

**MINUTES**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Held virtually via MS Teams  
**May 9, 2023 at 12:00 pm**

Present: Councillor Zac de Vries (Chair), Tim Petropoulos, Rob Wickson, Richard Michaels, Alan Winter, Jennifer Vornbrock, Patrick Marshall (12:28 pm)

Staff: Mitchell Edgar, Economic Development Manager; Megan MacDonald, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Raymond Chan, Amber Hockin, Victoria Shannon and John Wilson

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### **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

The Chair thanked members for their interest in joining the committee. It was noted that the number of members was increased from 8 to 10 to allow for more contributions from a wider variety of committee members and a more diverse group.

### **WELCOME AND ROUNDTABLE INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed members to the new Saanich Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC). Roundtable introductions of the Chair, committee members and staff took place.

### **REVIEW OF COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Chair noted that the EDAC Terms of Reference were included with the agenda for information, the mandate and purpose were briefly discussed.

### **INTRODUCTION OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

The Economic Development Manager introduced the upcoming Saanich Economic Development Strategy, the following was noted:

- Work on the Economic Development Strategy began approximately one year ago.
- A consultant was hired to develop the strategy, they began with an analysis and background research in December, engagement was started and focus groups were held in February with 51 attendees in seven different groups.
- A community survey was conducted online with over 1300 participants, and key informant interviews are being conducted with stakeholders.
- There will be a public open house held at the Municipal Hall on May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7:00 – 8:30 pm, committee members were invited to attend. This will include information on the preliminary goals and objectives, feedback will be gathered to ensure that the strategy is on the right track.
- A draft Economic Development Strategy will be ready by mid-June, this will be included on the agenda for discussion at the June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. Following feedback and discussion the strategy will be forwarded to Council for approval.

- A grant was obtained from the Provincial Government to conduct a Food Hub Feasibility Study. A consultant was hired in the fall, the report will be circulated to committee members. Extensive consultation took place, and a recommendation for an Indigenous Food Hub to be created at Camosun was put forward.
- The 2022 Lazer Canadian Cyclocross Championships were held at Layritz Park, the second year will also take place in November.
- Partnerships are being explored for many initiatives to ensure economic growth.
- Opportunities for new hubs and centers may exist as aging structures and centers need to be redeveloped.
- Documents highlighting current projects and providing additional information can be provided in advance of the June committee meeting, and will form part of the agenda.

In response to questions and comments from the committee, the following was noted:

- The strategy will be the first of its kind in Saanich. There is language in the Official Community Plan about aspects of the strategy, however a strategy is not yet in place.
- There has been an analysis of types of employment, number of sectors and several other factors. Staff will endeavour to provide this to committee members.
- The Economic Development page on Saanich.ca outlines current projects, it was recommended that committee members visit the website to review current documents.
- The film hub at Camosun will have a significant impact on regional economic growth.

\*\*\* Committee member P. Marshall joined the meeting at 12:28 \*\*\*

P. Marshall introduced himself and his background to the committee.

It was noted that committee members are welcome to suggest a guest speaker for a presentation during a committee meeting. This can help to provide information and support detailed discussions.

## ADJOURNMENT

On a motion from R. Michaels the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m. The next meeting is Tuesday September 27, 2023.

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Councillor de Vries, Chair  
I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary