

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

A regular meeting of the Planning & Economic Development Committee was held on Tuesday, December 6, 2022 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: Councillor Chapman, Chair
Councillor Pickles, Vice-Chair
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Neal*
Councillor Shahid
Councillor Wotten
Regional Chair Henry
* **denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Also

Present: Councillor Crawford attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Dies* attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Foster* attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Garrod
Councillor Marimpietri attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Woo attended for part of the meeting
* **denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Absent: Councillor Collier

Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
V. Chanthavong, Planner
P. Frizado, Acting President, Durham OneNet Inc.
S. Gill, Director, Economic Development and Tourism
C. Goodchild, Manager, Policy Planning & Special Studies
A. Harras, Director of Legislative Services/Regional Clerk
W. Holmes, General Manager, DRT
L. Huinink, Director, Rapid Transit and Transit Oriented Development
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
S. Jibb, Manager, Agriculture and Rural Economic Development
E. Kennedy, Program Specialist, Economic Development

G. Muller, Director of Planning
G. Pereira, Manager, Transportation Planning
B. Pickard, Manager, Tourism
D. Ruby, Manager, Business Development and Investment
K. Ryan, Senior Solicitor, Corporate Services – Legal Services
J. Severs, Manager, Economic Development, Marketing and Cluster Development
N. Taylor, Commissioner of Finance
L. Trombino, Manager, Plan Implementation
S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
T. Fraser, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Election of Planning & Economic Development Committee Vice-Chair

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Planning & Economic Development Committee.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,
(117) That Councillor Pickles be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair of the Planning & Economic Development Committee.

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
(118) That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

The Chair asked if Councillor Pickles wished to stand. Councillor Pickles indicated he would stand.

Chair Chapman declared Councillor Pickles the Vice-Chair of the Planning & Economic Development Committee.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,
(119) That the minutes of the regular Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting held on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, be adopted.

CARRIED

5. Statutory Public Meetings

- 5.1 Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Clark Consulting Services, on behalf of Wechsel Farms, to permit the severance of a farm dwelling rendered surplus as a result of the consolidation of non-abutting farm properties, in the Township of Brock, File: OPA 2022-004 (2022-P-19)
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The Chair advised that this portion of the Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting constitutes the Statutory Public Information meeting under the Planning Act for a proposed amendment to the Durham Regional Official Plan. He also advised that notice of the public meeting was advertised in the applicable newspaper and mailed to landowners and residents within 120 metres of the subject property. He noted that it is important that anyone who may have an interest in this matter make a submission prior to Regional Council making a decision.

A) Presentation

V. Chanthavong, Planner, Planning Division, provided a presentation outlining the details of Report #2022-P-19 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development. She advised that an application has been submitted by Clark Consulting Services, on behalf of Wechsel Farms, to permit the severance of a farm dwelling rendered surplus as a result of the consolidation of non-abutting farm parcels in the Township of Brock. The subject site is municipally known as B1845 Regional Road 15 and is located on the north side of Regional Road 15, west of Thorah Sideroad, in the Township of Brock. She provided an overview of the application and land use policy considerations. She also advised that the application has been circulated to relevant agencies and notice has been given to the public. She added that to date no objections have been received.

The Chair asked if there were any persons in attendance who wished to make a submission or ask any questions.

B) Delegations

1. Hugh Stewart, Clark Consulting Services, on behalf of Wechsel Farms

Hugh Stewart appeared with respect to the application to amend the Durham Regional Official Plan submitted on behalf of Wechsel Farms. He advised that he is the applicants' agent and was present to answer any questions on Report #2022-P-19.

C) Report

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(120) A) That Report #2022-P-19 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information; and

- B) That all submissions received be referred to the Planning Division for consideration.

CARRIED

6. Delegations

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Pickles,
(121) That the Rules of Procedure be suspended in order to hear the entire delegation from Michael Mendel and Johan van 't Hof.

CARRIED on a 2/3rds Vote

6.1 Michael Mendel, Manager, Government Affairs and Stakeholder Relations, and Johan van 't Hof, Board Member, Greater Toronto Airports Authority, re: Annual Update from the Greater Toronto Airports Authority

M. Mendel and J. van 't Hof, participating electronically, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the 2022 Greater Toronto Airports Authority Annual Update. Highlights of their presentation included:

- Looking Ahead: Aviation Sector Recovery
- Toronto Pearson: Building the Airport of the Future
- Poised for Growth
- Q3 2022 operating Activity and Financial Results
- Government agencies must provide consistent, repeatable service
- Pearson investing to expedite travel
- Focused on operational and financial stability
- Joint Economic Development Opportunities

M. Mendel and J. van 't Hof responded to questions from the Committee.

7. Presentations

7.1 Brian Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, Gary Muller, Director of Planning, and Simon Gill, Director of Economic Development and Tourism, re: Planning & Economic Development Committee Orientation

B. Bridgeman, G. Muller, S. Gill and L. Huinink, provided a presentation regarding Planning & Economic Development Committee Orientation. Highlights of their presentation included:

- Organizational Chart
- Regions Affected by Bill 23
- Planning Division
 - 2018-2022 Highlights
 - Bill 23 – More Homes Built Faster Act
 - Bill 23 – Looking Forward

- 2023 – Initial Priorities
- Future Forward
- Rapid Transit and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Office
- Economic Development and Tourism Division
 - Regional Priorities
 - Marketing
 - Support for Innovation Community
 - Tourism
 - Northern Economic Development & Agri-Food
 - Business Development/Investment Attraction
 - Aspirations: A 30-Year Vision

Staff responded to questions with respect to Envision Durham; the transition of the Regional Official Plan to area municipalities; Bill 23 and development charge studies; and transit options on Simcoe Street.

7.2 Simon Gill, Director of Economic Development and Tourism, re: Ready Set Future: Five Year Economic Development and Tourism Strategy and Action Plan (2022-EDT-15)

S. Gill provided a presentation outlining the details of Report #2022-EDT-15 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development. Highlights of his presentation included:

- Acknowledgement
- Strategy Process
- Vision
- Aspirations: A 30-Year Vision (PLACE)
- Eight Economic Growth Principles
 - Principle 1: Collaboration
 - Principle 2: Talent
 - Principle 3: Distinct Identity Through Culture
 - Principle 4: Vibrant, Financially Attainable Downtowns
 - Principle 5: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
 - Principle 6: Climate Emergency Response
 - Principle 7: Innovation
 - Principle 8: Infrastructure and Investment Readiness
- Priority Clusters
 - Future Energy
 - Next Gen Mobility
 - Arts, Culture and Creative
 - Applied Digital Tech
 - Agri-Food
- PLACE
 - People
 - Location

- Acceleration
- Creativity
- Enablers
- 2023-2027 Strategy and Action Plan

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,

(122) That the order of the agenda be altered to consider Item 9.2 A), Report #2022-EDT-15: Ready Set Future: Five Year Economic Development and Tourism Strategy and Action Plan, at this time.

CARRIED

9.2 Reports

A) Ready Set Future: Five Year Economic Development and Tourism Strategy and Action Plan (2022-EDT-15)

Report #2022-EDT-15 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Staff responded to questions with respect to collaboration with the area municipalities; collaboration with Chambers of Commerce and BIAs; communication to the public; strategies to align community improvement plans and development charges; and the Agri-food strategy.

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,

(123) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That the new Economic Development and Tourism Strategy and Action Plan, '2023-2027 Ready Set Future: A PLACE Blueprint for Durham', be endorsed;
- B) That a copy of "Ready Set Future" be sent to Durham's Area Municipalities, all members of the Steering Committee, all members of the Durham Economic Development Partnership, Durham's post-secondary institutions, Durham Chambers of Commerce and the Boards of Trade, Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, Durham Workforce Authority, Business Advisory Centre Durham, Spark Centre, 1855 Accelerator, OPEN.Innovate, and Central Counties Tourism; and
- C) That Durham Region Council extend its thanks to the many contributors and collaborators throughout the Region and the members of the Steering Committee for their time, dedication, and support to this important project.

CARRIED

8. Planning

8.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

8.2 Reports

A) Planning and Economic Development Department Achievements, 2018 – 2022 (2022-P-20)

Report #2022-P-20 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Staff responded to questions with respect to the expansion of broadband services in the hamlets of Columbus and Raglan. Councillor Neal asked staff to reach out to the Oshawa Zoo with respect to investment attraction and promotion.

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
(124) That Report #2022-P-20 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

9. Economic Development

9.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

9.2 Reports

A) Ready Set Future: Five Year Economic Development and Tourism Strategy and Action Plan (2022-EDT-15)

This item was considered earlier in the meeting. Refer to page 6 of these minutes.

B) Local Food Business Retention and Expansion Project: Annual Implementation Update (2022-EDT-16)

Report #2022-EDT-16 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(125) That Report #2022-EDT-16 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

10. Advisory Committee Resolutions

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

11. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

12. Other Business

12.1 Parkwood Co-branding Collaboration

Regional Chair Henry advised that the film industry is a big part of Durham Region.

Discussion ensued with respect to whether the \$25,000 annual contribution, as referenced in the proposed motion, was for specifically for Parkwood National Historic Site or for the entire Durham film industry.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
(126) That the rules of procedure be suspended to introduce a motion regarding Parkwood National Historic Site.

CARRIED ON A 2/3RDS VOTE

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

Whereas the Durham Region Economic Development and Tourism Division Film Office (Film Durham) supports and promotes Durham as a world-class location for film, television and digital media production (the Film Industry), supporting job creation and economic activity in the Industry; and

Whereas the Film Industry in Durham Region is growing at a faster rate than the overall Ontario growth rate, growing 220% between 2012 and 2019, and saw \$63 million in total film production in 2019; and

Whereas the Film Industry in Durham Region has strong and continuing growth potential as demonstrated by recent investments such as the William F White 90-acre backlot in the City of Pickering; and

Whereas the Film Industry workforce in Durham Region has been gaining momentum through workforce development activities such as Film Durham career fairs, and programming at Durham College and Ontario Tech University; and

Whereas the growing interest in the Film Industry in Durham Region is supported by the Durham Region International Film Festival (DRIFF), which also hosted a film maker incubator in 2022; and

Whereas Parkwood National Historic Site (Parkwood) is one of the top ten filming locations in Canada; and

Whereas Parkwood relies on filming production as a necessary means for financial sustainability and preservation; and

Whereas there is an opportunity for Film Durham to capitalize on Parkwood's top-ten status by working with them to promote economic opportunities for Durham Region's Film Industry more broadly; and

Whereas this collaboration can promote to the national and international Film Industry that Durham Region and their talented workforce is ready and open for business, and that Durham is home to many exceptional and world-class filming locations;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be directed to enter into discussions, notwithstanding Durham Region's grant policy/bylaws, with Parkwood to establish a co-branding arrangement for the purpose of promoting Durham's Film Industry, whereby the Region's Film Durham brand and logo would be placed alongside the Parkwood name and brand in all public-facing media, in consideration of an annual contribution by the Region of \$25,000, subject to Regional Council approval annually of the business plan and budget; and

That staff discuss this co-branding collaboration to create brand visibility for Film Durham, and to increase economic opportunities for both Parkwood and the Film Industry of Durham Region as a whole; and

That the Commissioner of Finance identify a source of funds for this annual contribution; and

That the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be authorized to execute such a discussion, with terms satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor; and

That Economic Development and Tourism staff report back to Council with the outcomes of this discussion.

CARRIED

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

14. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
(128) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM

Respectfully submitted,

B. Chapman, Chair

T. Fraser, Committee Clerk