

Economic Sustainability Committee

DRAFT Minutes

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Burgoyne Woods Room at 5:00pm

Attendance:

Councillor Mike Britton, Chair

Mayor Walter Sendzik

Councillor Mat Siscoe ~ arrived at 5:30 p.m.

Dan Romanko (Chair, Downtown Development Revitalization Advisory Committee - DDRAC)

Mike Sullivan (Vice Chair, Parking Advisory Committee)

Jim Riddell (Director, Planning and Building Services)

Kristine Douglas (Director, Financial Management Services) ~ arrived at 5:30 p.m.

Regrets:

Judy Pihach – DDRAC (staff liaison)

Staff Liaisons:

Steve Bittner – Parking Advisory

Leanne Kurek – Recording Secretary, ESC

1. The Chair, Councillor Britton called the meeting to order at 5:11 p.m.

2. Motion to approve the agenda

That the Economic Sustainability Committee adopt the agenda as presented

Moved by: Mike Sullivan

Carried

3. Motion to approve the ESC minutes, October 6

That the minutes of the October 6th ESC meeting be approved as presented

Moved by: Dan Romanko

Carried

4. Motion to approve presentations

n/a

5. Business arising from the ESC minutes, Oct 6

n/a

6. Business

6.1 Parking Advisory update ~ Mike Sullivan

- The committee received a presentation from Tisha Polocko re: Holiday parking promotion downtown.
- Committee is developing their work plan.
- Areas of concern:
 - Raymond St and Wellington Lots – currently empty, no parking available.

Update from J. Riddell:

Raymond St lot owned by Penn Terra and agreement with city stipulates that parking must be provided.

Wellington Lot – Privately owned and is currently undergoing construction. The intention is the use the space as a parking lot.

- Pop up Patios (former Leonard Hotel site) – Committee is concerned with traffic flow.
- Carlisle Street and St. Paul pop ups – more pedestrian traffic, loss of 4-5 parking spots.
- Reconstruction of St. Paul Street – committee would like to be involved in the concepts and parking information.

ACTION:

TES staff will present the concepts of St. Paul reconstruction to both the DDRC and Parking advisory committees.

- Downtown Parking Study – financial concerns by committee.

Update from S. Bittner:

City staff have received 5 submission for the Downtown Parking study and are in the process of reviewing. There will be a committee of 5 city staff members to review the submission and focus on: traffic, planning and financial parking availability. Plan will be presented to both Parking advisory and DDRC.

- S'No Parking - Downtown residents and business owners concerned they do not have anywhere to park.

Update from W. Sendzik:

S'No Parking is a phased approach. The City has on average 5-7 large snow events/year. 2016 is the public campaign, 2017 awareness element and 2018 enforcement.

Motion to approve the presentation

That the Parking Advisory updates be approved, as presented

Moved by: Mayor Sendzik

Carried

6.2 DDRAC update ~ Dan Romanko

- Committee is developing work plan
- Focus of past meetings spent on time sensitive items:
 - Sidewalk/patio Report – endorsed by Committee
 - CIP - impact to downtown – presented to budget committee
 - Civic Square – presented to budget committee
- Façade improvement program – CIP – former Hotel Dieu site
- Initiatives:
 - Creative Cluster Master Plan update
 - Property Standards
 - Downtown patios, streetscaping, public space
 - GO Transit Hub – impact to downtown, committee would like to comment on Region study.
 - Metrics study – health and safety of the downtown i.e. tree planting (survival rate), waste collection, vacancy rates (commercial area), number of events thru the DTA (pedestrian counting camera data), NRP report on radar.

W. Sendzik:

Metrics of safety and security – discuss at committee level, add to City of St. Catharines and DTA webpage and promote a safe downtown.

Request that DDRAC present the metrics to the Economic Sustainability Committee when available.

- Civic Square Project
 - 2014 Civic Square test pilot
 - Due to budget cuts, the civic square was cut from 2015.
 - DDRAC has requested 100k through the budget committee to hire a consultant to develop the concept of the civic square.
 - James St - reconstruction to factor in to plans
 - Committee is open to other locations in downtown, need to engage in RFP and develop a conceptual plan to determine the function of the space.

W. Sendzik:

Opportunity to allocate funds from the civic project fund if the will of council.

J. Riddell:

The Civic Square project is included in Planning's budget presentation. The Official Plan comments on location.

Visioning exercise to be completed – where, functions of square, concept. Study costs in the range of 100-400k.

Motion to approve the presentation

That the DDRAC updates be approved, as presented

Moved by: Mayor Sendzik

Carried

7. Discussion:
N/A

8. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, March 22, 2016.
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Burgoyne Woods Room

9. Motion to adjourn

That the Economic Sustainability Committee be adjourned at 5:40.

Moved by: Councillor Siscoe

Carried