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## The Regional Municipality of Durham

### MINUTES

#### PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

A regular meeting of the Planning & Economic Development Committee was held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 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 Collier\* attended the meeting at 9:34 AM  
Councillor Kerr  
Councillor Neal\*  
Councillor Shahid  
Councillor Wotten  
Regional Chair Henry  
**\* denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Also

Present: Councillor Crawford\*  
Councillor Mulcahy\* attended for part of the meeting  
**\* denotes visiting Councillors participating electronically**

Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair\*, Chief Administrative Officer  
C. Boyd, Solicitor, Chief Administrative Office – Legal Services  
B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development  
M. Broderick, Manager, Business Development and Investment, Economic Development  
J. Feuiltault, Business Development Specialist, Economic Development  
H. Finlay\*, Manager, Transit Oriented Development (TOD)  
N. Gibson, Business Development Specialist, Economic Development  
S. Gill, Director, Economic Development and Tourism  
C. Goodchild, Director of Planning  
S. Hajsaleh, Planner, Transportation Planning  
A. Harras\*, Director of Legislative Services and Regional Clerk  
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
G. Pereira, Manager, Transportation Planning  
J. Rhynas, Program Coordinator, Economic Development  
J. Severs, Manager, Marketing and Tourism, Economic Development  
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

L. Talling, Acting Manager, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Economic Development  
N. Taylor\*, Commissioner of Finance  
L. Trombino, Manager, Plan Implementation  
V. Walker, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
**\* denotes staff participating virtually**

## 2. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made.

## 3. **Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Pickles,  
(23) That the minutes of the regular Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, be adopted.  
CARRIED

## 4. **Statutory Public Meetings**

There were no statutory public meetings.

B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development, and S. Gill, Director of Economic Development and Tourism, introduced Maylene Broderick as the new Manager of Business Development and Investments.

## 5. **Presentations**

### 5.1 Simon Gill, Director of Economic Development and Tourism, re: Investment Attraction Metrics – Annual Activity Report 2023 (#2024-EDT-7) [Item 8.2 b.]

Simon Gill, Director of Economic Development and Tourism, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to the Investment Attraction Metrics – Annual Activity Report 2023.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- What We Do
- Collaboration with DEDP
- Our Focus
  - Future Energy
  - Next Gen Mobility
  - Arts, Culture and Creative
  - Applied Digital Tech
  - Agri-Food
- Investment Leads
- Lead Sources

- Investment Attraction Missions
- Spotlight: Auto Tech Detroit Mission
- Supporting Events
- Inbound Delegations
- Spotlight: Ontario TIO Delegation
- Metrics Summary
- Investment Successes
- Booming Growth

S. Gill responded to questions from the Committee with regards to the types of investment leads that comprise the 9% that falls outside of the Region's five (5) named priority areas; how the results, metrics and costs of Invest Durham compares to the Region's previous partnership with Toronto Global for investments in the Region; whether the Region apportions new businesses among the area municipalities; if certain business types are more commonly launching in the Region and the main factors that attracts new business to the Region; the involvement from the area municipalities as it relates to new and returning business investments; what defines an investment success; how expansions of existing businesses are captured in the success statistics; the amount of leads gathered through attendance at trade shows and networking; the support received from the Provincial and Federal governments; and the availability of government grants or subsidies to contribute to new business growth.

## **6. Delegations**

There were no delegations to be heard.

## **7. Planning**

### **7.1 Correspondence**

There were no communication items to be considered.

### **7.2 Reports**

- A) Application to Amend the Durham Official Plan, submitted by Clark Consulting Services, on behalf of Thornlea Holsteins Ltd., to permit the severance of a farm dwelling rendered surplus as a result of the consolidation of non-abutting farm properties, in the Municipality of Clarington, File: OPA 2023-002 (Regional Official Plan Amendment #198 (2024-P-8))
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Report #2024-P-8 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Chair Henry,

(24) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Amendment #198 to the Durham Regional Official Plan, to permit the severance of a dwelling rendered surplus as a result of the consolidation of nonabutting farm parcels, be adopted as contained in Attachment #3 to Report #2024-P-8 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development;
- B) That “Notice of Adoption” be sent to the applicant, the applicant’s agent, the Municipality of Clarington, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and all other person or public bodies who requested notification of this decision; and
- C) That the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing be requested to modify the Council adopted Durham Regional Official Plan as shown on Attachment 4 to Report #2024-P-8 so that the approvals granted by Regional Council through Amendment #198 are carried forward and properly reflected in the Region’s new Official Plan which is currently pending approval by the Minister.

CARRIED

B) Re-Nomination to the Board of Directors of the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (2024-P-9)

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Report #2024-P-9 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,

(25) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Mr. Johan van ‘t Hof be re-nominated to the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) Board of Directors as Durham Region’s municipal representative for a term ending on October 17, 2026; and
- B) That a copy of Report #2024-P-9 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be forwarded to the GTAA.

CARRIED

**8. Economic Development**

8.1 Correspondence

There were no communication items to be considered.

8.2 Reports

A) Gather at the Farm 2023 Agri-Food Marketing Campaign (2024-EDT-6)

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Report #2024-EDT-6 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Following a question from the Committee regarding whether the Region collects data to measure the success rate of the program, and whether the participating farms also track data and provide the results to the Region, staff advised they will investigate geo-fencing and other modes of data collection to gather relevant statistics and report back to the Committee.

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,  
(26) That Report #2024-EDT-6 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

B) Investment Attraction Metrics – Annual Activity Report 2023 (2024-EDT-7)

Report #2024-EDT-7 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Staff responded to a question of clarification from the Committee with regards to the descriptions for Investment Leads as set out in Attachment #2 to the report.

Moved by Councillor Pickles, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,  
(27) That Report #2024-EDT-7 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

**9. Advisory Committee Resolutions**

9.1 Durham Active Transportation Committee

A) Resolution regarding June Bike Month

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,  
(28) That we recommend to Council:

Whereas June is Bike Month;

And whereas Durham Regional Planning Staff have organized numerous bike friendly activities annually for over a decade to educate residents about cycling safety, promote the benefits of cycling, and encourage residents to bike more by participating in Bike Month throughout the month of June; and

And whereas the Durham Active Transportation Committee fully supports the Region's planned Bike Month activities.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Durham Active Transportation Committee request Regional Council's support of the planned Regional Bike Month activities and proclaim the month of June as Bike Month in the Region of Durham.

CARRIED

9.2 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee

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A) Resolution regarding Stormwater Management Fees

Discussion ensued regarding whether farmers that use ponds or wetlands receive credits for the carbon capture that occurs on the farm; and the tax subsidies farmers may be eligible to receive.

At the request of the Committee, staff was directed to investigate whether a formula exists to calculate carbon credits for farmers that have naturalized areas on their properties and examine what subsidies a working farm may be eligible to receive at the Provincial and Federal levels to offset the effects of carbon taxes, and report back to the Committee.

Moved by Councillor Pickles, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,  
(29) That we recommend to Council:

Whereas Stormwater Management fees are intended for urban infrastructure needs and flood prevention, the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) believes that bona fide farmers on agricultural properties should be exempt from paying Stormwater Management fees in the Region of Durham; and, that this resolution be circulated to Durham's area municipalities for their information.

CARRIED

**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, May 7, 2024 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

**13. Adjournment**

Moved by Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,  
(30) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 AM

Respectfully submitted,

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B. Chapman, Chair

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V. Walker, Committee Clerk