

City of Maple Ridge
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Committee, held on-line via ZOOM
Thursday, April 9, 2019 at 10:00 am.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dominic Kotarski, Chair	Community at Large
Camilla Brown	Community at Large
Christlana Gregory	Community at Large
Al Hogarth	Community at Large
Tom Meier	Community at Large
Councillor Yousef	City of Maple Ridge

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Wendy Dupley	Staff Liaison / Director, Economic Development
Bruce Livingstone	Business Retention and Expansion Officer, Economic Development
Karen Hansen	Administrative Assistant, Economic Development
Kathryn Baird	Tourism Coordinator, Economic Development

REGRETS/ABSENTS

James Zelinski	Community at Large
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VISITORS

Carla Guerrero	Purpose Driven Development and Planning
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1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present the Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 am

2. AGENDA ADOPTION

R20-03

It was moved and seconded

That the Agenda of April 9, 2020 be adopted

CARRIED

3. MINUTE ADOPTION

R20-04

It was moved and seconded

**That the Minutes of March 5, 2019 be amended #4 to add the words "subject to cost" to the last sentence, and
That the Minutes of March 5, 2020 be adopted.**

CARRIED

4. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A presentation was made by Carla Guerrero of Purpose Driven Development and Planning with regard to ideas on how to develop the waterfront area of Maple Ridge or utilize her organization's processes and expertise to explore possibilities with other challenging lots.

R20-05

It was moved and seconded that Council explores opportunities to develop the waterfront areas of Maple Ridge.

CARRIED

5. STAFF LIAISON UPDATE

Discussion – Business Recovery and Resiliency Action Plan (BRRAP). Wendy to lead the discussions regarding the planning and implementation of a recovery and resiliency plan for the City of Maple Ridge. Some background information was provided with the agenda package.

6. Review of Actions Plan tactics identified by the committee and Next Steps (Karen/Wendy)

6.1 Create a Mayor's Task Force to focus on ERRP:
Consider makeup of committee, mandate and details. Several members of the EDC have indicated their willingness to participate in such a task force.

R20-06

It as moved and seconded that the suggestion of a Mayor's Task Force be taken forward for consideration by Mayor and Council

CARRIED

6.2 Have the mayor appear on social media with a challenge that will benefit local businesses and to talk in general about supporting local business. Continue to promote Shop Local.

6.3 As more vacant lease space opens up look at into effective ways to fill locations left vacant by businesses no longer operating in a timely manner: e.g. by making the navigation through City Hall more expedient. Other ideas?

- 6.4 Extensions to property tax payments deadlines. Perhaps a couple months past the July deadline was suggested.
- 6.5 Reducing property tax could be considered. Perhaps no increase in taxes. The committee understands that the percentage of the property tax municipality has vs the province, plus also understands that any reduction would have revenue implications and affect abilities to adopt stimulus initiatives.
- 6.6 Leaving property tax as is so that the City has money to start larger projects that employ more people.
- 6.7 Development – no charges on extensions on development permits past one year.
- 6.8 Business Licenses – can these be suspended for those businesses who couldn't operate at this time? As per the backgrounder provided; it is worth noting that no enforcement is currently being undertaken on outstanding accounts. Business licensing operation on a calendar year, all renewal notices were sent out in November 2019 and the outstanding renewal numbers are relatively small. The license fee itself is small at \$110.
- 6.9 Ask BIA to encourage landlords to speak to their tenants individually about options.
- 6.10 Have the BIA to take a leadership role in coordinating discussions with their landlords to obtain a consensus on options for tenants in difficulty. For example: Defer rent? Forgive rent? For how long? Until when? Should interest accrue?
- 6.11 Look into other communities and who we can model after.
- 6.12 Initiate a municipal grant fund matching program to support resiliency in Maple Ridge small businesses (less than 10 employees), The grant would provide matching funds to support businesses developing a much stronger website presence website with e-commerce capabilities. When a similar situation occurs again they can easily switch from storefront to online. Ongoing, it would provide another option for revenue generation for these small operations.

Next steps were for the tactics identified to be circulated for review and then referred to the City senior management team for further review and discussion.

7. ROUNDTABLE

Nothing to report.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair, Dominic Kotarski

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