

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, February 3, 2026**

A Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 7:03 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

*\*Indicates Virtual Attendance*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Teri Towner, Chair

Councillor Robert Mazzarolo, Vice Chair\*

Hayley Hodgson, Citizen Representative

Yasmin Jalali, Citizen Representative

Amanda Maharaj, Citizen Representative

Nicole Paul, Citizen Representative

Deryck Persaud, Citizen Representative\*

Matthew Sebastiani, Citizen Representative\*

ABSENT:

Laurel Alexander, Citizen Representative (regrets)

Mohammad Darwish, Citizen Representative

Marion Lochhead, Citizen Representative

Jennifer McKinnon, Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce (regrets)

Araz Rismani, Citizen Representative

GUESTS:

Brandon Wong, Account Executive, Moment Energy (re Item 5)

Lauren Boers, Applications Engineer, Moment Energy (re Item 5)

Miguel Resendiz Jimenez, Marketing Manager, Moment Energy  
(re Item 5)

STAFF:

Eric Kalnins, Senior Manager Economic Development

Heidi Hughes, Manager of Tourism and Visitor Economy

Rebecca Laurie, Manager Civic Engagement

Edward Tain, Manager Business Growth

Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and provided an Indigenous territorial acknowledgement.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**1. Minutes of the Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, October 22, 2025**

The Minutes of the Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, October 22, 2025 were approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2. Committee Orientation Review**

The Committee Clerk gave a presentation entitled “2026 Advisory Committee Orientation” and referred to slides found in the Agenda package.

**3. 2026 Work Plan**

The Senior Manager Economic Development gave a presentation entitled “Economic Development Advisory Committee” and referred to the document found in the Agenda package.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

MOVED

AND SECONDED

The Committee recommends to Council to approve the Economic Development Advisory Committee 2026 Work Plan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**4. Festivals and Events Strategy Update**

The Manager Tourism and Visitor Economy and Manager Civic Engagement gave a presentation entitled “Festivals and Events Strategy” and referred to slides found in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Suggestions to investigate barriers to and means to encourage longer hours of operation for businesses in proximity to events, particularly in Town Centre, including appeals to sunk costs and geo-fenced data on increased spending proximate to events.
- Concern that a significant proportion of businesses in proximity to events in Town Centre are not relevant to event-goers and that the distance to relevant businesses is too great.
- Suggestions to strengthen connections between business and events including mobile operations; parallel business events in proximity, such as on Glen Drive and the High Street; directly relevant events, as done by the Austin Heights Business Improvement Association; encouraging shoulder season events; and rightsizing events to provide opportunities such as more affordable sponsorships and greater customer interaction.
- Suggestions to incorporate event partnerships and event-related business opportunities in major developments to increase business attraction, event location diversification, and event rightsizing, with models to consider such as District 1881 in Chilliwack, the Shipyards in North Vancouver, and the Amazing Brentwood in Burnaby.
- Suggestion for the City to partner or make facilities available for major, potentially ticketed events, with successful examples in Burnaby at Deer Lake Park, in Vancouver at Stanley Park, and in Coquitlam with a major Iranian artist in Town Centre Park.
- Concern that the lack of hotels is a limitation and lost economic opportunity for festivals, events, sports tournaments, and other major visitor attractions.

In response to Committee discussion, staff noted the following:

- Engagement will be conducted with businesses on the Festivals and Events Strategy, and issues raised at this meeting may be explored further.
- Surveys are conducted with attendees after major events regarding satisfaction, spending, and impact on perception of the city; and meetings are held with organizers to review strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities.
- Management of transportation to and from major events, in Town Centre Park for example, includes communication of expected traffic increases, bylaw patrols of parking, and promotion of public transit options.

## **5. Business Visitation Program and Guest Speaker from Moment Energy**

The Manager Business Growth gave a presentation entitled “Business Visitation and Ambassador Program” and referred to slides found in the Agenda package.

The representatives from Moment Energy gave a presentation entitled “Moment Energy” and referred to slides found in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The sourcing of batteries that are diverted from landfill.
- The lifecycle of battery energy storage systems including testing and safety of sourced batteries, longevity of the system, and recycling of spent batteries.
- Regulatory barriers and opportunities including the structure of tax incentives and the novelty of the industry in this jurisdiction, which requires awareness building and precedent setting for building code, fire safety, etc.
- The contractual and operational relationship between battery energy storage systems and the electrical grid, including charging during low demand, mitigating peak demand, and rights of BC Hydro provided in exchange for capital contributions.
- The optimal scale and types of business to use battery energy storage systems, such as manufacturers, grocery stores, warehouses, EV charging stations, hospitals, airports, etc.

The Chair thanked the representatives for their presentation and expressed appreciation of Moment Energy’s successes and economic and environmental contributions to the City and region.

## **6. Committee Members’ Roundtable / Emerging Issues**

The Chair invited Committee members to share emerging issues and information regarding events occurring in their communities.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Interest in plans related to the coming FIFA World Cup events, and the potential to leverage business opportunities.
- Introduction of new member Gil Desaulniers, chiropractor, owner of Mariner Brewing, and long-time resident in the Tri-Cities.
- Report that the Coquitlam Foundation grant applications to support non-profit organizations are open to end of March.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, April 14, 2026**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

**MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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Councillor Teri Towner, Chair

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Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk