

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ray Olfert, Chair
Denise Sumner, Vice Chair
Jim Sands, Town of Blackfalds Deputy Mayor
Brenda Dennis, Town of Blackfalds Councillor
Kala Pandit, Member at Large
Tyler Mitchell, Member at Large
Robert Hogan, Member at Large

OTHERS ATTENDING

Mayor Hoover, Town of Blackfalds Mayor (Ex Officio)
Peter McGee, Economic Development Officer
Lorrie Logan, Municipal Clerk

REGRETS

Craig Schroh, Member at Large
Christa French, Member at Large
Cory Twerdoclib, Member at Large
Kyle Braithwaite, Member at Large

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Olfert welcomed all attending and called the Economic Development & Tourism Advisory Committee Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

RECEIVE THE AGENDA

Addition of Business Item 4.2 was added - Member at Large Resignation and renumber the remaining items.

Motion:

Vice Chair Sumner moved That the Economic Development & Tourism Advisory Committee receive the Agenda for September 9, 2024, as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

TREATY SIX LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A Land Acknowledgement was read to acknowledge that the Town of Blackfalds is on Treaty Six territory.

PRESENTATIONS

None



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BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

Motion:

Councillor Dennis moved That the Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from June 10, 2024, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Notice of Resignation

A letter of resignation was received from Member at Large - Cliff Soper.

Motion:

Member Mitchell moved that the Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee receive the Letter of Resignation from Member at Large Cliff Soper with regrets and bring it forward to a future Regular Council Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Report for Committee, Laebon Development Update

The due diligence has been extended for this project until mid September or so.

Report for Committee, Neuron Report

No information to report at this time.

Report for Committee, Blackfalds Summer Update

Events:

2024 National Women's Fastball Championship

- They are eager to return
- They mentioned that the town has the best facilities they have ever encountered.
- They were amazed by the exceptional customer service the town provided
- The Town anticipates hosting more events in the future.

Other events include:

- Jump Jam - Vesta Energy Bike Skills Park
- 2024 Provincial Men's Senior C Lacrosse Championship
- 2024 Ladies Provincial Fastball Championship

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- 2024 U13 & U15 Provincial Girls Softball Championship

Census

- Total Population – 11, 415
- Largest Group – 36-40 – (9.8%)
- Second Largest Group – 0-5 (9%)
- 4,486 employed respondents

Top 3 Industries

- Natural Resources – 842
- Healthcare/Social Assistance – 572
- Construction – 532

New High School

- Opened in September 2024 with an initial enrollment of 300 Students and has the capacity to accommodate up to 500 students.
- Lots of Business teaching opportunities – (Welding, Cosmetics etc.)

Dairy Innovation West

- Construction is ongoing.
- The facility will accommodate up to 35 trucks per day, instead of the previously mentioned 75.
- A significant increase in dairy quotas is expected in Central Alberta once it opens.
- Communicated with commercial businesses to inform them about current developments, enabling them to recognize farmers who might be looking to expand their operations.

Rural Entrepreneur Stream

- Connected with 13 international entrepreneurs. One is awaiting provincial approval. Conducted exploration visits with two others.

Round Table

- Peter will be distributing a quarterly newsletter to all businesses.
- South Street closure: A sanitary line is being installed to support the town's growth and will connect to Aspelund Park, Dairy Innovations, and other areas.
- The Gravel pit on the south side of town is causing an odor due to a broken scrubber at the plant.
- Peter inquired about the direction the group would like to take.
- Building and development reports are requested to be included on the agenda package again. It was mentioned that this information is also available on the Blackfalds Website.

**TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Civic Cultural Centre – 5018 Waghorn Street
Monday, September 9, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

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- A committee member has requested a review of the Economic Development & Tourism strategy noting that it has been three years since the last review.
- Additionally, there is a desire for increased advertising for major events such as Nationals.
- There is a desire for more delegations to present information to the committee such as Travel Alberta, Red Deer Tourism, CAPE etc.
- Deputy Mayor Sands moved That the Economic Development & Tourism Advisory Committee receive the Reports as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Chair Olfert, adjourned the Economic Development & Tourism Advisory Committee Meeting at 7:54 p.m.

- Original Signed -

Ray Olfert, Chair

- Original Signed -

Lorrie Logan, Municipal Clerk