

**City of Maple Ridge**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Committee, held in  
the Bridges Boardroom, Economic Development Office, Maple Ridge on Wednesday,  
May 2, 2018, at 5:00 pm.

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Josef Lara, Chair	Community at Large
Tom Meier	Community at Large
Chrislana Gregory	Community at Large
Councillor Robson	City of Maple Ridge

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Lino Siracusa	Staff Liaison / Manager, Economic
Development	
Bruce Livingstone	Business Retention and Expansion Officer
Karen Hansen	Administrative Assistant, Economic
Development	

**REGRETS**

Oliver Perez	Community at Large
Alex Wells	Community at Large

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**1. AGENDA ADOPTION**

R18-005

It was moved and seconded

**That the Agenda of May 2, 2018 be adopted**

CARRIED

**2. MINUTE ADOPTION**

R18-006

It was moved and seconded

**That the Minutes of February 28, 2018 be adopted.**

CARRIED

**3. ONGOING AND NEW BUSINESS**

**3.1 Review of 2018 Innovation in Emerging Cities forum**

A video with excerpts from the forum was played for the committee. It will be made available through the City web site once it's finalized. On the whole, the committee felt the panels were well received, the keynote was fun and it was good to have Amazon speak as a high profile company. It was felt that the forum seemed a bit compressed this year so the smaller events could be built upon for 2019.

**3.2 Follow-up items from the 2018 Innovation in Emerging Cities forum**

### **3.2.1 Formation of Innovation Forum Task Force for 2019 event.**

A new task force will be launched with the specific task of organizing the 2019 event. It would be beneficial to work with School District 42 and Meadowridge School to encourage participation from local students. The Code-a-thon will need to be organized differently. This new task force would report directly back to the EDC.

### **3.2.2 Meeting with Ministry of Advanced Education**

Mr. Siracusa, along with Mr. Gill, Acting CAO, met with the Minister of Advanced Education in Victoria. The intention is to start the dialogue which may lead to eventually bringing post-secondary education to Maple Ridge.

### **3.2.3 Mayor's Business Walk: Brikers**

Mr. Livingstone organized and attended a tour of a new business to Maple Ridge called Brikers. This company, located in the Kanaka Business Park, expects to triple their work force in 5-10 years. There is some difficulty with hiring skilled staff.

## **4. UPDATES AND OTHER BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Tourism Strategy**

The Tourism Strategy was brought to council on April 24 and was approved.

#### **4.1.1 Tourism Advisory Committee**

Mr. Siracusa reported that the first draft of the Tourism Advisory Committee bylaw and terms of reference were presented to council on April 24. Once the bylaw is closer to its final reading, an Expression of Interest for local tourism stakeholders will be forthcoming.

#### **4.1.2 Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT)**

The MRDT is not currently supported by our local hoteliers. There may be further attempts to introduce the MRDT in the future.

### **4.2 Economic Development Department Updates**

#### **4.2.1 Strategic Property Management**

Mr. Siracusa will be managing city owned property as part of his portfolio. The current Property and Risk Manager for the city will be reporting to Mr. Siracusa but the risk management portion of the job will remain in the Clerk's Department.

#### **4.2.2 Core Security**

An additional area of responsibility for Mr. Siracusa will be downtown core security. This involves coordinating security for all the different city owned buildings and locations in the core area of Maple Ridge.

#### **4.2.3 Tourism Position**

The Economic Development office will be retaining a tourism coordinator for two days per week.

#### **4.3 Home Based Business Task Force**

The task force has completed their task of updating the new home based business bylaw and had a wrap up party. It was suggested that there be a review of the results including statistics of this by-law on an annual basis.

#### **4.4 Support lobby to attract doctors**

A group of doctors made a presentation to council on May 1, 2018 asking for the city to lobby for new doctors to come to Maple Ridge. The doctors have been working on this initiative for a long time and want to pass it along for further work. It wasn't clear whether this should be considered a city initiative but some members of the EDC would like to meet with the doctors, together with and the Chamber of Commerce, to see if there is a way to support this issue.

#### **5. Additional comments**

Members of the EDC want to discuss the topics they will be working on over the next year. This will be added as an agenda item at the next meeting.

It was suggested that new chairs were needed for the different task forces.

#### **6. Adjournment - Next Meeting, Wednesday, June 27, 2018**

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Chair, Josef Lara

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