

the Chamber

GREATER SASKATOON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Business of Science & Technology aims to promote our City's science-based businesses and to bridge the gap between the science and business communities. The committee achieves this through education and the promotion of productive and interactive events, meetings and presentations involving Chamber members, government, industry and academia.

Committee: Business of Science and Technology

Meeting Date: January 27th 2016

Time: 9:00am-10:00am

Location: Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce

Meeting Chair: Bill Lewis

In Attendance: Allan Wolinski, Bill Lewis

Staff: Kent Smith-Windsor, Kevin Meldrum, Czarina Catambing

Introduction

Revision of Mandate

- ICT Sub-committee's vision
 - Promote tech community in Saskatoon, mostly to grow talent and involve companies from both tech and non-tech companies
 - Key players that we need are not on the table, but can contact them
 - How to get local companies to invest in the community? Is the big question
 - Aiming to bring conference in Saskatoon with notable speakers
- BST originally to promote Saskatoon as an innovator
- Identification of the problem
 - Promotion
 - Accelerator is being built in Saskatoon, but it will need support
 - Talent may exist but are not reached
 - Need to be a unified initiative
 - Bigger companies need to support smaller businesses
 - E.g. Coconut Calendar was founded by an employee of Zu (Ryan, founder of Zu, invested on it)
 - Channels
 - Chamber of Commerce can provide connections
 - EBlast
 - Business View
 - Political Area
 - Great time to invest in tech as resource industry is stumbling

Activities and Action Items

- Identify people who are interested and give them the push

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- Committee will not do the work for the community, it will identify people who can and empower them
- Why would these people come?
 - If we get people who already have the solutions, it will be easy to attract people to show up to support these people
 - Need to have good representatives, as opposed to having higher numbers
- Similar to 100 Men campaign. Comes in with commitment to help local tech companies.
 - Come in with leads or projects that the committee can help out
 - Make it a senior tech group
 - Connections is the currency
 - Need to have concrete plans and outcomes
 - Concern: may overstep Chamber's mandate
 - Change how you frame the question from "What can I get from going?" or "What are the problems?" to "What can I contribute?"

To-do for next meeting:

- Ratify a mandate "Helping tech community grow and succeed" by "discussing solutions" and not finding problems
- Have core values and a mission statement
 - Default mission statement: Building the best business climate in Canada for the science and technology community
- SWOT Analysis
- Invite a couple of people for a conversation that goes "How do I help you grow?"
- Change meeting formats to: Introductions → Review of the previous agenda → SWOT Update → Activities and action items
- Allan will be contacting key people to invite to next meeting

Next meeting:

February 24th 2016

3:15pm-5:00pm

Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce