

Minutes of NZ Chambers of Commerce Northland  
meeting of The Executive Board  
held 4.00pm 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015

The President welcomed the Board

**PRESENT:** Murray Broadbelt, Cr Paul Dimery, Cr Tricia Cutforth, Danny Douglas, Paul Dunn, Richard Cranenburgh, Vince Cocurullo, Tim Robinson, Shelley Nissen, Tony Collins, Virginia Craig.

**APOLOGIES:** Ryan Welsh, Jeremy Tauri, Tony Shi, Laura Burns, Wayne Roycroft, Richard Booth. **Moved/Seconded**  
Vince/Paul

**LATE ARRIVALS:** Rob Meadows (4.05pm)

**EARLY LEAVERS:**

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** **Moved/Seconded**  
Paul/Tim

**FINANCE REPORT:** Danny spoke about the Finance KPI report

- Revenue is currently down on the budget but this is merely due to timing
- Cash on hand is better than 2014 – accounts receivable are currently lower than same time last year
- Memberships are slowly but steadily growing. Murray commented that consistently remaining above the 400 members mark is great. Tim thinks this is attributed to the Chamber doing the basics well – i.e. Events, seminars, connecting business people

**Moved/Seconded**  
Murray/Vince

**CEO REPORT:**

1. **Regional Business Partnership**  
Tony advised that over the next 6 months there may be an initiative with Icehouse in Auckland to offer a BIQ Analysis (Business International Quality) to Chamber members (worth \$250+gst) for Free. This could

be a great attraction for new members

## 2. **Membership benefits**

The recent trend seems to be that we are only losing the smaller businesses and are retaining the larger ones. Our new contract with Ricoh began on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June so that will see some new members through by the end of the month. This contract could potentially gain us 20-25 new members annually.

## 3. **Digital Enablement Workshop**

The Chamber are managing this event next Monday (29<sup>th</sup>) on behalf of Northland Inc. Complimentary advertising has been run through Mediaworks and heavily discounted printed adverts through The Northern Advocate in support of this event.

## 4. **Westpac Northland Business Excellence Awards**

There have been good numbers attending our entrants' workshops to date with very good numbers in Kerikeri and Kaitaia. Board members are to encourage businesses. A TVC was recorded yesterday with KDC, FNDC, WDC and NRC all represented. It was great to see unity between the four and this will be used in the opening of the Awards.

**A/P: Board members to send potential entrants through to Shelley for her to follow up**

**Moved/Seconded**

Tim/Vince

## **TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS/REPORTS:**

### **Ease of Business:**

- Tony and Ryan recently met with Eru Lindon from MSD regarding Call centre coming to Whangarei. Eru lobbied at Head Office MSD Level to get this located in Northland. Ticked boxes in regards to infrastructure, premises and quality of staff to man the call centre. Previously Salmat were also looking at setting up in Whangarei but have been unable to find the right premises. Tony is to speak with CEO there and he is more than happy to discuss the barriers they encountered with this.

- Tony and Tim met with Malcolm from NRC to discuss what they offer as a ‘business friendly organisation’ and are keen to find out what it is they can offer and now following up with a formal plan with Tony Phipps.

**Advocacy: Report read and accepted**

**Moved/Seconded**

Tim/Vince

**COUNCIL**

**REPRESENTATIVE**

**REPORTS:**

**WDC:**

- Discussion and voting to take place tomorrow for main LTP and proposed rates increase of 9%
- Commercial rates policy review to ensure tenants are not penalised like current system allows
- A capital grant has been granted for Hihiaua of \$500,000
- Revitalisation of Bank Street retailers to be mentioned in plan
- Non amalgamation of Councils – now that this proposal has been rejected there is still talk between the councils on how they can work better together
- An information evening is planned for Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June to discuss NZTA plans for Kensington, Manse Street, the bypass and Rust Ave/Quarry Arts entrants.

**NRC: Cr Paul Dimery highlighted the following**

- LTP as adopted at last meeting
- Citysafe programme – Paul is now on the board for this. Since Citysafe has been operating in Whangarei there has been a dramatic decrease in Graffiti and incidents have dropped 50%. Owen Thomas and Dave Palmer should be applauded for their efforts with this scheme and WDC have recently taken over funding of this as the Ministry of Justice has withdrawn.
- There is some work to be done in the Transport sector. Prior disagreement with the submission for this plan could have resulted in loss of a share of \$1.2million in funding.
- Unitary Authority – since this has been rejected it has highlighted the number of people that want to work for Northland, not just get re-elected, which has been encouraging. The councils are working well together.

There are suggestions of aligning rules so all are on the same page (i.e. Building Acts). There will be an update to come as to why this is currently unable to happen.

**KDC: Representative not present. No report**

**GENERAL BUSINESS:** Northland Inc funding represented in Kaipara District. There was a question raised regarding the funding Northland Inc receives and the perception that this is not returning to KDC. Tony mentioned that the Regional Business Partnership visits account for approximately 25% in that area

**A/P: Tony to get clarification on the representation in KDC from Joseph Stuart.**

**Meeting closed: 4.31 pm**

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

**President .....**      **Date.....**