

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 9th, 2023 at 11am

Location: Erickson Municipal Airport: [Neilson Airport Club House](#).

Invited

Erickson & District Chamber of Commerce Board members and invited guests including representatives from the Erickson Flying Club and the Erickson Airport Commission

In Attendance:

Eric Bjornson, Brandice Bator, Cody Cameron, Dave Walker, Laurence Bertram, Brian Schnell, Nigel Kerr, Josh Surovy, Heather Howdle, Kristy Vermiere, Valerie Soltys

Meeting called to order at 11:07

Goal of the meeting: spend most of meeting talking about Chamber quarter

Additions to Agenda: Valley Life Housing Inc. Update - Heather

Minutes

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of [April Minutes](#) (posted to public website)

Motion to approve: Heather

Seconded: Valerie

3. Approval of new members: No new members this month
4. Treasurer's report (Valerie Soltys)
 - a. Radonmatters [Invoice 1436](#) - Zoom Membership, GoDaddy, Xero Accounting, Poster My Wall, Printing
 - Move to pay invoice: Heather, Seconded: Laurence
 - Everything up to date
 - Collected \$1176 in membership fees
 - Balance: \$25843.45
 - Savings: \$1650.73
5. Follow up on [Chamber News and Views](#) event
 - 6 people attended including 3 chamber members
 - Talked about signage, missing out on advertising,
 - Lack of water in Newdale, would increase property values - not sure if there is someone advocating for this to the Municipality - Nigel considering sending a letter to Steve
 - Numerous empty lots in Newdale - selling at a particular price could fund bringing water
 - Next meeting: Sandy Lake, May 23rd at 1:00 - Laurence to organize

- Would be good to invite chamber members from that community personally to attend
6. Update - Erickson Airport Repaving
- Dave & Cody provided an update on paving:
 - Funding approved for 2023 for reduced scope
 - Looking for donations to Municipality of Clanwilliam Erickson
 - Building Sustainable Communities Grant - will find out in June - could expand scope of project
 - 2500 ft. = reduced scope = \$1.9 million
 - 3000 ft. = expanded scope = \$2.5 million
 - \$400,000 shortfall
7. Airport Area Development

General Discussion on Vision for Airport Area and Chamber Quarter development. See: [Aerial Image with approx property lines](#)

- Summary of how chamber became involved in land - bought land to bring in airport
 - Keep it the way it is/how it is currently generating revenue OR explore other options for revenue
 - Have not yet talked to consultant
 - Potential ideas: airpark, light industrial, housing on the runway for regular flyers
 - Have to talk to Transport Canada about restrictions and regulations (consultant will be able to)
 - Community should be surveyed to come up with options before consultant gets involved - hold a townhall meeting to discuss priorities for different groups
 - Could pre-sell lots based on stipulation that until we sell lots we don't proceed with development
 - rental/lease rates for hangars - rental rates are high here
 - advertise/promote that we have space for hangars
 - Erickson = a service provider for the park
 - Industrial park would attract contractors
 - We could provide services, coordinate and build into plan - stick with water, septic would be holding tanks
 - Start finding details from Transport Canada - Brian will look into
 - Eric got a quote to bring water over to the quarter
 - Cost structure - recover costs value of hayfield? Profit? Contribute to profits of airport?
 - Are we selling or leasing lots - selling = 1 time lump sum, leasing = perpetual income
 - Next step is information gathering - types of usages, boundaries, set backs etc.
8. Updates - Swedish Cultural Day June 10, 2023
- Val has tickets

- Will take place at the viking ship and legion
- Laurence working on Rural Tour - will talk to municipality to get access to cairn at immigration house
- No additional assistance needed from chamber members at this point
- Poster is on the CoC website

9. Progress report: [Membership Directory](#) updates

- Hired someone to update membership
- Spent 8 hours to date and added 2023 memberships
- Next steps:
 - Solicit for renewals
 - Go to businesses to take pictures and provide information if they don't respond to form

10. EMS service in the region (Valerie)

- Short on workers, 4 positions available, only 1 filled
- Training fell behind, only offered in Winnipeg - would be good to have local training program
- Can CoC send letter to PMH and MLA? - Laurence will draft and send around for comments
- Motion to provide letter: Laurence, Seconded: Nigel, all in favour
- Also could publish this letter on our website and the newspaper

11. Follow up on Meeting with Parks Canada: issues of interest and potential for collaboration between the Erickson & District Chamber of Commerce and RMNP.

- Eric met with Superintendent and External Relations Manager
- Discussed what CoC and Park is up to and the focus for this year:
 - AIS is focus for RMNP
 - Staff housing is an issue
 - See themselves as having a need for housing - could we collaborate? They could potentially provide land in the park for housing
 - Discussion on public transportation to surrounding communities like Erickson, Sandy Lake, Rolling River, Keesee, - which could draw staff from surrounding communities and alleviate pressure on Wasagaming housing shortage
 - RMNP will join CoC
 - Hiring Indigenous Individuals/Organizations is a priority
 - CoC interest is making this all worth it for an operator - e.g. Shuttle Bug, Ian Drul - Sandy Lake Van, Erickson Bus - Archie Campbell
 - Would be a huge benefit to all communities

12. Follow up from [Altitude Festival](#)

- Great educational opportunity
- Great first year - organizers are interested in carrying it on

13. Updates - Little Valley Jamboree (June 17th and 18th) - Val

- CoC commitment - assist with support staff - crowd control
- Need 10 two hour time slots filled
- Contact Val if interested in volunteering
- Advise members through communications that we need help
- Eric will volunteer
- Parade - Kristy willing to do Kiddy parade again - still have lots of stuff left over from last year
- Kristy will contact police and fire departments
- Adults need to be ready to sign waiver for kids to use the bouncy castles and other activities on site
- Dave Macdonald has rock climbing wall available to rent
- Flying club breakfast - will discuss this weekend
- Sandy Lake Sunrise CU has funds available to support events under \$1000 - do they have volunteers?
 - Talk to Trish Patterson
 - Talk to Sunrise CU to see if this option is available as well

14. Sunrise - offering support for events

15. Valley Life Housing Inc

- Website - encourage communities to set up committees
- First committee meeting at 7:00 at Municipality office, Wednesday, May 10

16. In Camera

Additional Discussion Items:

- Start using community calendar more - [Link to form](#) for submitting events
- Laurence - look into advertising in the SW MB visitor guide in the future
- Letter from Rolling River School Division on budget input
- Annual summary for Board of Trade application - Laurence will look into

Meeting adjourned at 1:09

Action Items:

- Laurence - organize next Chamber News and Views meeting - Next meeting: Sandy Lake, May 23rd at 1:00
- Laurence - draft a letter to PMH and MLA re EMS Service and send around for comments
- All - Let Val know if you are able to volunteer at Jamboree
- Kristy - organizing kiddy parade again - will contact police and fire departments
- Nobody Identified - Additional conversations needed for next steps for Chamber quarter & transportation for RMNP staff in other communities