

Minutes of a Meeting of the Wood Buffalo Development Advisory Committee held in Room 207, at the Municipal Offices in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, commencing at 9:00 AM.

Present:

Bryce Kumka, Chair, Business Community via MS Teams
Jennifer Vardy, Vice-Chair, Public At Large
Bilal Abbas, Public-At-Large via MS Teams
Justin Ellis, Public At Large via MS Teams
Steven Hale, Education Sector via MS Teams
Alex McKenzie, Land Development Sector
David Secord, Business Community via MS Teams
Purva Sharma, Arts, Culture and Recreation Representative via MS Teams
Ijeoma Uche-Ezeala, Public-At-Large via MS Teams
Rene Wells, Public-At-Large

Absent:

Dan Soupal, Land Development Industry
Aurick de Sousa, Community Development
Raj Vasal, Community Development
Stu Wigle, Councillor

Administration:

Kevin Meacher, Program Manager, Municipal Initiatives
Lauri-Anne St. George, Program Manager, Strategic Planning & Program Management
Sonia Soutter, Manager, Senior Legislative Officer
Destiny Hilliard, Clerk, Legislative Services

1. Call to Order

Due to the Chair Bryce Kumka participating via MS Teams, Vice Chair Jennifer Vardy assumed the Chair and called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION:

THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Alex McKenzie
SECONDER:	Rene J.K. Wells
FOR:	Abbas, , Hale, Kumka, McKenzie, Secord, Sharma, Uche-Ezeala Vardy, Wells
ABSENT:	DeSousa, Ellis, Soupal, Vasal

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

3.1. Wood Buffalo Development Advisory Committee Meeting - February 1, 2023

MOTION:

THAT the Minutes of the February 1, 2023 Wood Buffalo Development Advisory Committee, be approved as presented.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bryce Kumka
SECONDER:	Ijeoma Uche-Ezeala
FOR:	Abbas, Hale, Kumka, McKenzie, Secord, Sharma, Uche-Ezeala Vardy, Wells
ABSENT:	DeSousa, Ellis, Soupal, Vasal

4. New and Unfinished Business

4.1. Downtown Area Redevelopment Plan Final Engagement

Entrance

Committee Member J. Ellis joined the meeting at 9:26 a.m.

Chris Booth, Manager, Planning and Development, presented the Downtown Area Redevelopment Plan highlighting that the project's purpose is to respond to the Downtown's changing social, economic and cultural conditions and to guide further development of the Downtown. An outline of the plan's structure, project progress and next steps were overviewed, where objectives of the plan were reviewed, and it was noted that this plan is in the final engagement phase and following public engagement, the feedback received will be reviewed and as the final document is considered a Statutory Plan, the document will go forward to Council for enactment.

Committee Members discussed the plan and provided feedback for consideration.

Vacating, Assuming and Resuming of Chair

Vice Chair Jennifer Vardy vacated the Chair at 10:33 a.m., at which time Committee Member Alex McKenzie assumed the Chair. Vice Chair Jennifer Vardy resumed the Chair at 10:37 a.m.

4.2. Downtown Revitalization Incentive Program Update

Chris Booth, Manager, Planning and Development, provided a brief update on the Downtown Revitalization Incentive Program that was introduced in June 2020 noting the program's success, with an overall 191 approved applications and \$7 million that's been committed based on the approved applications. It was further noted that the programs current phase has received 40 applications to date and will close in April 2023.

4.3. 2023 Committee Priorities Update

Vice Chair Jennifer Vardy provided an update on behalf of the Priorities Working Group, on the work that has been undertaken towards prioritizing and identifying the Committee's initiatives for 2023 and future years. Following discussions of the Committee it was agreed to bring this matter back for discussion at the next Committee meeting and include an overview of initiatives accomplished in 2022.

Committee members discussed the Committee's year-end report to Council and feedback was provided on the timelines associated with presenting to Council at an upcoming regular meeting.

Exits

Bryce Kumka exited the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Bilal Abbas exited the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

4.4. Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction Correspondence Update

Vice Chair Jennifer Vardy provided a brief overview of the correspondence that was received from the Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction noting there is a new Minister of Red Tape Reduction and that the mandate has been reestablished.

With consensus of the Committee, a letter from the Chair will be sent to the new Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction requesting quarterly meetings be scheduled.

4.5. Clean Energy Improvement Program

Committee Member Justin Ellis presented the Clean Energy Improvement Program (CEIP) that is administered by the Alberta Municipalities Association noting that this program is Alberta's innovative financing tool enabling residential and commercial property owners to pay for energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades.

Committee Members agreed to form a working group that will complete a feasibility study on the CEIP and present the findings to the Committee for consideration as an initiative of the Committee.

Committee Members, Justin Ellis, Ijeoma Uche-Ezeala, Alex McKenzie and Jennifer Vardy expressed interest in participating in the working group

Exits

Steven Hale exited the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Chair