



Economic Development Advisory Committee

Friday, January 26, 2018 – 8:00 a.m.
City Hall, Committee Room #2

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Bill Harper	- Chair, City Council Member
Councillor Mary Trentadue	- City Council Representative
Danison Buan	- Community Member
Kendra Johnston	- Downtown New Westminster Business Improvement Association Representative
Lizz Kelly	- New Westminster Chamber of Commerce Representative (arrived at 8:10 a.m.)
David Moulton	- Community Member

MEMBER REGRETS:

Jorden Foss	- Community Member
Michael McGreer	- Community Member
Reg Nordman	- Community Member

GUESTS:

Catherine Williams

STAFF PRESENT:

Blair Fryer	- Manager of Communications and Economic Development
Carolyn Armanini	- Economic Development Coordinator
Ruby Campbell	- Intergovernmental & Community Partnerships Manager
Patricia Jecks	- Intelligent City Project Coordinator (exited at 9:46 a.m.)

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no items.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of November 3, 2017

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the November 3, 2017 Economic Development Advisory Committee Minutes be adopted.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favor of the motion.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Intelligent City Update

Patricia Jecks, Intelligent City Project Coordinator, reported that an *Intelligent New West Smart Cities Challenge* workshop would be held on Wednesday, January 31, 2018 at City Hall. Through the development of a challenge statement, the City would decide if they would be proceeding with their own application for federal funding, or if they would be joining with the City of Vancouver and the City of Surrey on their joint community application. New Westminster would only join in the application if their challenge statement and goals align with the goals identified by the community at the Smart Cities Challenge workshop.

Procedural Note: Liz Kelly entered the meeting at 8:10 a.m.

Ms. Jecks provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the implementation of the Intelligent City Strategy to all City programs, projects and processes.

In response to questions from the Committee, Blair Fryer, Manager of Communications and Economic Development, and Councillor Bill Harper, Chair, provided the following information:

- An integrated implementation model would need to be developed for the Intelligent City Strategy;
- Providing reports to the City on a regular basis would be encouraged to further develop this strategy;
- BridgeNet access for small businesses is currently being discussed at the Intelligent City Management Committee level. A solution involving arrangements with other Internet Services Providers (ISPs) to deliver a scaled service to small businesses at a more affordable price is currently being discussed. Any decision regarding this matter would need to be approved by Council, as it could change the financial revenue structure for the City; and,

- Providing a scaled service to smaller businesses is a fundamental component of the Intelligent City strategy and the Economic Development Plan.

3.2 Innovation Week Update

Ruby Campbell, Intergovernmental & Community Partnerships Manager, provided an overview of the events taking place during Innovation Week. The following information was provided:

- Information for the week's events can be found through a link on the City's website;
- The theme for the week would be transportation;
- Sponsors include Amazon, Douglas College, Landcor Data Corporation, TransLink, and Vancity;
- Innovation Week would be kicking off with a reception on Friday, February 23rd which would connect the City's open data network to sound through a visual presentation;
- Child and youth workshops would be held at Century House and the New West Youth Centre;
- A discussion with Alden E. Habacon, Diversity and Inclusion Strategist, would be held in Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, February 26th. The event would also be livestreamed, utilizing interactive web-based conversation tools;
- Robin Chase, co-founder and former CEO of Zipcar, will be the keynote speaker for a Transportation Forum held on Thursday, March 1st; and,
- A 2018 Innovation Forum would be held with federal and provincial funders available to support programs. The Forum would include discussions and presentations, followed by a Business Expo on February 28th.

Lizz Kelly, New Westminster Chamber of Commerce Representative, provided a brief summary of the Business Expo, which would be taking place from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Anvil Centre. The event would host a variety of speakers, a Child and Youth Entrepreneurial area, and twenty minute sessions with experts for Entrepreneurs of small businesses. An artist would also be present for the event, utilizing ideas throughout the day to create an arts instillation.

Patricia Jecks, Intelligent City Coordinator, reported the following information:

- An Intelligent City booth would be set up at the Business Expo which would showcase the Intelligent New West video and capture feedback from the community regarding the Smart Cities Challenge; and,

- The Intelligent New West: A Smart Cities Dialogue would be held on February 28, 2018 from 8:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Anvil Centre. This event would provide the community with an update regarding the initiatives and progress of Intelligent New West. A panel discussion would also take place, which would be moderated by Belle Puri. The event would wrap up with keynote speaker Caroline Leko, founder of the Wireless Innovation Network of B.C.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Including children and youth members in Innovation Week activities was encouraged, as the Intelligent City knowledge workforce has identified that preparing newer generations for the digital workforce would be crucial; and,
- Including the home-grown sharing service ‘BuzzIt’ was suggested, as it could provide additional support and interest in Innovation Week activities.

3.3 IDEA Centre Update

Ruby Campbell, Intergovernmental & Community Partnerships Manager, summarized an On-Table handout and provided the following additional information:

- The IDEA Centre would be a valuable opportunity for economic development;
- A variety of partnerships and consultation would be considered when looking into building a research centre;
- The goal would be to find a location in close proximity to Royal Columbia Hospital (RCH);
- The City is working to facilitate relationships in order to find a useable location, such as a sub-rental option through a developer;
- Fraser Health is currently looking to develop a research mandate;
- In addition to raising money towards hospital equipment, RCH is now encouraging investors to donate to innovation;
- Innovation Boulevard is currently working with the City to see if there is an opportunity to have access to RCH, as they are currently overprescribed at Surrey Memorial;
- Discussions with Life Sciences B.C. have been positive, with an understanding that this could be a huge opportunity for growth; and,
- The City is in discussions with Fraser Health and would be sharing the cost of an Executive Director with Royal Columbian Hospital Foundation.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Campbell provided the following information:

- Research projects through doctors at RCH, innovation space for primary research regarding aging prevention and sustainability, and an expansion of research labs with the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University are all currently envisioned for the IDEA Centre; and,
- The City would be working with Innovation Boulevard to ensure that research is not being duplicated between Surrey Memorial Hospital and RCH. It is also expected that cross-promotion between the two facilities would take place.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Economic Development Plan (EDP) Update – draft strategies and actions

Blair Fryer, Manager of Communications and Economic Development, summarized a PowerPoint presentation regarding the draft strategies and actions for the Economic Development Plan (EDP).

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Fryer provided the following information:

- Workshops within the City have been successful, with staff showing their support for the EDP;
- An action for the implementation of the EDP would be to create a “business hub”, which would serve as a single point of contact for businesses; and,
- The next step would be to present the EDP to Council for further discussions. A further update regarding this matter would be provided at the next meeting.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Breaking down the silos within City departments was encouraged;
- Utilizing a single point of contact through a “business hub” could create a more business-friendly environment; and,
- Providing information to only one employee in the business Hub could be problematic. Instead, it was suggested that several employees have access to the appropriate information.

Procedural Note: Patricia Jecks exited the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

6.0 REPORTS

There were no items.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Friday, March 2, 2018

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

Certified Correct,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Councillor Bill Harper
Chair

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Debbie Johnstone
Committee Clerk