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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

A regular meeting of the Planning & Economic Development Committee was held on Tuesday, September 3, 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*
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Neal* left the meeting at 9:41 AM
Councillor Shahid
Councillor Wotten attended the meeting at 9:33 AM
Regional Chair Henry
*** denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Staff

Present: S. Austin, Director, Strategic Initiatives
C. Boyd*, Solicitor, Chief Administrative Office – Legal Services
M. Broderick, Manager, Economic Development, Business Development & Investment
S. Dessureault, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
S. Gill, Director, Economic Development & Tourism
C. Goodchild, Director of Planning
B. Holmes, General Manager, Transit
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
R. Jagannathan, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
J. Kelly, Manager, Policy & Special Studies
L. Lovery*, Director, Rapid Transit & Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)
I. McVey, Manager, Sustainability
J. Severs, Manager, Economic Development, Marketing & Tourism
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
L. Talling, Acting Manager, Economic Development, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
V. Walker, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
R. Woon, Senior Solicitor, Chief Administrative Office – Legal 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,
(50) That the minutes of the regular Planning & Economic Development
Committee meeting held on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. **Statutory Public Meetings**

There were no statutory public meetings.

C. Goodchild, Director of Planning, introduced Jonah Kelly as the new Manager of Policy and Special Studies in the Planning Division.

5. **Presentations**

5.1 Jacquie Severs, Manager, Marketing & Tourism, re: Durham Tourism Five Year Action Plan, the Regional Tourism Plan (2024-EDT-12) [Item 8.2 a)]

Jacquie Severs, Manager, Marketing & Tourism, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Durham Tourism Five Year Action Plan, the Regional Tourism Plan.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Why Tourism Matters
- Ready Set Future's Vision Statement
- Five Sub-Plans
 - Growing North Durham
 - Growing Agri-Food Durham
 - Marketing Action Plan
 - Durham Tourism Action Plan
 - Investment Attraction Plan
- Journey to the Plan
- Key Tourism Segments
 - Culinary Tourism
 - Creative Industries
 - Agri-Tourism
 - Downtowns
 - Sport Tourism
 - Outdoor Tourism
- Special Sections
- Vision

- Mission
- Goals

J. Severs responded to questions from the Committee with regards to whether the vision statement in the action plan is too limited in only identifying residents of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), and whether consideration was given to expanding the vision statement to include municipalities beyond the GTA; how the Region receives funding for tourism from the provincial government; whether additional funding for tourism is available through grant programs; and what strategies are used to inform the public of the tourism readiness plan.

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) Overview of Carbon Offset Opportunities for the Agriculture Sector in Durham Region (2024-P-14)

Report #2024-P-14 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Following a question from the Committee, S. Gill confirmed that the information contained in the report relating to federal subsidies can be shared with the Durham Agriculture Advisory Committee and agriculture business community in the Region.

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
(51) That Report #2024-P-14 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

8. Economic Development

8.1 Correspondence

There were no communication items to be considered.

8.2 Reports

A) Durham Tourism Five Year Action Plan, the Regional Tourism Plan (2024-EDT-12)

Report #2024-EDT-12 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(52) That we recommend to Council:

That the Durham Tourism Strategic Action Plan 2024-2028 (as contained in Attachment #1 to Report #2024-EDT-12 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development) be endorsed.

CARRIED

B) Municipal Accommodation Tax and the Forming of Tourism Municipal Services Corporations (2024-EDT-13)

Report #2024-EDT-13 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Staff responded to questions from the Committee with regards to the benefits of implementing a municipal accommodation tax (MAT); which levels of government are permitted to charge a MAT; at what point other Greater Toronto Hamilton Area municipalities and other large municipalities began implementing a MAT; and qualifications regarding registered tourism entities.

S. Gill provided clarification regarding the purpose of municipalities implementing a MAT, and the legislated requirements for sharing MAT proceeds with eligible tourism entities.

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(53) That we recommend to Council:

That the Chief Administrative Officer, on behalf of the Region and on terms satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor, be authorized to issue letters of authorization to Area Municipalities upon request, to form a Tourism Municipal Services Corporation to receive Municipal Accommodation Tax revenue and perform promotional activities related to tourism.

CARRIED

9. Advisory Committee Resolutions

9.1 Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee

A) Resolution regarding Proposed Amendments to the Ontario Building Code

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Councillor Pickles,

(54) That we recommend to Council:

Whereas to achieve GHG reduction targets in Durham Region a significant increase in the uptake of electric vehicles will be required;

Whereas to increase uptake there is an urgent need to ensure that new homes built in the Region are EV-ready with 200-amp electrical service, as well as electrical conduit, and outlet box in the garage;

Whereas the costs to make new homes EV ready are understood to be significantly less than the costs to retrofit homes;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) supports the proposed amendments to the Ontario Building Code outlined in Bill 199 and recommends to the Planning and Economic Development Committee that this motion be forwarded to Regional Council for their consideration and expression of support.

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, October 1, 2024 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,

(55) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 AM

Respectfully submitted,

B. Chapman, Chair

V. Walker, Committee Clerk