

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Wood Buffalo Pro-Business Advisory Committee of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo held in Room 207, at the Municipal Offices in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, commencing at 1:00 PM.**

**Present:**

Dianna de Sousa, Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce , Chair  
Carmelo Daprocida, BILD Wood Buffalo  
Robbie Picard, Public-At-Large  
Kristi Hines, Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo Economic Development and Tourism  
Lana Maloney, Fort McMurray Construction Association  
John Rybak, Consulting Engineers of Alberta, Wood Buffalo

**Absent:**

Michelle Toner, Northeastern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association  
Stu Wigle, Councillor

**Administration:**

Dennis Vroom, Program Manager, Municipal Initiatives  
Sonia Soutter, Manager, Senior Legislative Officer

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Dianna de Sousa called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

**MOTION:**

THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Kristi Hines
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Robbie Picard
<b>FOR:</b>	Daprocida, de Sousa, Hines, Maloney, Picard, Rybak
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Toner

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**3.1. Wood Buffalo Pro-Business Advisory Committee Meeting – September 13, 2023**

**MOTION:**

THAT the Minutes of the Wood Buffalo Pro-Business Advisory Committee held on September 13, 2023, be approved as presented.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Kristi Hines
<b>SECONDER:</b>	John Rybak
<b>FOR:</b>	Daprocida, de Sousa, Hines, Maloney, Picard, Rybak
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Toner

**4. New and Unfinished Business**

**4.1. Introduction of New Committee Member**

Although not in attendance the appointment of Michelle Toner, Northeastern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association Representative was noted for the record.

**4.2. Business Roundtable**

Mike Wheeler, Chief Executive Officer Banquet, Canadian Brewhouse and Plantlife Cannabis, Trevor Christensen, Manager Summit GM and Kyla Penner, Owner KP Squared shared their experiences doing business with the Municipality to assist the Committee with identifying systemic and reoccurring challenges of the regional business community.

Challenges with the overall permitting process, and inconsistencies with safety code inspections were shared. In addition, it was shared that lengthy timeline's associated with bringing forward bylaw amendments such as applications for zoning changes are a concern for new businesses, as delays cause impacts to resources and projects.

It was further shared that when legislative changes are made by the Government of Alberta, the Municipalities timeline to have bylaws updated have taken a considerably longtime which has resulted in inconsistencies between provincial legislation and municipal bylaws. Other matters such as access to developable land in the region and staff turnover were also expressed.

Amanda Hiatas, Acting Director and Kojo Efu, Acting Senior Manager, Planning and Development, acknowledged the information shared, and indicated improvements are being made to enhance services such as consistency between safety code inspectors.

It was noted that the bylaw process is under review but due to the large size of Land Use Bylaw No. 99/059 and staffing resources changes may not be seen right away.

Committee members discussed opportunities to engage with Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo Economic Development and Tourism to explore how they can support new business and development in the community.

#### **4.3. 2023 Committee Priorities - Strategic Solutions**

It was agreed that a Special Meeting be held to provide the Committee an opportunity to further discuss and finalize their draft strategic solutions in order for a recommendation to be brought forward to Council prior to December 31, 2023.

#### **MOTION:**

THAT a Special Meeting of the Wood Buffalo Pro-Business Advisory Committee be held on Thursday, October 19, 2023, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Lana Maloney
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Robbie Picard
<b>FOR:</b>	Daprocida, de Sousa, Deranger, Hines, Maloney, Picard, Rybak
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Toner

#### **Adjournment**

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Chair