

**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 **Thursday, September 20, 2007** at 7:30 a.m.

---

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Commissioner Guy Flavelle	Chair, Community at Large
Commissioner Peter Janis	Co-Chair, Community at Large
Commissioner Al Hogarth	Councillor, District of Maple Ridge
Commissioner Racine Barbour	Director of the Arts Council
Commissioner Steve Pelton	Community at Large
Tammy Deniz	Maple Ridge Downtown Business Improvement Association

*Newly Appointed Members as of September 1, 2007*

Bruce West	Community at Large
Claus Andrup	Community at Large
Jeff Carpenter	Director of Chamber of Commerce

**STAFF PRESENT**

Jim Rule	Chief Administrative Officer, District of Maple Ridge
Pat Shiratti	Administrative Assistant

**REGRETS**

Commissioner Gordon Robson	Mayor, District of Maple Ridge
Commissioner Ernie Daykin	Councillor, District of Maple Ridge
George Santana (new)	Director of Tourism Society

---

**1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS**

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

*1.1 Welcome New Members to EAC*

Guy F. gave a warm welcome to new members joining the Economic Advisory Commission, welcomed back Commissioners after summer break and provided an opportunity for brief round table introductions.

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**Motion to adopt the June 27, 2007 Meeting Minutes**

MOVED BY:	Racine B.
SECONDED BY:	Steve P.

CARRIED

**3. AGENDA APPROVAL**

**Motion to approve revised September 20, 2007 Agenda.**

MOVED BY:	Peter J.
SECONDED BY:	Claus A.

CARRIED

## **4. NEW BUSINESS**

### *4.1 EAC Briefing – Role/ Function of EAC Committee*

Jim R. began by outlining the mandate of the Economic Advisory Commission. The EAC is an advisory body to Council on matters relating to the long term economic health of the community.

### *4.2 Retention & Expansion Officer Replacement*

Jim R. reported that this vacant position has been reviewed and will be filled within the next few months as a management position, focusing primarily on business, retention and expansion.

### *4.3 BIA Update*

Racine B. reported that the BIA, launched in Spring of 2007, is a non-profit organization that represents all downtown Maple Ridge businesses and property owners. The BIA is involved in beautification, festivals (such as Arabian Nights), promotion, parking, safety, security, crime prevention and more. The BIA exists to promote and improve the business environment in the downtown area. Its volunteers have already provided countless hours into special events, graffiti removal, improving banners along 224 Street, hiring a security company and installed more lighting to improve safety. The AGM is to be held on November 8<sup>th</sup> in MR Council Chambers from 5:30pm to 8:30pm.

### *4.4 Agricultural Advisory Committee Update*

Steve P. reported that the mandate of the Agricultural Advisory Committee is to support agriculture as a land use and economic activity within Maple Ridge. This recently formed committee is having its second meeting next week. Committee members participated in a farm tour around Maple Ridge in the summertime to get an overview of agricultural activities taking place and gain background information to understand the economics of agriculture in this community.

### *4.5 Projects Update – Filming*

Pat S. reported that filming in Maple Ridge has been extremely busy lately. We have had 13 film productions this quarter, including 41 permits. These figures do not include the most recent feature film which adds another 15 permits to our list. Although our dollar is strong, film production has definitely not slowed down.

## **5. CURRENT PROJECTS**

### *5.1 2007 Highlights & 2008 Priorities*

Guy F. reviewed the Action Plan for 2007. The strategic direction for EAC identifies three top priority sectors in which to focus on:

- 1) Advanced Manufacturing
- 2) High Technology
- 3) Education

EAC intends to coordinate economic growth with the current/proposed transportation improvements (installation of conduits in new bridges for technological improvements, liaise with Smart Growth on the Ground, Translink (re Town Centre Transit Exchange), extension of Abernathy Way to 256 St, etc.)

### *5.2 2008 Business Plan - EAC Strategic Plan*

Jim R. noted that the EAC provides input into an economic development strategy and contributes to the development of the annual business plan, as determined by Council. The vision for Economic Development, contained in the Strategic Plan, is aligned and supported by the overall Corporate Vision on Economic Development.

### 5.3 Technology

Al H. reported that he had hired a consultant to develop a technology business case and design a proposal for a new technology park in Maple Ridge. This concept would create vast employment opportunity, promote balanced and sustainable growth, and coordinate with the evolution of land use required for balanced economic growth in Maple Ridge. Al had met with NAOP regarding management of downtown Vancouver office space and how it relates to office space available in Maple Ridge.

### 5.4 Communications

Peter J. talked about the communication concept where EAC committee developed a list of important topics for discussion from an economic perspective. From this list, one topic at a time will be chosen to be reported on and forwarded to Mayor and Council through correspondence. This letter is then published in the local newspaper to inform the public about our strategy on economic issues.

## 6. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Appointed members were sworn in as EAC Commissioners for a period of two years, commencing September 1, 2007 and terminating on August 31, 2009.

Bruce West	Representing Community at Large
Claus Andrup	Representing Community at Large
Jeff Carpenter	Chair Person of the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Chamber of Commerce

George Santana, appointed Tourism Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows representative, was absent and shall be sworn in at October meeting.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

8. **NEXT MEETING** – October 18, 2007 at 7:30 am

9. **ADJOURNMENT** – meeting adjourned at 9:20 am

---

Chairperson