

Economic Sustainability Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Atrium at 4:30pm

Attendance:

Councillor Mike Britton, Chair

Mayor Walter Sendzik

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

David Ringler (Chair, Parking Advisory Committee)

Jim Riddell (Director, Planning and Building Services)

Kristine Douglas (Director, Financial Management Services)

Regrets:

Councillor Mat Siscoe

Staff Liaisons:

Steve Bittner – Parking Advisory

Judy Pihach – DDRAC

Leanne Kurek – Recording Secretary, ESC

1. The Chair, Councillor Britton called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. Motion to approve the agenda

That the Economic Sustainability Committee adopt the agenda as presented

Moved by: Mayor Walter Sendzik

Carried

3. Motion to approve the ESC minutes, October 6

That the minutes of the January 12th 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 ~ David Ringler

- Committee developed work plan for 2016 and set meeting schedule.
- Will continue to implement and promote S'No Parking next winter
- Committee will engage with the Port Dalhousie BIA and the West St. Catharines BIA to discuss parking concerns.
- Committee's priority is the Downtown Parking Study – expected to be completed by March of 2017. ~ study to be accelerated
- Areas of concern:
 - Shortage of monthly parking
 - Event parking – segregated
 - Improve signage, public awareness of parking
 - Downtown business community concerned with lack of monthly permits in the core
 - Long term parking – availability
- Loading Zones – time slot for loading and use as parking during off hours – referred to DTA
- St. Paul Street parking proposal
- DTA is collecting information from members to define challenges and solutions.
- Sustainability in parking – affordability and short term fixes with capital.
- Mobility of people - transit, car pool, create walking spaces outside of the downtown core. Promote other types of transportation
- Variables to consider for parking downtown –
 - Hours of parking (no longer 9-5)
 - Charging for parking
- The City will not build a third parking garage.
 - Private sector to do parking management – more efficient and effective.

Update from J. Riddell and J. Pihach:

Police Headquarters will move to Niagara Falls in June which will create more parking spaces.

New students residences downtown in September – absorption rates.

Riordon lot is not full

Jack Gatecliff – permit required 8:30-4:00.

Church Street lot to be open soon.

Action:

Staff to look at making Jack Gatecliff a permit only lot Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Motion to approve the presentation

That the Parking Advisory updates be approved, as presented

Moved by: Kristine Douglas

Carried

6.2 DDRAC update ~ Dan Romanko

- Initiatives identified in Committee draft work plan:
 - Civic Square Project – creating a sub-committee to start working on project in advance of funding.
 - CIP Funding – support of façade projects (city staff to take leadership)
 - GO Transit – participate in GO Hub study at Region (Chair to take lead) – currently 5 sites outside of current station. D. Romanko will provide further follow-up at the next meeting.
 - Parking – create subcommittee to focus on downtown, liaise with staff on parking study and coordinating with parking committee.
 - Vehicular – assess needs, identify issues, monitor utilization rate, number of permits sold, wait list
 - Bicycle – assess needs and identify issues.
 - Street Design – provide comments on City and Region initiatives related to downtown.
 - Business – evaluate economic health from business perspective (through sustainability metric). (St. Catharines DTA to take lead)
 - Outdoor Ice Rink – Evaluate merits of idea and appropriate downtown location. (This was an initiative from the previous committee)
 - Monitor Metrics – source appropriate metrics to set baseline and measure health of downtown.
 - Street Trees – connect with Parks, Recreation and Culture
 - Waste and Cleanliness – Region of Niagara, Clean City Committee, Property Standards complaints
 - Vacancy Rates – both professional office & retail – coordinate with economic development
 - Number of events – DTA, City and private events
 - Traffic – coordinate with Transportation and Environmental Services and DTA– vehicular, bicycles, pedestrian (traffic cam statistics).
 - Safety – lighting, police presence, incident reports (DTA to take lead)
 - Residential Intensification – number of people downtown as metric for health – City staff and DTA
 - Parking- utilization rate, number of permits sold, wait list

- Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario – number of licensed seats, number of charges, other stats.
- Creative Cluster Master Plan no longer on their initiatives as committee decided it was out of their realm of expertise
- Ice rink not in correlation with Civic Square.
- Street design – city staff to present at next meeting and provide comments to committee.

Direction to Committee:

M. Britton: Engage with the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce to assist with statistics for the metrics study.

W. Sendzik: Add free wifi to work plan and work with the City IT department. City staff to map where free wifi zones are to create more of an umbrella.

Motion to approve the presentation

That the DDRAC updates be approved, as presented

Moved by: J. Riddell

Carried

7. Update from Budget – Civic Square and Civic Project Fund

- Request for Proposal sent out through Economic Development – strategy for study
 - Committee to have input
 - Impact on our downtown and parking
- Civic Square was not put in the 2016 budget

8. Discussion/Direction to Committees
N/A

9. Other Business

- Add selection of Vice Chair to next agenda
 - Vacancy to fill after Councillor Elliott resigned from committee.

10. Date of next meeting: Thursday, May 26, 2016.
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Ante Room

11. Motion to adjourn

That the Economic Sustainability Committee be adjourned at 5:15.

Moved by: D. Ringler

Carried