

MINUTES
SPECIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE MEETING
BOARD ROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
FRIDAY, 2020-NOV-20, AT 9:00 A.M.

Present: Councillor Z. Maartman, Chair
Councillor J. Turley
D. Backhouse, At Large Member (joined electronically)
C. Carlile, At Large Member (joined electronically)
D. Devana, Nanaimo Airport (joined electronically at 9:02 a.m.)
W. Litchfield, Vancouver Island University Alternate (joined electronically)
J. Michell, Nanaimo Port Authority Alternate (joined electronically)
B. Moss, At Large Member
A. Sullivan, At Large Member (joined electronically at 9:04 a.m.)

Absent: C. Beaton, At Large Member
J. Green, Community Futures
K. Smythe, Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce
E. Thomas, Snuneymuxw First Nation

Staff: B. Corsan, Director, Community Development
A. Manhas, Economic Development Officer (joined electronically)
S. Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer
A. Bandurka, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Special Economic Development Task Force Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda, be adopted, as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Special Open Meeting of the Economic Development Task Force held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Friday, 2020-NOV-06 at 9:00 a.m. be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

4. REPORTS:

(a) Revised Draft Economic Development Strategy

Introduced by Bill Corsan, Director, Community Development.

Presentation:

Steve Nicol, President, Lions Gate Consulting Ltd., facilitated a discussion on the revised Draft Economic Development Strategy. Highlights included:

- Added Action Plan to the Strategy
- The resource commitments and timing for each action are laid out within strategy

D. Devana joined the meeting electronically at 9:02 a.m.

- Action Plan is for a three-year period
- Each year the Agency will review the action plan and create an annual work plan
- The Action Plan is meant to get the Agency a 'leg up' on what it will prioritize for the year
- Prioritization of action plan is listed chronologically in terms of what will need to be rolled out prior to other items

A. Sullivan joined the meeting electronically at 9:04 a.m.

Task Force discussion took place:

- Most projects tied in to 2021/2022, funding and timing may not match up
- Priorities should stretch over ten years since the Strategy is that long
- Strategy and Action Plan not consistent with the name of the External Agency (NPC and NPA are both used)
- Top five priorities need to be identified as the Agency will need a clear starting point
- The infrastructure funding plan being in 2022 is too late, funding would come available in 2021 and should be a priority for 2021
- Transportation/Cargo logistics section has no mention of the airport
- Add in that the airport has 50 hectares of land available for development and will have a focus on air cargo
- The Business Climate section needs stronger language around the Agency working with the City on permitting processes
- There is a value in having the Task Force have more concentrated focus group discussions on each priority
- The strategy should be kept at a higher level with the individual tasks in a different place in the Strategy
- At past workshops and meetings there were comments and suggestions around Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN) being included and well integrated into the Strategy

- Measurement Section – not specific on how the measurement would occur and will need to be dealt with more explicitly
- Change photo on Page 66 from the picture of repaving the Pearson Bridge
- More detail is needed on how to measure the economy and the effectiveness of the Agency
- The work with the Health and Housing Task Force should include more than just contributing money towards a study on homelessness and should include the Agency working with those that don't have the employment opportunities
- Change wording under the resources committed section on Page 70 – First Nations Economic Reconciliation as it's noted as 'minor' time required, this may not read appropriately and the time needs to be updated to 2021
- Health and Housing Task Force is more than just housing the homeless and is about the responsibility of all social issues
- The Task Force and the Agency will need to speak with SFN and find out what should be worked on together
- Page 42 has the Agency working with three nations, the Task Force should speak with SFN and obtain their opinion on speaking with the other two nations
- The content organization of the Strategy is confusing and should be streamlined and more cohesive
- Task Force could include a transmittal letter at the beginning to state the reasoning of the priorities
- Building the competency of both the internal Economic Development department and the Agency should be a priority and included in the Strategic Partnerships to figure out what other groups should be involved and brought in to participate with the Agency
- A smaller working group from the Task Force should work on the Action Plan items and priorities
- The First Nation Reconciliation piece is critical and a conversation with SFN and the Petroglyph Development Group would be helpful to ensure they see value in the Strategy
- Prioritizing a plan for 2021 is important as it won't be a fully resourced year
- The plan will need to be realistic and then the Agency and City staff can work together on the 2022 work plan
- City staff will provide Task Force members with the top five priorities from previous meetings
- The Action Plan came directly from the consultant
- The sequence of the Action Plan is important to understand
- City Staff and Councillor Turley will meet with SFN to discuss the Strategy
- The Strategy will go to a Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) meeting for Council to review and discuss and then the Strategy should be finalized in January while staff also work on the final pieces of the Agency
- The contract with Tourism Vancouver Island expires this year and won't be renewed, for the interim the Nanaimo Hospitality Association may be in the best position to look after tourism rather than the Agency

- Allow for flexibility with regards to the Action Plan and items focused beyond 2022 as the potential staff of the new Agency could have suggestions beyond the recommendations

5. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 9:40 a.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER