

Economic Sustainability Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Ante Room at 4:45 pm

Attendance:

Councillor Dawn Dodge, Chair
Councillor Lori Littleton
Councillor Mat Siscoe
Kristine Douglas, Director of Financial Management Services
Brian York, Director of Economic Development and Government Relations
Matt Aymar, Vice-Chair Transportation Advisory Committee

Staff Liaison:

Scott Ritchie, Downtown Development Revitalization Advisory Committee
Leanne Kurek, Economic Pillar

Absent:

Kelly Burke, Chair Downtown Development Revitalization Advisory Committee
Steve Bittner, Transportation Advisory Committee

1. The Chair, Dawn Dodge called the meeting to order at 4:48 p.m.

2. Recognition of Traditional Territories

Councillor Dodge acknowledged that the land on which the Economic Sustainability Committee meets today is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples. Acknowledging this is a reminder that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

3. Additions / Deletions to the Agenda

Deletion

8.2 DDRAC Presentation of work plan: deferred to April meeting

No representative from DDRAC in attendance.

4. Motion to approve the agenda

That the Economic Sustainability Committee adopt the agenda as amended.

Moved by: Cllr. Siscoe
Carried

- 5. Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting**
Motion to adopt the ESC minutes, Oct 17, 2019.

Moved by: B. York

Carried

- 6. Presentations (invited guests)**
NA

- 7. Business arising from the minutes**
NA

- 8. Business**

**8.1 - Review of applications for Downtown Development Revitalization
Advisory Committee**

Motion to go In Camera at 4:53 p.m.

That the Economic Sustainability Committee go In Camera for personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees

Moved by Cllr Siscoe
Carried

**In Camera ~ Review applications for the Downtown Development Revitalization
Advisory Committee (two vacancies)**

Motion to move to Open Session at 4:53 p.m.

That the Economic Sustainability Committee move to Open Session

Moved by M. Aymar
Carried

That the Economic Sustainability Committee recommended names for advisory committee in the In Camera Session and for the recommendations to be referred to council.

Moved by Cllr Siscoe
Carried

~~8.2 Downtown Development Revitalization Advisory Committee work plan presentation~~

- Deferred to April 9, 2020 meeting.

8.3 - Transportation Advisory Committee ~ Matt Aymar

- 2020 DRAFT Work plan attached
 - Will present any amendments to work plan following review of the Transportation Master Plan at the next pillar meeting to committee.

Motion to approve the draft work plan presentation from Transportation Advisory Committee.

Moved by: Cllr Littleton

Carried

9. Next meeting

Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in the Ante Room.

10. Motion to Adjourn

That the Economic Sustainability Committee be adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Moved by: Cllr Littleton

Carried

Attachments:

- Transportation Advisory Committee DRAFT 2020 Work Plan

DRAFT Transportation Advisory Committee Work Plan

8. Business

8.1 Development of the Work Plan

We talked about having an overarching theme. A number of ideas were put forward but the theme of “Improving Getting Around” seemed best to capture the spirit of our ideas. We then settled on three overall goals with sub-goals/specific actions identified within each. I have made some editorial notes (highlighted in yellow and blue to note things we discussed but about which we did not reach a conclusion).

Overall Goal 1: Improve Access

We talked about having a definition at the beginning of each goal section to better define our intent. For this one, it was “Everyone has equal opportunities to get around”.

Note – there was also a discussion around what we mean by accessibility and how that maps to connectivity since there is not an unique one to one mapping. (Steve gave the example of connecting two trails with a 15 % grade – connected but not accessible to all.)

Sub-goals (note that some of these are more like actions to achieve goals)

- a) Increase public education around the use of mobility devices and invisible disabilities (short to medium term); we also noted that we could partner with the Accessibility Committee (this might be more long term)
- b) Advocate for barrier free access (short to medium term)
- c) Appropriate cleaning of sidewalks (year round) by businesses and property owners/dwellers (medium term); we also noted that this could be done with education awareness efforts
- d) Support older adults with snow clearing (e.g., snow angels). This would assist in making St. Catharines an age-friendly city and there may be other initiatives to help achieve this goal (medium term)
- e) Increase parking in downtown (long term)
- f) Make walking in downtown a safe and desirable activity (e.g., safe, clean, accessible parking garages) and improve street lighting (medium term)
- g) Improving connectivity for all modes (?) – (Q – time frame – do we need to be more explicit?)

Overall Goal 2: Improve Sustainable Transportation

We didn't actually identify a final definition for this but it might be “Re-orient people's thinking towards a broader definition of what transportation means, i.e., not just getting into a car”

Sub-goals

- a) Improve walkability for all ages and abilities

- b) Improve cycling (here we talked about including experience or something like that but did not come to a conclusion) (NOTE – we originally had “improve alternative modes of transportation (active transportation) with a medium to long term timeline)
- c) More integrated transit across jurisdictions (e.g., on major routes but need to make distinction between regular bus and para transit) (medium to long term)
- d) Incentives to encourage better use of the transit system that exists (this may include an education component) (medium term) Note: in this instance, we talked about affordability
- e) Collect and analyze data that highlights the full cost of driving a vehicle versus the cost of using transit (Note: this includes full opportunity costs of vehicle ownership or leasing, as well as time costs in both cases) This could be used as a public education outreach item to encourage behavioural changes.

Overall Goal 3: Improve Safety on the Road

Note: the original goal was really long. I think it would serve better as the definition to this goal. So, definition would be “Improve safety, comfort, and convenience for all road users”. (There was talk about looking at what other jurisdictions do to achieve this goal.)

- a) Reduce the likelihood of collisions between pedestrians/cyclists and vehicles by focusing on certain road users (medium term) (Note – the challenge is missing data on events)
- b) Continue efforts to collect data on collisions (short to medium term)
- c) Share the road education profile (high profile) (short term)
- d) Natural barriers between roads for vulnerable road users (medium term)
- e) Policies around the use of e scooters, mopeds, scooters and bikes (medium to long term)
- f) Greater adoption of bike lanes (delineate with bollards) (medium term)

We also had a discussion about whether we could undertake some form of public outreach to identify their views on what makes them feel safer when walking/cycling, etc. However, we do not have a budget. (Note – in this context, there was some discussion about having a fourth goal around the topic of public outreach/data collection, however, this was not finalized.) There was discussion about reaching out to faculty members at Brock to see if a studentt project could be identified. Diane offered to speak with Chris Fullerton. We also talked about the possibility of applying for funding to undertake this study. We did not finalize actions based on this discussion since we are still awaiting receipt of the Master plan and that will involve review and comment by us at some point in the near future.

9. Date of next meeting

We discussed possible dates for the rest of the year. Steve will look into time. We are awaiting the master plan document. Possible months for meetings include: April, May/June, September and November.

DRAFT