

The Economic Development Advisory Group (EDAG)

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday April 10th, 2019

5:30 -7:30 pm at The Commons

Attendees

Gloria Hatfield, Graham Bradley, April Vannini, John Peirce John Woods, Carly McMahon, D'Arcy Boulton, , Tawny Maclachlan Capon, John Peirce, Vanessa Craig and Graham Bradley.

Not in attendance

Chloe Straw, Derek Kilbourn, Fay Weller, Felix Amuir and Jeff Alexander.

Guest

Pat Rokosh

1. Call to order: 5:36pm

2. New Structure: Graham Bradley EDAG Chair

Discussion around the governance structure of the EDAG and its relationship with the Chamber council has prompted a shift in how we run the monthly meetings. The shift in meeting focus is to enrich the primary role of the EDAG, which is being an advisory group to the CEDO.

- Less beholden to Robert's Rule, but still used for efficient communication.
- Consensus recommendations go to the Chamber Council, not motions.
- Greater communication between the 2 groups. For example, if a recommendation goes to Council and is not approved, an explanation will be provided.

3. Agenda and Minutes are approved.

4. Advisory Discussion Topic: Ec Dev Funds into the Community and Business Supports

For reference:

Strategic Plan Pillar 3 - Economic Development Initiatives: Numbers 4 &5, page 11.

Funding for Enhanced Capacity in Community Economic Development

- Increase the capacity of current events and activities as well as generate new learning and business opportunities.

Stimulate and Support Small Business, Artisans and Entrepreneurs in Electoral Area B

- Foster the development of small business/enterprise on the island by providing coaching and advice to aspiring entrepreneurs on Gabriola.
- To increase access to working capital for Gabriola-based enterprises.
- Create grants to retain young adults on Gabriola by presenting opportunities / alternatives.
- Support successful business transitions.

Advisory Discussion

F@#ked up event: event concept with intimate setting, share hard mistakes, lessons learned and candid advice from business boom and bust experience.

Questions for similar events:

- How do you run your business?
- What do you do to keep afloat?
- Sanity savers?

Seeding Grant Pool:

To support local businesses and community organizations to create, boost and/or stimulate a community economic development initiative.

Example: \$250 towards supporting the Gertie summer evening runs to advertise.

About Grant:

Small grants up to \$500 amounts.

First funding round has \$5000k.

Application form on website.

Basic Criteria.

Youth Support:

- Job Fair
 - Goes beyond college/uni degree to trades, entrepreneurial endeavours, etc.
 - Showcase what is possible and happening locally for work.
 - What are gaps that need to be filled locally?
- NDSS connection starts next fall, so that there is a clear link between the volunteer credits needed for graduation and doing the service work on Gabriola.
 - Start now anyways. Meet school bus and try to get seed planted with grade 10/11 students.
- Youth speaker series: 8-10 speakers
 - Inspirational, Career focused.
 - Resume, scholarship writing, college applications.
 - Adulting 101, taxes, bills and how to get your stuff organized.

Youth Skills Creation Development:

- Summer time engagement.
- Podcasts Creation – Ken Gurr workshops? Tobi Elliot, Phillip Vannini
- Classes for skill and resume building.

General:

The power of the CEDO to bring people together for ecdev initiatives.

Workshops should be part of each ec dev area and be part of the granting.

Gap analysis will showcase the areas we can attract and expand for business.

5. Review of Updates from Sub Committees

SFN – nothing to report

GICC – nothing to report.

Financial – John Peirce

- New book keeper is Cheryl Mc Neil. She will start this month.
- Financial report for March finished today.

Housing – John Woods

- The Gabriola Housing society is in negotiation for lands.
- Developer with land looking towards a market rental situation.
- Idea to do study that would set baseline for future development (in relations to densities) that would provide accurate data in regards to rainwater catchment and water usage.
- Potential that EDAG may be involved in this study development, with Islands Trust and RDN.
- Having adaptable info that could be used for any site, in terms of the rain, grey and black water systems would be great first step in community conversations around density.

6. Contract for CEDO position.

- CEDO left meeting at 7:14pm.
- EDAG discussed CEDO performance.

Adjourned: 7:32pm

Next meeting is Wednesday May 8th at 5:30pm.