

# Municipality of North Cowichan Economic Development Committee MINUTES

May 31, 2024, 1:30 p.m.  
Municipal Hall - Large Committee Room

Members Present Mayor Rob Douglas Chair  
Councillor Bruce Findlay  
Councillor Chris Istace

Staff Present George Farkas, General Manager, Planning, Development and Community Services  
Jeff Miller, Senior Manager, Engineering  
Jennifer Aldcroft, Climate Change Specialist  
Neil Pukesh, Director, Parks and Recreation  
Tricia Mayea, Corporate Officer

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

## 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

## 3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the Committee adopt the minutes of the meeting held February 23, 2024.

CARRIED

## 4. UNFINISHED AND POSTPONED BUSINESS

None.

## 5. BUSINESS

### 5.1 Cowichan Trail Stewardship Society

Neil Pukesh, Director, Parks and Recreation, provided an introductory presentation outlining previous Council direction given in relation to reviewing Mt. Richard's trail sanctioning. A copy of the presentation is available as a Supplemental Item on the Agendas, Minutes & Video webpage.

Aggie Weighill, Vancouver Island University, Faculty of Management, provided a presentation on behalf of Cowichan Trails Stewardship Society, sharing the results of the Trail User Survey, and answered question from the Committee. A copy of the presentation is available as a Supplemental Item on the Agendas, Minutes & Video webpage.

**5.2 Economic Development Action Plan – What We Heard Report**

The Economic Development Action Plan – What We Heard: Engagement Summary Report was reviewed by the committee and received for information.

**5.3 Economic Development Action Plan - Requests to Present**

- (1) Sarah Campbell, Craft Cannabis Association of BC provided an overview of their business, highlighted tourism, and sector development opportunities, and suggested policy considerations.
- (2) Ben Clark, Director, Delphi Group submitted his regrets and indicated he would be happy to present at a future meeting.
- (3) Randal Huber, Managing Director, Chemainus Theatre Festival provided an overview of the Chemainus Theatre Festival including its history, benefits to the community, opportunities, the path forward, and some of the challenges they've had.
- (4) Heather Young, Under the Oak Farm provided a brief overview of their farm and submitted a list of key points to support agriculture.
- (5) Alan Hoffman, SkeenaPublishing provided an overview of their business.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the meeting be extended until 4:30 p.m.

CARRIED

Copies of the presentations and materials provided by the businesses are available to view as Supplemental Items on North Cowichan's Agendas, Minutes & Video webpage.

**5.4 Update from the Cowichan Valley Regional District**

Barry O'Riordan and Brittany Taylor from Economic Development Cowichan provided a status update on regional projects.

**5.5 Industrial Lands Servicing Activities**

Jeff Miller, Senior Manager, Engineering, provided a verbal update on industrial lands servicing activities.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting ended at 3:53 p.m.

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Certified by Recording Secretary

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Signed by Chair;