

Economic Sustainability Committee

Minutes

Thursday, March 04, 2021

Electronic Meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Attendance:

Councillor Dawn Dodge, Chair

Councillor Lori Littleton

Councillor Mat Siscoe

Brian York, Director of Economic Development and Government Relations

Kristine Douglas, Director of Financial Management Services

Diane Dupont, Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee

Kelly Burke, Vice-Chair of the Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee ~ arrived at 4:37 p.m.

Staff Liaison:

Margaret Josipovic, Downtown Revitalization

Scott Richie, Downtown Development Revitalization

Steve Bittner, Transportation

Leanne Kurek (Pillar Committee)

1. Call meeting to order (Councillor Dawn Dodge, Chair)

4:35 p.m.

2. Recognition of Traditional Territories

Councillor Dawn 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. Amendments to the Agenda

NA

4. Motion to approve the agenda

That the Economic Sustainability Committee adopt the agenda as presented.

Moved by: M. Siscoe

Carried

5. Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting

Motion to adopt the ESC minutes, March 10, 2020.

Moved by: M. Siscoe

Carried

6. Presentations (invited guests)

NA

7. Business arising from the minutes

NA

8. Business

a. 8.1 Transportation Advisory work plan presentation ~ Diane Dupont

- i. 2021 work plan presented (attached)

Motion to approve the work plan and presentation from the Transportation Advisory Committee

Moved by: M. Siscoe

Carried

b. 8.2 DDRAC work plan presentation ~ Kelly Burke

- i. Deferred to next meeting

Motion to accept the verbal presentation from the DDRAC

Moved by: L. Littleton

Carried

c. 8.3 Winter Control – Sidewalk Clearing ~ Diane Dupont and Steve Bittner

- i. **Motion from Transportation Advisory Committee (Jan 13, 2021.)** *Motion requesting a report outlining the costs if the City was responsible for the sidewalk snow clearing throughout the city, only in the downtown or on high pedestrian routes (i.e. transit routes, schools, major commercial areas)*

That the Economic Sustainability Committee receive the motion and presentation from the Transportation Advisory Committee and refer the item to the Budget Standing Committee for a report request.

Moved by: M. Siscoe

Carried

9. Other Business

NA

10. Date of next meeting

Thursday, June 03, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. via zoom.

11. Motion to Adjourn

That the Economic Sustainability Committee be adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Moved by: L. Littleton

Carried

Attachment:

- Transportation Advisory Committee 2021 Work Plan

Transportation Advisory Committee - Work Plan

Committee members:

Steve Bittner, Matthew Aymar, Jorin Lukings, Diane Dupont, David Wyllie, David Ringler, Curtis Thompson, Amy Romeo, Myda Khatcherian

Goal: *Provide Comments/Feedback on Policies, Environmental Assessments, and Guidelines*

Description:

The Transportation Advisory Committee will provide comments on an as needed basis on city-wide strategic priorities relating to policies and guidelines that impact the transportation system. These priorities include active transportation, parking, pedestrian initiatives, operational policies, road reconstruction projects and crossing guards.

For the upcoming years remaining in its mandate, the committee will provide comments on the Transportation Master Plan, as well as various Environmental Assessments as they become available. This is a high priority item since it relates directly to one of the two main purposes of the committee.

Strategic Alignment:

The current revamping of the Transportation Master Plan is timely since the previous one was completed more than half a century ago and much has changed since then. Several perspectives inform the committee's work: a focus on accessibility needs, inclusivity, active transportation, mental health and the role of COVID-19 might have on altering transportation needs and services. In particular, the committee has identified three overall areas of importance: improve access, improve sustainable transportation, and improve safety on the road.

The work of the committee is aligned with the following two areas in the Strategic Plan.

Social Sustainability

- Strive for the highest quality of life for all citizens.
- Connect people, places and neighbourhoods.

Environmental Sustainability

- Lead in the protection of our environment for future generations.
- Be prepared for the impacts of climate change.

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:

Accessibility, Downtown Development and Revitalization Committee

We will invite members of other committees to a meeting to discuss overlapping issues.

Project Risks:

Insufficient resources and/or timely receipt of material to allow for informed commentary.

Schedule and Resources:

1. Step: Meet with Master Plan consultants for briefing on Master Plan.

Completed: Met December 7, 2020

Resources Required: Staff time for meeting

2. Step: Meet with Public Works to ask about preparations for snow removal

Completed: Met with John Kukalis, Manager of Operations from City of St. Catharines on December 10th 2020

Resources Required: Staff

3. Step: Draft commentary on Master Plan

Tentative Schedule: June 30th 2021 (scheduled to be after report goes to Council in March 2021).

We will be making recommendations to what we have seen.

Resources Required: Staff

4. Step: Review and comment on Environmental Assessments

Tentative Schedule: As they come in

Resources Required: Staff

Goal: *Advocate for Improvements to Assist Getting Around the City***Description:**

This task focuses upon efforts to make improvements to accessibility and ease of getting around the city with particular recognition of how unforeseen events may have altered transportation needs and impacted different groups (e.g., COVID-19, affordability). Our goal is to better understand the nature of change using available evidence. The committee will be paying attention to how stakeholders may be disproportionately impacted by these kinds of events (e.g., vulnerable populations).

Strategic Alignment:

The work of the committee is aligned with the following two areas in the Strategic Plan.

Social Sustainability

- Strive for the highest quality of life for all citizens.
- Connect people, places and neighbourhoods.

Environmental Sustainability

- Lead in the protection of our environment for future generations.

- Be prepared for the impacts of climate change.

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:**Accessibility**

We will invite members of other committees to a meeting to discuss overlapping issues.

Project Risks:

Insufficient resources and/or timely receipt of material to allow for informed commentary.

Schedule and Resources:

1. Step: Discuss with Public Works how best to communicate to the public about the need for snow removal and how to report infractions, as well as the need to enforce snow removal requirements

Completed: Met with John Kukalis, Manager of Operations, on December 30, 2020

Resources Required: Staff, Increased enforcement expenses

2. Step: Work with communications division of city around round snow removal educational efforts

Tentative Schedule: April 30, 2021

Resources Required: staff, communications expenses

3. Step: Identify COVID-19 impacts on transportation in St. Catharines

Tentative Schedule: March 2022

Objective: To identify framework that can be used to examine what has changed since 2019.

Resources Required: Staff, input from university experts in the field