

Economic Sustainability Committee

DRAFT Minutes

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Ante Room at 4:30pm

Attendance:

Councillor Mike Britton, Chair

Mayor Walter Sendzik ~ arrived at 4:50 p.m.

Councillor Mat Siscoe ~ arrived at 5:10 p.m.

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

David Ringler (Chair, Parking Advisory Committee)

Kristine Douglas (Director, Financial Management Services)

Regrets:

Jim Riddell (Director, Planning and Building Services)

Judy Pihach – (staff liaison) DDRAC

Staff Liaisons:

Brian Applebee– Parking Advisory

Leanne Kurek – Recording Secretary, ESC

1. The Chair, Councillor Britton called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

2. Motion to approve the agenda

That the Economic Sustainability Committee adopt the agenda as presented

Moved by: Dan Romanko

Carried

3. Motion to approve the ESC minutes, October 6

That the minutes of the March 22nd ESC meeting be approved as presented

Moved by: Kristine Douglas

Carried

4. Motion to approve presentations

n/a

5. Business arising from the ESC minutes, March 22nd

n/a

6. Business

6.1 Parking Advisory update ~ David Ringler

- Committee meeting held on April 5th was concerning the Downtown Parking study.
 - Committee discussed scope and objective of study.
 - Developed work plan – 7 tasks
 - January 2017 – scheduled completion of study (10-12 months).
 - Engage with stakeholders during the study to help facilitate.
 - Committee reviewed the report from the previous downtown parking committee.
 - Reviewing budget and actuals – fluctuations.
- Committee to being a public awareness campaign re: parking downtown i.e. better way finding signs for parking garages for the FirstOntario PAC and Meridian Centre.
 - Educate public on various modes of transportation to events, alternative transportation.
- There have been 451 parking spaces lost in the downtown – due to Meridian Centre, FirstOntario PAC.
- Transportation staff are currently:
 - Taking inventory of current monthly parking spaces
 - Analyzing the utilization of downtown parking
 - Downtown walk about was completed on June 9th re: central core – identifying spaces to reclaim i.e. loading zones – too big or too small, make available after hours.
 - Public meeting was held June 9th –
 - Meeting included input from consultants, parking advisory committee, accessibility advisory committee, downtown business owners and the public.
 - Consultants collected information to be included in the parking study.
 - Meeting helped to identify hot spots in the core – areas of concern.
 - Consultants looking at the utilization of the garages.
- St. Paul St parking update:
 - Removed parking on the North side

- Waiting on feedback from downtown businesses.
- Report to council – recommendation to remove parking with acknowledgement of feedback.
- Winter parking control:
 - Same S'No Parking across City of St. Catharines
 - Exemption zones
 - Warning notices
 - Report to council on August 9th
- Short term measures:
 - Long term parking demand (measurement – wait lists etc.)
- They are on target with the Transit Study.
- They submitted a list of questions and comments to the consultant to consider for the parking study. (see list attached)
- Next meeting is scheduled for August 9th.

6.2 DDRAC update ~ Dan Romanko

- Metrics determined by committee for the health of downtown:
 - Need resources to create a baseline
 - Planning and Building staff assisting committee
 - Report to council once the baseline has been reached
 - Will continue to bi-annually track the health of downtown.
- Sub-committee created for the Civic Square Project.
- St. Paul St reconstruction
 - Committee provided input to council
 - Endorsed the removal of 7 spaces (parking available at garage).
 - Reconstruction has been placed on hold for a year – will be completed in 2017.
 - Update from W. Sendzik: Project will occur in early Spring of 2017.
 - It was put on hold because when it went to tender the winning bid could not guarantee it would be completed by September (Wine Festival parade).
 - Business should apply for pop-up patio – explore the option

ACTION: D. Romanko to pass on to committee.
- Downtown Parking Study:
 - Committee provided comments on behalf of downtown businesses.
- Canadian New Urbanism Conference – Detroit
 - Dan attended the conference - great ideas to bring back to St. Catharines and committee.

- Urban 3 (Consulting firm from North Carolina) they analyze the relationship between building design and tax production. Simplifies complex information to stimulate conversation on community growth:
 - Graphical – performance of land across municipalities.
 - Properties creating revenue and expenses (identify)
 - Better neighbourhoods – understand the principles behind creating.
- ACTION:** Dan to share the video that was presented on Better Neighbourhoods with committee.

Direction to Committee:

M. Britton: Projects for committee – work plan completed. Provide direction on how the pillar can advise and/or assist.

W. Sendzik: Committee should make a requests to council for budget money and/or resources for consideration.

Motion to approve the presentations

That both the Parking Advisory updates and DDRAC updates be approved, as presented

Moved by: K. Douglas
Carried

7. Presentation by Mayor Walter Sendzik – Role of Sustainability Committees

- Committees are built on the four pillars (Culture, Social, Environment and Economic).
 - Pillar committees are for high level discussion to give direction to committees (councillors, chairs and senior staff).
 - More action needs to be pushed to council from the committees and pillars.
 - Pillars should be asking questions on work plans – ensure that resources, funds etc. are available.
 - Discussion from committees to council needs to start.
 - Councillors take information from chairs of what to needs to be pushed to council from the pillars.
 - Pillars and committees are aligned with the City of St. Catharines Strategic Plan.
 - Work plans - brought up to the pillar for broad discussion – impact. Correlation between committees and advancing pillars.
 - Opportunity for chairs and councillors to align. What can council do to push issues forward. Chair should bring forward discussion and reports up for consideration.

ACTION: There is a gap in the Economic Pillar – no committee focused on Economic Development – economic drivers, opportunity for advancement.

- Recommendation from committee to council to add an additional committee.
- Councillor Britton, Chair to bring forward motion at a City Council meeting following our next meeting.

8. Selection of Vice-Chair for the Economic Sustainability Committee

8.1 Motion to appoint a Vice Chair

That Dan Romanko be appointed to the position of Vice Chair for the Economic Sustainability Committee

Moved by M. Siscoe

Seconded by W. Sendzik

Carried

9. Other Business

- Consider draft Terms of Reference for Economic Development Advisory Committee
 - Add to our next meeting agenda.

ACTION: Invite Economic Development staff to next meeting.

- 10. Date of next meeting:** Tuesday, October 18, 2016.
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Ante Room

11. Motion to adjourn

That the Economic Sustainability Committee be adjourned at 5:25.

Moved by: M. Siscoe

Carried