

Economic Resiliency Task Force
Meeting Minutes
July 22, 2020

PRESENT:

Mayor Keith Bertrand
Councillor Joanne Kirby
John Powell
Jessie Olsen
Jerrilyn Schembri
Mila Lansdowne
Ronke Solomon
Tim Croston

ABSENT:

Councillor Will Howe
Helen Scott
David Durrant
Sherri-Lynn Hewitt

1. Call to Order: 9:15am
2. Approval of Agenda:
3. Approval of June 24-25, 2020 minutes: Joanne & Keith
4. Economic and Community Resiliency Projects

- **Fridge magnets** – design not approved by Council – council wanted the 1-800-Suicide number moved farther down the list as well as the golf course, pool and VIC added. Also added the DTR public works emergency call-out number. Invest TR website removed. Council felt that an equal opportunity was not given to all businesses in town. Council suggested opening it up to all businesses to see if they want to contribute to the magnet. There is not a lot of room to add logos. Suggestion to open it to other industry companies – would need a closing date for offers. If we don't put the Meikle logo on – would they still donate the money to the task force for something else? Suggestion to find a matching industry sponsor to match Meikle's donation. Design two more magnets one with the extra numbers removed, one with them left on. Reach out for sponsors with a business sponsors with a 1-2 week time frame. Keith is hoping for final draft to be ready for the first August council meeting.

- **Local food security and self-sufficiency – worm farm**; increasing resiliency in Tumbler Ridge. We have a community garden but it is not that easy to grow things here. Vermiculture: benefits - diverts waste from the landfill and the worms create black dirt, possibility of being able to sell the compost and we already have the space at the landfill. Keith would like to bring this forward to Council. Initial cost to set-up around \$200,000. Northern Rockies did a low cost pilot project. There was a presentation at a PRRD meeting (http://prrd.bc.ca/board/agendas/2019/2019-36-132125488/pages/documents/06-D-2NRRM_vermicomposting.pdf). Suggestion to also add options such as large greenhouses. Look at this as a wider food security project. John suggests a call with Robert McAleney from Northern Lights College. The idea of food security could also open up to things like farmers markets. Community Forest – suggestion that they could offer firewood to citizens of Tumbler Ridge (seniors etc.) to address issues with heating etc. Discussion about making wood pellets from CF to heat greenhouses. Suggestion to invite specialists to join an ERTF meeting so they can speak to these specific issues – invite Duncan McKellar from the CF to next meeting.
- **Labour Market Partnership** – John reports that it is moving along, breaking it into 2 parts. First part is coming together, second might be a better project for 2021. Looking at a thorough review of the 2016

report, how to fill the gaps in some of the sectors. Should be able to include the technological challenged (fiber optics issue) in the report. John will need to find a consultant to do that work and the province will pay for it. Need to hone in the ideas. Incorporate the work that has already been done (Ec Dev Strategy, OCP, Urban Design Guidelines etc.). Trying to be efficient. Purpose of the LMP is to focus on gaps and what the solutions should be. Second part - look at downtown with a focus on the facts that people can shop online or out of town so easily. Work BC – still waiting for the re-opening of the Community Centre, the province wants to help with those type of issues as well with skill retraining etc. Obair Society out of Dawson Creek would also like to do meetings/presentations on retraining etc.

5. Round Table Updates:

- **Cancellation of the home delivery service;** - the service was starting to be abused. High uptake at beginning but staff decided that it is time to shut this down. Joanne disagrees with the cancellation, should not be taken away from the people who need it. Mila suggests to add a \$5 fee to the service. Does the DTR need to run the service or can the businesses themselves figure out a solution? The DTR filled a gap when it was needed, but now the businesses should be able to decide for themselves if the service is still needed. Double check if this was a Council motion or a staff decision. It is set to end this Friday July 24th.
- **Senior Buddy Program** – Keith spoke with Glenn Miller and suggested the Junior Rangers, and asked to suggest to the Forever Young board, Keith will continue to reach out to gauge their thoughts.
- **Financial Planning Workshop** – Keith and John reached out to Collette with IG Wealth Management, looking at a September date.

- **Resiliency discussion** – Keith asks for peoples thoughts on putting together a summary for Council of what we have found from the survey results, areas identified that need more attention and recommendations that Council should consider. List: connectivity, magnet, financial workshop, LMP, newsletter, senior-buddy program and possibly the worm farm/food security. The list shows a theme of what the ERTF has focused on and what we need to continue towards focused on resiliency.
- Being able to overcome issues. Need to see what businesses themselves are going through, talk one on one. Maybe they have good ideas that could help them out.
- Business walks – divide community into segments and Mayor, Council, EDO could go and have in-person brief discussions with businesses (businesses would know it was happening ahead of time). Ask about current challenges, future challenges and potential solutions.
- Task force could have an open house/zoom with businesses to get a current snapshot on how they are doing. Suggestion to send out an email with 3/4 questions to all businesses.
- Jerrilyn reports it is really a mixed bag of responses from businesses in TR facing the effects of Covid-19.
- One successful business façade grant applicant and two others that will be applying.

6. Identify next steps:

- Finalize magnet for August Council meeting. Send email to businesses asking if they want to sponsor.
- Invite Duncan from the Community Forest to a task force meeting (next week).
- Invite NLC Robert McAleney to a future ERTF meeting.
- Summary to council, survey results, areas that need more attention.

7. Next meetings:

9am, Wednesday 29 July, 2020

3:30pm, Thursday 30 July, 2020