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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

A regular meeting of the Planning & Economic Development Committee was held on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 in the Lower Level Boardroom (LL-C), Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM

Present: Councillor Joe Neal, Vice-Chair
Councillor Bath-Hadden left the meeting at 12:03 PM due to municipal business
Councillor Highet
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Lee
Councillor Yamada attended the meeting at 10:30 AM
Regional Chair Henry

Also

Present: Councillor Dies
Councillor Marimpietri attended the meeting at 9:40 AM
Councillor John Neal attended the meeting at 10:10 AM
Councillor Wotten left the meeting at 11:37 AM

Absent: Councillor Ryan, Chair

Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
S. Gill, Director, Economic Development and Tourism
C. Goodchild, Manager, Policy Planning & Special Studies
G. Muller, Director of Planning
S. Munns, Director, Corporate Communications
B. Pickard, Manager, Tourism
N. Rutherford, Manager, Economic Development, Agriculture and Rural Affairs
K. Ryan, Senior Solicitor, Corporate Services – Legal Services
L. Trombino, Manager, Plan Implementation
S. Rashad, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
T. Fraser, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services, attended for part of the meeting
C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services, attended for part of the meeting

Councillor Joe Neal, Vice-Chair, chaired the meeting in the absence of Councillor Ryan, Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,

- (1) That the minutes of the regular Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting held on Tuesday, December 11, 2018, be adopted.

CARRIED

B. Bridgeman introduced Simon Gill as the new Director of Economic Development and Tourism. He advised that previously Simon was the Region's Manager of Investment Attraction.

3. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

4. Delegations

4.1 Ms. Sherry Colbourne, President & CEO, Spark Centre, re: Durham Region Innovation District

Ms. Sherry Colbourne, President & CEO, Spark Centre, and Ms. Laura O'Blenis, President & CEO, Stiletto Consulting, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding a proposed Durham Region Innovation District.

Ms. Colbourne provided a brief overview of the history of the project. She advised in early 2018 a decision was made to complete a feasibility study and Stiletto Consulting was hired.

Ms. O'Blenis advised that initially the concept was for an innovation hub and as they worked through the feasibility study it evolved into an innovation district. She explained that there is an opportunity for the innovation district to be a catalyst for re-imagining and re-branding the Durham Region as a leader in research, entrepreneurship and innovation for the eastern GTA Region.

Ms. O'Blenis noted that the Region is changing with the announcement of the GM Plant Closure and the Pickering Nuclear Plant de-commissioning. She stated that the shift in these areas presents an opportunity to re-train and redefine the workforce and the economic landscape in Durham Region.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Lee,
(2) That the Rules of Procedure be suspended in order to give Ms. Colbourne and Ms. O'Blenis an additional 10 minutes to finish their delegation.

CARRIED on a 2/3rds Vote

Ms. O'Blenis provided an overview of the proposed innovation district and D-Hive Network. She explained that the district would be comprised of an innovation station and sector-focused accelerators. She spoke to the focus sectors, market validation and investments to date.

Ms. O'Blenis advised next steps include finalizing funding opportunities and start-up activities. She also advised interim funding of \$325,000 is needed for phase one until December 31, 2019. She outlined the financial model for the first five years and she noted that 60% of their revenue will come from the rental of space in the central services location. She stated that the overall financial investment for the first five years includes \$850,000 for core operational funding, \$6 million in one-time seed investment for accelerator capital, and \$18 million in one-time seed investment for the innovation station.

Ms. O'Blenis concluded by advising that the projected return on investment is approximately 400 net new employees located at the innovation station and a total annual economic impact of the innovation station only, in the range of \$80 million per annum.

Ms. Colbourne and Ms. O'Blenis responded to questions.

5. Presentations

5.1 Mr. Erik Karvinen, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., re: Durham Region Competitiveness Study (2019-EDT-1)

Mr. Karvinen, Manager, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Region of Durham Competitiveness Study.

Mr. Karvinen provided a brief overview of the Competitiveness Study's key deliverables. He advised that municipalities compete with one another for business attraction and retention, and that the nature of competition is evolving with the changing economic landscape. He stated that having a comprehensive understanding of Durham's competitive position compared to other communities in the surrounding market area is a fundamental aspect of economic development.

Mr. Karvinen provided an overview of municipal competitiveness factors; economic and employment trends in Durham and the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area; comparative factors generally considered in location decisions; Durham's competitive advantages; Durham's competitive disadvantages; industry

sectors assessed; Durham's relative position in the Greater Golden Horseshoe; and findings of the cost competitiveness and financial feasibility analysis.

Mr. Karvinen also outlined the conclusions of the Competitiveness Study. He stated that in order to maintain and enhance its economic competitiveness, the Region must continue to be innovative and pro-active in its efforts to attract and market future development.

Mr. Karvinen responded to questions with respect to comparator municipalities used in the study; challenges related to major office development in Durham; Durham's transportation assets; labour force characteristics; industry sector competitiveness rankings; Durham's competitiveness; the employment growth rate by industry sector; utility cost comparisons; Durham's designated employment lands; transportation network challenges; the study's conclusions; and recommended next steps. Mr. Karvinen also responded to questions with respect to whether they have completed similar studies for other municipalities; and other comparators, such as the United States and Mexico.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Lee,
(3) That the Committee recess for 10 minutes.

CARRIED

The Committee recessed at 11:37 AM and reconvened at 11:46 AM.

6. Planning

6.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

6.2 Reports

- A) Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Mike Kennedy, to permit the severance of a dwelling rendered surplus as a result of the consolidation of non-abutting farm parcels in the Township of Uxbridge, File OPA 2018-003 ([2019-P-1](#))
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Report #2019-P-1 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Lee,
(4) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Amendment #173 to the Durham Regional Official Plan, to permit the severance of a dwelling rendered surplus as a result of the consolidation of non-abutting farm parcels, be adopted as contained in Attachment #3 to Commissioner's Report #2019-P-1; and

- B) That "Notice of Adoption" be sent to the applicant, the applicant's agent, the Township of Uxbridge, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and all other persons or public bodies who requested notification of this decision.

CARRIED

- B) Award of RFP 592-2018, Pre-qualified consultant roster for the peer review of hydrogeological and water balance reports submitted in support of development applications ([2019-P-2](#))
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Report #2019-P-2 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Hight,

- (5) That Report #2019-P-2 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

7. Economic Development

7.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

7.2 Reports

- A) Durham Region Competitiveness Study ([2019-EDT-1](#))

Report #2019-EDT-1 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Staff responded to questions with respect to next steps for Regional staff; and the City of Oshawa's efforts to secure the Canada Post building in Oshawa.

Discussion ensued with respect to the Durham Region Competitiveness Study and potential next steps.

Staff agreed to provide Councillor Joe Neal with the employment numbers used in Figure 3: Durham Region Competitive Share Growth Analysis Relative to the Greater Golden Horseshoe; and the terms of reference for the Competitiveness Study.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,

- (6) That Report #2019-EDT-1 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information and that Regional staff continue to work on next steps.

CARRIED

- B) Durham Region Idea Summit and D-Hive Tech Hub (2019-EDT-2) Report #2019-EDT-2 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Discussion ensued with respect to the process for moving forward with this project and it was suggested that this item be referred back to staff. It was requested that staff bring this matter back to the Committee at their first opportunity.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,
(7) That Report #2019-EDT-2 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be referred back to staff.

CARRIED

- C) Toronto Global Effectiveness Evaluation and Funding Renewal (2019-EDT-3) Report #2019-EDT-3 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

It was the consensus of the Committee to invite Mr. Toby Lennox, Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Global, to appear before the Committee to respond to questions on this matter.

Regional staff and Mr. Lennox responded to questions with respect to Durham's return on investment from Toronto Global; prospective investments (leads) identified by Toronto Global; Durham's competitiveness; global and municipal competitors; targeted sectors; marketing of Durham's assets; potential challenges to attracting investment; and the proposed 5 year funding agreement.

It was requested that Mr. Lennox appear at the January 30, 2019 Regional Council meeting.

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,
(8) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Durham Region continue to partner with Toronto Global with respect to international investment attraction activities under a 5-year funding agreement, subject to satisfactory performance by Toronto Global and subject to funding being approved annually through the Region's annual Business Plans and Budget process;
- B) That funding of Toronto Global for 2019, in the amount of \$206,397, be approved through the 2019 Business Plans and Budget process;

- C) That the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk be authorized to execute the appropriate funding agreement with Toronto Global upon budget approval; and
- D) That a copy of Report #2019-EDT-3 be forwarded to Toronto Global, the Area Municipalities, and all members of the Durham Economic Development Partnership for information.

CARRIED AS AMENDED LATER IN THE
MEETING ON A RECORDED VOTE
(See Following Motions)

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Yamada,

- (9) That the main motion (8) of Councillor Kerr and Regional Chair Henry be amended by adding the following as a new Part E):

- E) That Toronto Global report to the Durham Region Planning & Economic Development Committee once a year, or upon request, and to Regional Council upon request.

CARRIED

The main motion (8) of Councillor Kerr and Regional Chair Henry was then put to a vote and CARRIED AS AMENDED ON THE FOLLOWING RECORDED VOTE:

Yes

Regional Chair Henry
Councillor Highet
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Yamada
Councillor Joe Neal, Vice-Chair

No

Councillor Lee

Members Absent:

Councillor Bath-Hadden
Councillor Ryan

Declarations of Interest: None

8. **Advisory Committee Resolutions**

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

9. **Confidential Matters**

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

10. **Other Business**

There was no other business to be considered.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 9:30 AM in the Lower Level Boardroom (LL-C), Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Highet,
(10) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

J.J. Neal, Vice-Chair

T. Fraser, Committee Clerk