

**SOUTH ALMAGUIN HIGHLANDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE/
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER COMMITTEE**

JOINT MEETING MINUTES

December 16, 2014

The regular meeting of the South Almaguin Highlands Economic Development Committee (SAHEDC) and the Community Development Officer Committee (CDO) was held at the Burk's Falls Municipal Office on Monday December 16, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

In attendance: Councillor Rod Blakelock, Councillor Rosalind Hall, Councillor Lewis Hodgson, Wendy Whitwell, David Gray, Emilio Foffano, Anna Branch, Tom Tota, Andrew Farnsworth.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Minutes

Moved by Councillor Hodgson, seconded by Tom Tota, that the Committee accept the minutes from the regular meeting of October 20, 2014. Carried.

Moved by Councillor Hall, seconded by Councillor Blakelock, that the Committee accept the minutes from the regular meeting of November 10, 2014. Carried.

FedNor Application

David Gray provided an update on the application to FedNor under their Community Investment Initiative Northern Ontario program (CIINO). The application was submitted under the lead name and with the assistance of Ryerson Township. If successful, the funding would provide SAHEDC with up to \$100,000 per year in operational funding for three years. David expressed his gratitude to Ron Bégin and Gerry Spooner of FedNor for assistance during the application process. David also advised the Committee that he and Ryerson will be preparing a new budget for the next SAHEDC meeting to include the potential funding, and he noted that FedNor advised against reducing the current municipal contribution to SAHEDC.

Funding under the CIINO program would begin as soon as April 2015.

Economic Development Plan

David discussed potential additions to the SAHEDC Economic Development Plan due to the additional capacity that could be available from the CIINO funding. Suggested changes would include: the regional Business Retention and Expansion opportunity discussed by Carole Mantha at the November 2014 meeting; development of a Community Improvement Plan; further advancing municipal preparedness for industrial and commercial development opportunities; moving completed items from the priority list to completed; and adding the new Terms of Reference. All suggested changes have been identified in previous SAHEDC studies, including the Investment Readiness Study.

David requested that the Committee members take the holidays to review the Economic Development Plan and send him any final changes prior to approval of the Plan at the next regular meeting.

Showcase Almaguin

David advised the Committee that the Women's Own Resource Centre does not have the time this year to organize and undertake Showcase Almaguin, the area's meeting of business and community to discuss regional economic development. The local Economic Development Officers (EDOs), including David, have been asked if they could take charge of the event. The Committee reviewed the 2015 draft budget and felt that there could be sufficient funds made available from the Community Initiatives line to cover our portion of the event costs. David is to follow up with the EDOs to determine advertising requirements and develop a detailed budget before approving any funding.

Showcase Almaguin is scheduled for March 23, 2015 and is being hosted at the Trout Creek Community Centre.

Hunter's Bay Radio (HBR) Show

Following further discussions with HBR's Jeff Carter, David and the local EDOs may be able to assume the existing "Eyes on Almaguin" radio show. "Eyes on Almaguin" would be approximately 22 minutes in length and air every other week. Each show would include an interview with a prominent member of the economic development community and a discussion of upcoming events. The Committee expressed their continued support for this initiative, but still requires more details on who will be involved in the show's organization and the associated time commitments. The Committee recommends further follow up with Jeff Carter and the EDOs, including identification of the several potential interviewees and their commitment in principle to the initiative.

Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) / Economic Developers Association of Canada (EDAC) Scholarship

David has discovered that RBC offers a scholarship to active EDOs to support continuous learning and the pursuit of EDAC certification. David will reach out to local RBC branch staff, identify a relevant course to register in, and complete an application for the scholarship.

Anna Branches Retirement from SAHEDC

Anna Branch has submitted her letter of retirement from SAHEDC in order to move on to other projects in 2015. The Committee extended its gratitude to Anna for all of her help, support and guidance, as she was one of the earliest members of the current SAHEDC. Anna, who was a past Committee chair and was instrumental in the development of the 2014 Community Guide, has agreed to continue in a supporting role in the coming year. Her effort and collaborative spirit will be greatly missed.

New Business

The three municipalities will be placing an advertisement in the Almaguin News to seek representatives for SAHEDC as well as the Library Board. Interested parties are encouraged to contact their municipal office for further information.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the SAHED-CDO Committee will be held on January 12, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Burk's Falls Township offices.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Hodgson, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.