additional research and analysis on the recommendations.

The Manager of Economic Development advised that ideally the budget would be approved by Council in early January and the research and analysis phase would then be completed in the following 3-4 months with the Economic Development Master Plan to be completed in the subsequent 3 to 4 months.

COVID Business Update

4.3 The Manager of Economic Development provided an overview of the COVID Business Update and the following was noted:

- the Taste of the Tri-Cities Dine Out Program is scheduled to run from February 15 - March 19, 2021 and is a Tri-Local initiated program to support restaurants, breweries, cafes, and pubs through the pandemic and raise awareness in the community to support local businesses;
- the Shop Local Port Moody signage to support local businesses is scheduled for installation in the coming days; the signage will include a banner at the Moody Street overpass and at the corner of Newport Drive and loco Road;
- the City has made a contribution to Shop Local Port Moody from the COVID recovery fund to assist Shop Local's social media campaign messaging;

- the extension of the Temporary Assistance Program for Businesses to October 31, 2021 was approved by Council; and
- the delegation request to amend the current City field and facility rentals policy to permit individuals and businesses to utilize City parks and outdoor spaces throughout Port Moody was received for action by Council and staff will be reporting back to Council in January.

The Chair noted that the crosswalk improvements being undertaken at Elgin Street and Clarke Road has negatively impacted the businesses in the area as the timing of the construction has impacted access to the storefronts and subsequently, the holiday shopping season.

The Committee noted the following:

- the decision to accelerate the crosswalk improvements was urgent at the time; however, the City could have considered the impacts to businesses during the busiest shopping months when scheduling construction; and
- the scheduling of major road works in commercial centres should consider the unique impacts to businesses such as high and low seasons for retail and accessibility for medical centres.

The Manager of Economic Development noted that reviewing capital projects annually with the Engineering Department could help minimize the impacts to businesses and that he hopes to begin this process in January 2021. The Manager of Economic Development further noted that during the Newport Road construction, the Engineering Department presented to the affected businesses to ensure all parties were informed of the construction, to provide an opportunity to answer questions, and to provide a City contact for future concerns, and advised that this model could be applied to future projects.

EDC20/030

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT Council direct staff to undertake process improvements as quickly as possible in regard to any non-emergency street construction projects proposed by the City will include consultation with commercial and retail businesses located nearby the planned street and sidewalk projects, in order to avoid and mitigate adverse business impacts that might arise from the City's construction projects.

2021 Work Planning

- 4.4 The Chair provided an overview of the 2020 Economic Development Committee Work Plan, noting the items that were not completed, and requested Committee members feedback for the development of the 2021 Economic Development Committee Work Plan, and the following was noted:
- clarification regarding the Economic Development Committee's role concerning any potential future uses of the Burrard Thermal site; and
 - continue with work that the Establishing Job Targets and Business District Working Group was undertaking to help with the Economic Development Master Plan.

Spike Awards Update

- 4.5 The Manager of Economic Development advised that the 2020 Spike Awards were presented to the winners at their businesses in a socially distant way which provided the opportunity to connect with the local business owners in a meaningful way.

The Committee viewed a video of Mayor Vagramov and Councillor Madsen presenting Little Gypsy's Fine Jewelry, Gifts, and Gallery with the Spike Award for Arts in Business.

Action: The Manager of Economic Development to email the Spike Awards Working Group to request feedback on the 2020 Spike Awards process and recommendations for the 2021 Spike Awards.

Technology Space Anchor Tenant Update

- 4.6 The Chair provided an update on the Technology Space Anchor Tenant and the following was noted;

- a company which specializes in data centres for high-intensity users is interested in building their next data centre in Port Moody;
- the establishment of a data centre in Port Moody could help attract businesses that are interested in being located in close proximity to a data centre; and
- the current tag line could be updated to the City of the Digital Arts.

The Committee noted that this type of business does not create jobs and often asks for financial incentives from the municipality.

Staff Updates

5. Information

5.1 Attachments:

- a) Deloitte, Metro Vancouver SWOT and Scenario Analysis, dated 2020
- b) MIT REAP, Accelerating Entrepreneurial Ecosystems: Lessons from the MIT Regional Entrepreneurship Acceleration Program

These items were provided for information only.

6. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:52pm.



Councillor Hunter Madsen,
Chair



Jennifer Mills,
Committee Coordinator