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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

A regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

Regional Chair Henry assumed the Chair.

1. Roll Call

Present: Councillor Anderson*
Councillor Ashe
Councillor Barton
Councillor Brenner
Councillor Carter
Councillor Chapman
Councillor Collier*
Councillor Cook*
Councillor Crawford
Councillor Dies
Councillor Foster
Councillor Garrod
Councillor Jubb*
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Leahy
Councillor Lee*
Councillor Marimpietri
Councillor McDougall*
Councillor Mulcahy
Councillor Neal*
Councillor Nicholson
Councillor Pickles
Councillor Roy
Councillor Schummer*
Councillor Shahid
Councillor Woo
Councillor Yamada
Regional Chair Henry

*** denotes Councillors participating electronically**

All members of Committee were present with the exception of Councillors McDougall and Wotten.

Councillor McDougall attended the meeting remotely at 10:29 AM

Councillor Wotten was absent due to vacation.

Staff

Present: S. Austin, C. Bandel, E. Baxter-Trahair, B. Bridgeman, A. Burgess, S. Ciani, S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, J. Demanuele, J. Dixon, B. Goodwin, A. Harras, B. Holmes, L. Huinink*, J. Hunt*, R. Inacio, J. Kilgour, L. McIntosh*, C. Taylor, N. Taylor, N. Pincombe, J. Presta, A. Robins

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

4. Delegations

There were no delegations.

5. Presentations

5.1 Robert Bell, Co-Founder, Intelligent Community Forum, re: Intelligent Communities Update (2023-COW-4) [Item 7.3]

Robert Bell, Co-Founder, Intelligent Community Forum, delivered a PowerPoint presentation regarding Report #2023-COW-4: Intelligent Communities Update.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- The Future of the Durham Region
- What makes Durham Region a Top7 Intelligent Community?
- What is an Intelligent Community?
- Top7 Intelligent Communities of the Year
- ICF Community Accelerator
- What can Intelligent Communities accomplish?
 - Dublin, Ohio USA
 - Corporate campus location
 - Dublin development timeline
- What Intelligent Communities can accomplish
 - A smart step-by-step strategy can create major positive change
 - Each step must serve long-term goals while creating short-term value
 - Regional partnerships are powerful
 - Never stop

R. Bell stated that in a world dominated by digital, Intelligent Communities work across six factors to create an innovative and growing economy, inclusive society, and affirming culture open to the world by tapping the enormous potential of technology for the good of the community.

R. Bell provided an overview of the following factors that make Durham Region a Top7 Intelligent Community: Regional Broadband Network; Community Energy Plan; Education as a Ladder of Local Opportunity; Senior Citizen Digital Inclusion & myDurham 311; Innovation in Business and Government; and Your Durham and Anti-Black Racism Engagement Programs.

R. Bell provided Dublin, Ohio as an example of what an Intelligent Community can accomplish, and provided an overview of the Dublin development timeline. He noted that a smart step-by-step strategy can create major positive change, and each step must serve long-term goals while creating short-term value.

R. Bell responded to questions from the Committee with regards to best practices from other communities that can be applied in Durham Region; possible challenges faced by Durham Region such as business attraction; and, how to create cohesive, culturally advanced intelligent communities across Durham Region.

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

7. Reports

7.1 Request for Funding from the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority for the Acquisition of Land Adjacent to the Long Sault Conservation Area in the Municipality of Clarington (2023-COW-1)

Report #2023-COW-1 from N. Taylor, Commissioner of Finance, and B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Marimpietri,
(1) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That in response to the request for funding from the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority, that funding in the amount of \$309,135, representing 40 per cent of the estimated eligible acquisition costs for approximately 29.2 hectares (72.14 acres) of land located adjacent to the Long Sault Conservation Area in the Municipality of Clarington, be approved and financed from the Region's Land Conservation and Protection Reserve Fund subject to the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's Board of Directors' approval of the land purchase at their meeting on January 17, 2023; and

- B) That the Commissioner of Finance be authorized to adjust the total payment amount to Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority pending a review of the eligibility of final costs incurred pursuant to the Region's Land Acquisition Funding Policy.

CARRIED

7.2 Development of a Regional Public Art Program (2023-COW-2)

Report #2023-COW-2 from E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer, was received.

S. Austin responded to questions from the Committee regarding where art will be displayed, as well as the type of art, such as statues; collaboration with the local area municipalities and the work they may already be undertaking; what local area municipalities can do to work with Durham Region to help with downtown revitalization; what the financial implications are of this program, including maintenance costs, and how this will be reported in future budgets; clarification on the role of Regional Councillors as it relates to the public art program; what staff will be doing to promote the exposure of the art program; whether staff will be tracking the economic and tourism benefits of the program; and, including artists from outside of the Region in the program.

It was suggested that staff reach out to the Ministry of Transportation regarding painting murals on the overpasses at the exists from the Hwy. 401. Chair Henry asked that staff also raise this matter with the local MPs and MPPs.

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Marimpietri,

(2) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Regional Council endorse the establishment of a Regional Public Art Program to provide a framework for incorporating public art on Regional infrastructure, land, and other projects with opportunity for creative placemaking; and
- B) That a Public Art Working Group be created and comprised of local experts from the creative community to support the development and maintenance of the Public Art Policy and provide recommendations for ongoing public art projects.

CARRIED

7.3 Intelligent Communities Update (2023-COW-4)

Report #2023-COW-4 from E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer, was received.

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Marimpietri,

(3) That Report #2023-COW-4 of the Chief Administrative Officer be received for information.

CARRIED

7.4 Durham Region Government Relations Update (2023-COW-5)

Report #2023-COW-5 from E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer, was received.

S. Austin responded to questions regarding how much was paid to Strategy Corp for their consulting services in 2022 and if they will be retained to provide consulting services for 2023; the role of Strategy Corp on advancing priorities for Durham Region; with respect to Bill 39, who the provincial facilitator will be and when they will be appointed; with respect to conflicting priorities of clients, what is being done to ensure Durham Region is not paying Strategy Corp for a conflicting project; and, whether there is a fall back plan to ensure the advocacy of a project continues if Strategy Corp does have to declare a conflict on a project.

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Marimpietri,
(4) That we recommend to Council:

That Report #2023-COW-5 of the Chief Administrative Officer be received for information.

CARRIED

8. Confidential Matters

8.1 Confidential Report of the Commissioner of Social Services – Closed Matter under Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act with respect to a Capital Project Submitted under the Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) Round 3 (2023-COW-3)

Confidential Report #2023-COW-3 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, and N. Taylor, Commissioner of Finance was received.

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Yamada,
(5) That we recommend to Council:

That the recommendations contained in Confidential Report #2023-COW-3 of the Commissioner of Social Services and Commissioner of Finance be adopted.

CARRIED

9. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Ashe, Seconded by Councillor Barton,
(6) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM

Respectfully submitted,

John Henry, Regional Chair

C. Bandel, Deputy Clerk