

## MINUTES

### Hope and District Chamber of Commerce

#### Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, August 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Recreation Centre Conference Room

1005-6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Hope, B.C.

<b>PRESENT:</b>		<b>REGRETS:</b>
President-Stephen Au-Yeung Vice President – Lloyd Forman Treasurer- Glen Ogren Secretary- Milly Marshall Director-Hondo Stroyan Director-Hiro Takeda Director-Isaiah Robinson Mayor, Wilfried Vicktor Donald Stokes Councillor, Bob Erickson Councillor, Heather Stewin Sean Stewin Sharlene Hinds Adam Perry Hank de Meulder Ruby Remple		Director – Ryan Mohle Director -Donna Kropp Director- Michael Kropp
<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	
1. Call to Order	President S. Au-Yeung called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.	
2. Approval of Agenda/Addenda	<b>FORMAN/OGREN</b> <b>THAT</b> the agenda for August 19, 2015 be approved <b>CC42-2015</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></span>	
3. Approval of Minutes	<b>FORMAN/ROBINSON</b> <b>THAT</b> the minutes from the meeting held on July 22, 2015 be approved. <b>CC43-2015</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></span>	
4. Delegations	None	

<p>5. Standing Reports</p>	<p><b>5.1 Presidents Report</b></p> <p>The President noted that local businesses were reportedly still doing well over same time last year. He also noted that while river fishing was currently closed, which impacted revenues for the local businesses/economy; an abundant pink salmon run/season is anticipated. The President also informed the Chamber that he welcomed the new pet store owners that recently opened in Hope and that they were originally operating in Chilliwack and had relocated due to “big city competition”. He also noted that a new 24 hr. gym had also opened and that the facility also had an onsite tattoo shop.</p> <p>Discussion ensued regarding cost of living and advantages/disadvantages of doing business and shopping in a small town compared to larger communities.</p> <p><b>5.2 Financial Report</b></p> <p>The Treasurer reported that a \$500 cheque for the Salmon BBQ and payment to the Simplified Company (website) were issued.</p>
<p>6. Old Business/Matters Arising</p>	<p><b>6.1 Chamber of Commerce Tent</b></p> <p>The President noted that the Chamber tent will likely not last beyond 3 years before it will have to be replaced. In an attempt to build a fund for replacing the tent he recommended that costs for a new tent be determined and taken into consideration in establishing a rental rate. He further noted that rental funds received over the next few years could then be applied to the purchase of a new tent. It was also agreed that repairs costs would also be investigated.</p> <p><b>6.2 Chamber of Commerce Benefit Package</b></p> <p>The President explained the Commerce Benefit Package and that he approached a few businesses regarding the proposed program which would allow for discount opportunities through local retailers for Chamber members. He noted that the response had been favourable and that he would continue to pursue. He noted that the initiative would provide added benefit for Chamber members while promoting local businesses and shopping local. How participation in the discount benefit program would be undertaken was also discussed.</p> <p>The President also reported that the Dairy Queen had recently become District of Hope Chamber of Commerce members.</p>
<p>7. New Business</p>	<p><b>7.1 Appointment of Hope and District Chamber of Commerce Directors</b></p> <p>The President welcomed two new Chamber Directors; Adam Perry from Gardner Motors and Hank de Meulder from Erica Press. He</p>

	<p>further noted that an online vote had been conducted to Chamber Directors with the outcome resulting in their appointments. The newly elected Chamber Directors provided a brief explanation of their experience/backgrounds.</p> <p>The Chamber President also noted that he had been approached by a Segway Company wanting to set up a demonstration of the two wheel vehicles to Chamber members, the Mayor and Council. He commented that discussions regarding the proposed demonstration are ongoing.</p> <p>It was also reported by the President that he had received two resignations from Board Directors, Michael and Donna Kropp.</p> <p><b>OGREN/FORMAN</b>  <b>THAT</b> a letter be sent from the District of Hope Chamber of Commerce thanking them for their service.  <b>CC44-2015</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></span></p> <p><b>7.2 Federal Election – MP</b></p> <p>The President stated that he had requested that Director Ogren to cease activities related to the Business Excellence Awards Gala and reallocate his time to assist in the organization of an All Candidates meeting in consideration of the upcoming election. It was agreed that the All Candidates meeting would be held in the Recreation Centre Conference Room and that Vice President Forman would undertake the role of Moderator.</p> <p><b>XXXXXX</b>  <b>THAT</b> the Hope and District Chamber defer the Business Excellence Awards Gala; <b>AND THAT</b> the Chamber host an All Candidates meeting in consideration of the upcoming Federal Election.  <b>CC45-2015</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></span></p>
<p>8. Round Table Discussion</p>	<p><b>8.1 District of Hope Business and Economic Development Committee</b></p> <p>The President commented that he and the Vice Chair Forman attended the Economic Development Committee along with 7 or 8 Advantage Hope members. He further noted that the majority of the time was spent providing an explanation of Chamber activities and discussing tourism. He also noted that he and the Vice President made recommendations to the Committee for improved communications between the Chamber and Advantage Hope and a refocus on business and economic development rather than just tourism.</p> <p>Vice President Forman stated that it was also noted to the Committee that the Chamber was not funded by taxpayer dollars and therefore, there was a significant difference with respect to</p>

accountability and transparency to the public/taxpayers.

The President stated that the composition of the Committee was challenging given it was heavily weighted with Advantage Hope representatives making any progress or agreement difficult if not in agreement with Advantage Hope initiatives. He further commented that he discussed the Committee composition with the District of Hope CAO and the Mayor as he was under the impression the Committee was to be made up of equal representation– District of Hope, Advantage Hope and the Chamber.

Both the President and Vice President agreed they would like to pursue working with all parties to achieve greater objectives with respect to job creation/retention and improved long range economic development for the communities and that improved communication was essential to this end.

It was noted that some business owners had reported the staffing challenges that exist within the community given the high volume of business in the summer months and the dramatic shift in the off season. Moreover, the staffing retention/recruitment issues faced by businesses constantly having to operate within a cycle of hiring a high number of part time staff for the summer season and then laying them off in the low season. Discussion also ensued regarding the impact that the cycle/pattern of hiring/laying off also has on the local economy.

Mayor Vicktor noted that shared vision can be difficult with “action oriented people” He further suggested that the groups meet and communicate more regularly and identify and establish areas they can work together.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding an earlier Chamber presentation to Council seeking clarity around some of the initiatives to be undertaken by Advantage Hope and Council’s role/involvement in assuring that Local Government standards were met. Also discussed, was the opinion of the Chamber that Advantage Hope regularly communicate through Council to enable transparency and allow information to be provided back to the general public with respect to their initiatives and operations given they are funded by the taxpayers.

Mayor Vicktor stated that he hoped for a more respectful approach by both parties and foresees benefit in the Chamber and Advantage Hope Boards meeting.

The President noted that while he was open to a Chamber and Advantage Hope Board meeting, to enable a more results oriented outcomes, he would rather propose that a working committee be established comprised of 2 Chamber members, 2 District of Hope members and 2 Advantage Hope members.

	A lengthy discussion took place surrounding Council's role with respect to Advantage Hope operations and business opportunities that potentially Council, Advantage Hope and the Chamber could work on together.
9. Next Meeting	The next meeting of the District of Hope Chamber will be held on September 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Recreation Centre Conference Room.
10. Adjournment	<p>The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.</p> <p><b>FORMAN/TAKEDA</b>  <b>THAT</b> the meeting of the District of Hope Chamber of Commerce be adjourned.  <b>CC46-2015</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></span></p>

