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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

COMMUNITY GROWTH & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

A regular meeting of the Community Growth & Economic Development Committee was held on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 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 9:37 AM and left the meeting at 9:58 AM
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Shahid
Councillor Woo
Councillor Wotten
Regional Chair Henry

*** denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Also

Present: Councillor Mulcahy*
*** denotes visiting Councillors participating electronically**

Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Community Growth & Economic Development
V. Brijpaul, Planner, Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)
M. Broderick, Manager, Business Development & Investment, Economic Development
I. Cheung, Business Development Specialist, Economic Development
S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
J. Feuiltault, Business Development Specialist, Economic Development
T. Fraser, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
N. Gibson, Business Development Specialist, Economic Development
S. Gill*, Director, Economic Development & Tourism
C. Goodchild, Director of Community Growth
B. Holmes, General Manager, Transit
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
J. Kelly, Manager, Integrated Growth Management & Policy
C. Leitch, Manager, Transportation Planning

L. Lavery, Director, Rapid Transit & Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)
A. Luqman, Acting Manager, Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)
J. Rhynas, Business Development Specialist, Economic Development
J. Severs, Manager, Marketing & Tourism, Economic Development
T. Shaver, Manager, Small Business Enterprise Centre, Economic Development & Tourism
L. Talling, Acting Manager, Agriculture & Rural Affairs, Economic Development
L. Trombino, Manager, Development Advisory Services
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 Wotten,
(18) That the minutes of the regular Community Growth & Economic Development Committee meeting held on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

5. Presentations

5.1 Lori Talling, Acting Manager, Agriculture and Rural Economic Development re: Growing North Durham Plan Annual Activity Report (2025-EDT-6) [Item 8.2 a.]

Lori Talling, Acting Manager, Agriculture and Rural Economic Development, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to the Growing North Durham Plan Annual Activity Report.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Background
- Three Pillars
 - People
 - Places
 - Prosperity
- Looking Ahead

L. Talling responded to questions from the Committee with regards to whether the Growing North Durham Plan includes any of the northern portions of the lakeshore municipalities or is exclusive to the northern area municipalities; and whether consideration has been given to the housing supply and cost of housing in north Durham in comparison to the lakeshore municipalities, and the desirability to live, work and play in north Durham.

5.2 Simon Gill, Director of Economic Development and Tourism, and Maylene Broderick, Manager, Business Development and Investment, re: Investment Attraction Metrics – Annual Activity Report 2024 (2025-EDT-7) [Item 8.2 b.]

Simon Gill, Director of Economic Development and Tourism, and Maylene Broderick, Manager, Business Development and Investment, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Investment Attraction Metrics – Annual Activity Report 2024.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- What We Do
- Collaboration with Durham Economic Development Partnership (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: Tampere, Finland Economic Development Partnership
- Supporting Events
- Inbound Delegations
- Spotlight: Investment Ontario
- Metrics Summary
- Investment Successes

M. Broderick responded to questions from the Committee with regards to the sources of new investment leads that do not fall within the five priority areas outlined in “Ready, Set, Future”; what diversified trade options are available for the Region and being considered by Invest Durham; and how the Region can promote its interest in welcoming new international business contracts to Durham.

B. Bridgeman responded to a question from the Committee with regards to whether a phase-in approach to development charges would have a positive impact on attracting new business investment to the Region.

6. Delegations

There were no delegations heard.

7. Community Growth

7.1 Correspondence

There were no communication items to be considered.

7.2 Reports

A) Smart Mobility Durham 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Workplan (2025-CG-4)

Report #2025-CG-4 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

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

- A) That Report #2025-CG-4 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, including the Smart Mobility Durham's 2024 Annual Report as outlined in Attachment 1, be received;
- B) That Smart Mobility Durham's 2025 Workplan be approved, as outlined in Attachment 2 to Report #2025-CG-4; and
- C) That a copy of Report #2025-CG-4 be forwarded to the Durham Active Transportation Committee and the Area Municipalities.

CARRIED

B) Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) Youth Membership Appointment (2025-CG-5)

Report #2025-CG-5 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

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

- A) That Chazz DeAbreu be appointed to the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee as its Youth Member and that they be so advised; and
- B) That a copy of Report #2025-CG-5 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development be forwarded to the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee and Pickering High School.

CARRIED

8. Economic Development

8.1 Correspondence

There were no communication items to be considered.

8.2 Reports

A) Growing North Durham Plan Annual Activity Report (2025-EDT-6)

Report #2025-EDT-6 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

B. Holmes responded to a question from the Committee with regards to how workforce transportation challenges are being addressed, especially for the northern area municipalities.

B. Bridgeman responded to a question from the Committee with regards to pre-servicing employment lands.

Moved by Councillor Pickles, Seconded by Councillor Woo,
(21) That Report #2025-EDT-6 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development be received for information.
CARRIED

B) Investment Attraction Metrics – Annual Activity Report 2024 (2025-EDT-7)

Report #2025-EDT-7 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Pickles, Seconded by Councillor Woo,
(22) That Report #2025-EDT-7 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development be received for information.
CARRIED

9. Advisory Committee Resolutions

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

10. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

11. Other Business

11.1 Durham Region's Planned Activities and Response to United States (U.S.) Tariffs

Following questions from the Committee with regards to how the Region plans to address impacts on Regional services and operations as a result of the tariffs imposed by the U.S., and whether the Region intends to issue a statement to its residents, B. Bridgeman advised that the Durham Economic Task Force is working on several priorities to support the business community affected by the tariffs. He further stated that a resource page has been launched at www.investdurham.ca/tariffs to provide updated information and relevant links and resources about available programs from different federal ministries.

S. Gill stated that some of the planned activities of the Task Force include the following:

- Engaging with the business community, gathering information from businesses on the impacts they are expected to face, and providing advice for actions that can be undertaken by businesses immediately in response to the tariffs;
- Delivering information to businesses and actively promoting the resource page to businesses in the Region;
- Developing a trade diversification program;
- Developing a shop local tourism campaign, which is expected to launch this summer; and
- Hosting an informational webinar in collaboration with the Chambers and Boards of Trade. The webinar will include a segment on the Canada-European Trade Agreement (CETA), and representatives from Export Development Canada (EDC) and the Foreign Trade Commissioner Service will also contribute content for the webinar.

S. Gill responded to further questions from the Committee with regards to who will be able to attend the webinar; the number of memorandums of understanding (MOUs) the Region has entered into internationally; and how many sister cities there are to the Region.

11.2 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) 2025 Farm Tour

Chair Chapman announced that the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee is organizing its annual farm tour which will take place on September 4, 2025, at the Kubota Headquarters in the City of Pickering. He advised that further details will be shared with the Committee as they become available.

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Community Growth & Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,
(23) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:19 AM

Respectfully submitted,

B. Chapman, Chair

V. Walker, Committee Clerk