

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**January 7, 2022**

**Meeting Held Electronically**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Mary Trentadue*	Chair, City Council Member
Councillor Chinu Das*	City Council Representative
Bob Crockett*	Sectoral Representative from Local Business Community
Alejandro Diaz*	Community Representative from Commercial Area
Mark Evans*	Sectoral Representative from Local Business Community
Jorden Foss*	Community Representative from Commercial Area
Kendra Johnston*	Representative, Downtown New Westminister Business Improvement Association
Vera Kobalia*	Sectoral Representative from Local Business Community

**ABSENT:**

Artemisa Bega	Sectoral Representative from Local Business Community
Jolene Foreman	Community Representative from Commercial Area
Nikki Morris	Representative, New Westminister Chamber of Commerce
Bart Slotman	Representative, Uptown Business Association
Paul Romein	Sectoral Representative from Local Business Community
Catherine Williams	Sectoral Representative from Local Business Community

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Jen Arbo	Economic Development Coordinator
Blair Fryer	Manager, Communications & Economic Development
Katie Stobbart	Committee Clerk

\*Denotes electronic attendance

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1. **CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Councillor Trentadue opened the meeting at 9:02 a.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem-speaking peoples. She acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. She recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

2. **INTRODUCTIONS AND ICEBREAKERS**

There were no items.

3. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Committee will address New Business before Standing Reports and Updates.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

4.1 **November 5, 2021**

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting held on November 5, 2021 be adopted.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

5. **REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

There were no items.

## **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

There were no items.

## **7. STANDING REPORTS AND UPDATES**

**Procedural Note:** New Business was addressed before Standing Reports and Updates. The minutes are recorded in numerical order.

### **7.1 Downtown New Westminster Business Improvement Association**

Kendra Johnston, Representative, Downtown New Westminster Business Improvement Association (DBIA), reported the following:

- The Downtown has been dealing with several layers of challenges on top of COVID-19, construction, etc.;
- Heading into winter with the Omicron variant peaking in the province, mental health has become a big focus of the BIA's communications;
- This winter will be a tough one for our downtown businesses. Pushing shopping local and internally providing mental health resources to our members will be important;
- Shine Bright continues until February 1, so light installations will stay in place until then.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **8.1 Downtown Livability Plan and Discussion**

Jen Arbo, Economic Development Coordinator, provided a presentation entitled "Downtown Livability Strategy".

In response to Committee questions, Ms. Arbo and Blair Fryer, Manager, Communications & Economic Development, noted the following:

- Street vendors, mobile vendors, and other vendors are all different designations. Ms. Arbo will discuss with Planning whether this can be streamlined;
- There is a provision for temporary use permits for a space in which the land use designation does not necessarily match what someone wants to use the space for. It has some limitations related to how long the permit can be used; and
- Temporary closures or vacancies are not as much a cause for concern as long-term vacancies in the Downtown.

In discussion, the Committee noted the following:

- The Downtown BIA has run a public space activation program for the last three years and are happy to pass on learnings to the City;
- The Arts Council is supportive of additional vibrancy in the Downtown area, e.g. busking, working studio spaces for artists; and
- It would be helpful to have a report on the City's full range of ability to intervene in long-term vacant properties.

**9. END OF MEETING**

On MOTION, the meeting ended at 9:35 a.m.

**10. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

The remaining meetings scheduled for 2022, which take place at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted:

- March 4
- May 6
- July 8
- September 2
- December 2

Certified Correct,

Original Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Councillor Mary Trentadue  
Chair**

Original Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Katie Stobbart  
Committee Clerk**