

**Corporation of the District of Maple Ridge
ECONOMIC ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Economic Advisory Commission, held in the Blaney Room at Maple Ridge Municipal Hall, 11995 Haney Place, Maple Ridge, British Columbia, on **Wednesday, January 24, 2007** at 7:30 a.m.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Guy Flavelle	Community at Large, Chair
Commissioner Al Hogarth	Councillor, District of Maple Ridge
Commissioner Ernie Daykin	Councillor, District of Maple Ridge
Commissioner Ken Galpin	Community at Large
Commissioner Racine Barbour	Chamber of Commerce
Commissioner Steve Pelton	Community at Large
Commissioner Terry Wilding	Community at Large
Jim Rule	Chief Administrative Officer, District of Maple Ridge

STAFF PRESENT

Rick Laferriere	Business Retention & Expansion Officer
Pat Shiratti	Administrative Assistant

REGRETS

Commissioner Gordon Robson	Mayor, District of Maple Ridge
Commissioner Peter Janis	Community at Large, Vice Chair
Commissioner Shane James	Home-based Business Representative

1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

There being a quorum present, Chair Guy F. called the meeting to order at 7:35 am.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Motion to adopt the November 16, 2006 meeting minutes

MOVED BY	Ken G.
SECONDED BY	Steve P.

Motion to adopt the December 6, 2006 meeting minutes

MOVED BY	Ernie D.
SECONDED BY	Terry W.

CARRIED

3. **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Guy F. welcomed the Commissioners and reviewed the Agenda for the meeting.

Motion to approve January 24, 2007 Agenda.

MOVED BY: Al H.

SECONDED BY: Ken G.

CARRIED

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

4.1 **Translink - BCIT Facility**

Jim R. presented an outline of the proposed site which Translink will share with BCIT as a satellite campus to instruct heavy duty mechanic students. The site would be on the property which was recently expropriated by Translink. This property is located beneath the new Golden Ears Bridge near the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Border. Street access will be through Kingston Street in the Maple Meadows Business Park. The proposal includes a 100,000 sq ft training campus for a BCIT Training Centre and will accommodate up to 200 students and 40 staff. Translink would build a 230,000 sq. ft. bus overhaul and repair centre that would employ 160 people. It also provides an opportunity to improve the dyking and drainage systems in Hammond. There is a locomotive rail component with a 1/2km rail track as well. A shared facility of 5,000 sq. ft. is proposed in centre of the property. These facilities are intended to be operating by late 2009.

Jim R. added that this proposal fits nicely with two of our Economic Strategic objectives, bringing more value-added jobs in the targeted sectors of advanced manufacturing and education services into this community.

Jim mentioned an open house at Hammond Elementary School on Wed., January 24th at 7pm.

4.2 **Projects Update**

UBCM Grant

Rick has finalized the projects to be applied for under the UBCM grant funding for Tourism initiatives. A majority of the funds would be used to purchase an electronic sign. This sign is to be located in the downtown area or on main arteries in community.

Walk Maple Ridge / Pitt Meadows

A recent publication was developed by Parks & Leisure Services. This guide includes information neighbourhood walking routes to strenuous wilderness hiking trails, horse trails, maps and exercise tips and stretching techniques. Rick plans to use this publication as a base to evolve into a regional Tourism magazine.

New Maple Ridge Website

Rick mentioned that the Maple Ridge Website has gone through its initial design and implementation process. The site is now ready to be tested by a focus group for navigational ability through the different topics and accessibility for various levels of website users. The Economic Development website design should be available soon.

Downtown Marketing Brochure

Rick handed out a copy of the newly designed brochure put together for marketing purposes.

2006 Filming

A total of 62 productions were filmed in Maple Ridge in 2006. This figure includes movies of the week, feature films and TV series.

ICSC Conference in Whistler

Racine B. mentioned that she attended a conference in Whistler this week and found it extremely exciting. She brought some information from Oliver BC about Smart Growth on the Ground, the Concept plan and Showcase.

4.3 EAC Membership & Renewal

Rick L. is putting an article in The Times this week to recruit a new EAC Commissioners. Applicant must live or own a business in Maple Ridge and possess the appropriate skills to assist in successful strategic development of Maple Ridge.

5. CURRENT PROJECTS

5.1 Economic Development Strategy Report

Rick L. discussed a list of action items for 2007. The EAC endorsed the Action Plan as proposed.

6. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Planning Department Presentation

Rick L. introduced special guest Jane Pickering, Director of Planning. Now that the OCP process is completed Jane mentioned some of the major projects that the Planning Department is focusing on for 2007:

- “Downtown Smart Growth on the Ground”
- Underground parking strategy for downtown area. (This would encourage people to park their cars and walk around the downtown area and enjoy amenities).
- Mapping study
- Review of Zoning Bylaw, Commercial and Industrial Market section.
- Target sectors to attract specific industry
- Establish Agricultural Advisory Committee
- Agricultural land study (strong economic force in community),

Discussion occurred on striving towards a balanced community between commercial and residential zones, commercial leasing costs, providing an inventory of available land for sale, determining opportunities for land which has potential for rezoning and re-development .

7. CORRESPONDENCE

8. NEXT MEETING – February 21, 2007 at 7:30 am

9. ADJOURNMENT - Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am.

Chairperson
/ps