

DATE: October 19, 2020

FILE: 6750-20

TO: Chair and Directors
Regional District Board

FROM: Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

Supported by Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

R. Dyson

RE: Economic Development Service Workshop

Purpose

To consider the economic strategic priority items that the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) would like the Comox Valley Economic Development Society (CVEDS) to consider for their 2021 Work Plan.

Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:

THAT the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Board confirm the economic strategic priorities as agreed during the October 13 and 14, 2020 Strategic workshop as outlined in the staff report dated October 19, 2020.

AND FURTHER THAT the CVRD Chair send a letter to Comox Valley Economic Development Society (CVEDS) requesting that the strategic priorities be considered in the CVEDS 2021 Work Plan to be presented to the CVRD Board before December 31, 2020.

Executive Summary

The CVRD held a Strategic workshop concerning the Comox Valley Economic Development service on October 13 and 14, 2020 facilitated by Gordon McIntosh. A portion of the workshop determined a number of strategic priorities that the CVRD Board would like CVEDS to consider incorporating into the CVEDS 2021 Work Plan. It is recommended that the CVRD Board approve the following strategic priorities for CVEDS to undertake:

1. Organize a Childcare Forum
2. Organize an Event Hosting Forum
3. Track grant availability to support non-profits and explore creating a portal on attraction infrastructure in CVRD
4. Explore concept of shared communal tech workspace
5. Support training, grant programs and business opportunities in the green retrofit industry
6. Organize an Arts and Cultural Forum

CVEDS is required to submit their annual work plan to the CVRD before December 31, 2020.

The CVRD Board also discussed a future review of the economic development function at the workshop. CVRD staff will prepare a report by December 2020 to the Board outlining a Terms of Reference to review all aspects of the CVEDS function.

Prepared by:

S. Smith

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Development Services Branch