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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

A regular meeting of the Planning & Economic Development Committee was held on Tuesday, October 3, 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.

1. Roll Call

Present: Councillor Chapman, Chair
Councillor Collier
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Neal*
Councillor Shahid
Regional Chair Henry

***denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Also

Present: Councillor Schummer*
Councillor Woo*

*** denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Absent: Councillor Pickles, Vice-Chair
Councillor Wotten

Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair*, Chief Administrative Officer
C. Boyd*, Solicitor, Chief Administrative Office – Legal Services
B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
I. Cheung, Business Development Specialist, Economic Development
A. Chung, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
S. Gill, Director, Economic Development and Tourism
C. Goodchild*, Manager, Policy Planning & Special Studies
B. Holmes*, General Manager, Durham Region Transit
S. Jibb, Manager, Economic Development, Agriculture and Rural Affairs
A. Luqman*, Senior Planner, Policy & Special Studies
G. Muller, Director of Planning
G. Pereira, Manager, Transportation Planning
N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to Council, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
D. Ruby, Manager, Economic Development, Business Development and Investment

K. Ryan*, Senior Solicitor, Chief Administrative Office – Legal Services
J. Severs, Manager, Economic Development, Marketing and Cluster Development
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
L. Trombino, Manager, Plan Implementation
V. Walker, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
***denotes staff participating electronically**

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
(71) That the minutes of the regular Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting held on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, be adopted.
CARRIED

4. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

5. Presentations

5.1 Stacey Jibb, Manager, Agriculture & Rural Economic Development, and Allison de Vos, Agriculture Program Specialist, re: Growing Agri-Food Durham Plan Annual Report (2023-EDT-13) [Item 8.2 a.]

Stacey Jibb, Manager, Agriculture & Rural Economic Development, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to the Growing Agri-Food Durham Plan Annual Report.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Purpose
- Goal Areas
 - Goal 1: Retain and expand local food businesses
 - Goal 2: Streamline the regulation and approval process for agri-food businesses
 - Goal 3: Enable and encourage agriculture related and on-farm diversified uses related to agriculture
 - Goal 4: Recognize infrastructure is a key component of the agri-food system
 - Goal 5: Support businesses to increase agri-food processing capacity

- Goal 6: Identify opportunities and solutions for the workforce and labour shortages in the agri-food sector
- Goal 7: Provide resources for aging and young farmers
- Goal 8: Partner with agricultural organizations to deliver and expand agricultural literacy in the Region
- Goal 9: Enable a culture of innovation in agriculture and food
- Goal 10: Enhance urban agriculture
- Annual Reporting and Next Steps
- Ontario Agriculture Week

6. Delegations

6.1 Geoff Carpentier, Chair, Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee, and Jay Cuthbertson, First Vice-Chair, Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee, re: Perennial/Pollinator Plots Pilot [Item 9.1 a.]

Geoff Carpentier, Chair of Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee, participating in-person, and Jay Cuthbertson, First Vice-Chair of Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee, participating virtually, appeared before the Committee regarding a Perennial/Pollinator Plots Pilot entitled: Rethinking how we maintain our roadside and public spaces.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Why we need to look at change
- Municipal considerations
- From Nature's Perspective
- Benefits to Region
- What we are asking
- The details

J. Cuthbertson stated that the purpose of their delegation was to speak about an alternate approach to maintain roadsides and public spaces which would lower costs, increase biodiversity and beauty in the area while sequestering carbon, and improving surface water management. He advised that pollinators are in an unprecedented crisis position globally and different approaches to how roadside and public spaces are maintained will assist in mitigating this crisis.

G. Carpentier provided a brief overview regarding how changing how roadsides and public spaces are maintained would benefit the Region.

G. Carpentier stated that the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee is asking that staff initiate a study and pilot project to change the way roadside and public spaces are maintained, to expand pollinator gardens throughout the Region, to consider how much and when to mow lawns, and to look to other agencies and municipalities for guidance.

G. Carpentier and J. Cuthbertson responded to questions from the Committee.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
(72) That the order of the agenda be altered to consider Item 9.1 A) next.
CARRIED

9. Advisory Committee Resolutions

9.1 Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee

A) Resolution regarding Perennial/Pollinator Plots Pilot

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

That staff be requested to investigate the possibility of a perennial/pollinator plots pilot on Regional lands and report back to the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC).

CARRIED

6. Delegations

6.2 Daina Robinson, Director of Marketing and Communications, Lakeridge Health Foundation, re: Pedal for Patients Charity Ride (2023-P-24) [Item 7.2 a.]

Daina Robinson, Director of Marketing and Communications, Lakeridge Health Foundation, participating in-person, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to the Pedal for Patients Charity Ride.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Event Snapshot
- Results Snapshot
- Community Participation
- Stephanie Lane and Family: The Robideau Riders
- Supporting Cancer Care in Durham Region
- Next Steps

D. Robinson advised that Lakeridge Health Foundation partnered with Durham Region for the Pedal for Patients Charity Ride to celebrate bike month and to raise support and awareness for the hospital and cancer centre. She stated there were 96 riders and \$97,000 was raised for cancer care and awareness.

D. Robinson advised that a Joint Charity Cycling Event is being planned for June 2, 2024 and will involve all four of the hospital foundations in Durham Region working together to raise funds and awareness.

D. Robinson responded to questions from the Committee.

7. Planning

7.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to be considered.

7.2 Reports

A) Pedal for Patients Charity Ride (2023-P-24)

Report #2023-P-24 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Discussion ensued with regards to changing the recommendations to go to council to endorse the charity ride and whether endorsing the ride includes any financial commitments; how Durham Region will support the different events for various foundations in the Region; and when the planning for next year's charity ride will begin.

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

That Report #2023-P-24 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information; and that the Pedal for Patients Charity Ride be endorsed.

CARRIED

8. Economic Development

8.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to be considered.

8.2 Reports

A) Growing Agri-Food Durham Plan Annual Report (2023-EDT-13)

Report #2023-EDT-13 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
(75) That Report #2023-EDT-13 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

9. Advisory Committee Resolutions

9.1 Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee

B) Resolution regarding Perennial/Pollinator Plots Pilot

This item was considered earlier in the meeting. [See page 4 of these minutes.]

10. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

11. Other Business

There was no other business to be considered.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Collier, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,
(76) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 AM

Respectfully submitted,

B. Chapman, Chair

K. Smith, Committee Clerk