

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, November 29, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Committee convened on Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 7:01 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Trish Mandewo, Chair
Councillor Steve Kim, Vice Chair
Zorica Andjelic, Citizen Representative
Mohammad Darwish, Citizen Representative (arrived at 7:09 p.m.)
Marion Lochhead, Citizen Representative (arrived at 7:02 p.m.)
Rohith Manhas, Citizen Representative (arrived at 7:03 p.m.)
Elizabeth Mayorga, Citizen Representative
Deryck Persaud, Citizen Representative
Matthew Sebastiani, Citizen Representative
John Toor, Citizen Representative (arrived at 7:12 p.m.)
Vanessa Wideski, Citizen Representative
Catherine Williams, Douglas College – Coquitlam Campus

REGRETS: Emma Friess, Citizen Representative
JJ Lee, Citizen Representative
Kathryn Millar, Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce

STAFF: Jonathan Helmus, Director Utilities
Eric Kalnins, Acting Manager Economic Development
Edward Tain, Business Growth Manager
Amanda Gleave, Filming Coordinator
Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Marion Lochhead arrived to the meeting at this time (7:02 p.m.).

Rohith Manhas arrived to the meeting at this time (7:03 p.m.).

The Minutes of the Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, September 27, 2023 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Streetscape Enhancement Program Update

The Director Utilities and Acting Manager Economic Development provided a presentation entitled “EDAC – Streetscape Enhancement Program Update” that covered the following topics:

- Overview and update of the Streetscape Enhancement Mural Project (hereon “the Project”)
- Collaboration between Vancouver Mural Festival (VMF) and the Culture Services Advisory Committee (CSAC)
- The Project’s feature lighting, gateway signage and architectural place-making enhancements across Coquitlam

Mohammad Darwish arrived to the meeting at this time (7:09 p.m.).

John Toor arrived to the meeting at this time (7:12 p.m.).

Staff’s presentation continued on the following topics:

- The Project’s promotion and marketing campaigns
- Future mural sites across Coquitlam
- Collaboration with kwikwə́łəm on a future mural for Town Centre Park Community Centre (TCPCC)

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The Program’s murals, including total number across Coquitlam, City policies in terms of mural criteria and themes, possibility of lighting murals at night and installing plaques that display artist information
- Possibility of expanding neutral and white street tree lighting to other streets in Coquitlam

3. Film Program Update

The Acting Manager Economic Development introduced the Filming Coordinator and provided a presentation entitled “Filming in Coquitlam EDAC Update 2023” that covered the following topics:

- Overview of film productions in Coquitlam, including City revenues, top filming locations, notable films and movies filmed in Coquitlam, challenges, permitting process and community partnerships
- Scale of BC’s motion picture industry by productions, jobs and revenue

- BC Film industry's efforts to synergize productions with clean energy and climate initiatives
- Coquitlam Film Strategy and synergy with the City's Economic Development Strategy (EDS)
- City efforts to promote reconciliation at səmiqʷəʔelə (Suh-MEE-kwuh-EL-uh)/Riverview
- Data breakdown of issued filming permits from 2018 to 2023
- Opportunities to capitalize on benefits of film productions such as film tourism, marketing and promotion of local area

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Jurisdictional control of səmiqʷəʔelə (Suh-MEE-kwuh-EL-uh)/Riverview
- COVID-19 pandemic being the primary reason for City film revenue discrepancy from 2020 to 2021.
- Film industry writer and actor labour strikes being the primary reason for decreased City film revenue in 2023
- Whether the City will hire more staff to manage film production liaising, marketing and promotion
- Possible initiatives for the City to undertake, including attracting technology companies that work on film and television (TV) post-production, issuing temporary use permits for film productions to use empty developer-owned buildings, disseminating information about film industry jobs to residents, studying direct economic benefits of filming in Coquitlam, linking film productions with the City's Streetscape Enhancement Program murals, utilizing Douglas College's Coquitlam campus for films, attracting animation and computer-generated imagery (CGI) productions to Coquitlam and running a marketing campaign/competition to promote local Christmas displays in film productions
- The film industry's seasonal nature and whether this trend has changed
- Revenue generated for Coquitlam's local economy from film productions, types of current productions and revenue and film production trends for the next five years
- The balance of providing opportunities for film productions while maintaining sufficient community space and services for residents
- Whether the City has forecasts for future film productions

4. 2023 Year-End Review/Identify Potential Items for the Draft 2024 Work Plan

The Acting Manager Economic Development and Business Growth Manager provided a presentation entitled "2023 Year-End Review & 2024 Work Plan Discussion" that covered the following topics:

- Review of 2023 Work Plan items and meetings
- 2024 Work Plan drafting process
- Staff appreciation for the Committee's volunteerism and feedback in 2023
- Planning and next steps for potential establishment of the North Road Business Improvement Association (BIA)

Mohammad Darwish left the meeting at this time (8:22 p.m.).

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Airbnb's impact on local hotel development and revenues
- Whether the City's Economic Development Division will collaborate with the Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities Department to develop the Festivals and Events Strategy
- Possibility of studying the local economic impact of festivals and events hosted in Coquitlam, utilizing a passport mobile application for event and festival attendees, offering public engagement opportunities for City Centre business development, incentivizing local businesses to stay open later in the evening during winter months, hosting an art festival in Town Centre Park and providing positive economic benefit data regarding festivals and events to residents
- The City's Business Visitation Program scope and purpose
- Sports tourism and concern regarding the lack of hotels in Coquitlam
- Benefits and challenges of hosting large events and festivals in Coquitlam
- The City's 2024 Economic Development Competitiveness Study scope and purpose
- The importance of Coquitlam being innovative in terms of budgeting and channeling revenue to services and programs

5. Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Issues

The Chair invited Committee members to share information and emerging issues from the community.

The following information was shared:

- The Homelessness Services Association of BC's 2023 Homeless Count in Greater Vancouver report and concern regarding the lack of housing and shelter space in Coquitlam
- Concern regarding economic inequality in Coquitlam and the importance of applying novel approaches to longstanding socioeconomic issues
- The necessity of providing outreach and resources for unhoused individuals in Coquitlam

- The necessity of collaborating with businesses and non-profits to mitigate effects of homelessness and drug overdose crisis
- Concern regarding Crohn's and Colitis Canada's Gutsy Walk fundraiser being denied access to booking the Town Centre Park Amphitheater

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – TBD (2024)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Trish Mandewo, Chair

Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk