



Committee Minutes

Economic Development and Planning Advisory Committee

March 13, 2019 – 8:30 AM

The Economic Development and Planning Advisory Committee met on the above date at the County Administration Building with the following members in attendance:

Present: Steacy Den Haan, Brian Davenport, and Sharif Rahman; Councillors Ian Boddy, John Woodbury, Sue Carleton, and Shirley Keaveney; and Warden Selwyn Hicks

Regrets: Lynda Bumstead, Maureen Solecki, Odette Bartnicki, Tom Hutchinson, Fred Varkaris, and Ashley Chapman

Staff

Present: Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer; Heather Morrison, Clerk; Randy Scherzer, Director of Planning; Savanna Myers, Manager of Economic Development; Steve Furness, Acting Manager of Economic Development; Philly Markowitz, Economic Development Officer; and Jacquelyn Morrison, Deputy Clerk/ Legislative Coordinator

Call to Order

The Clerk called the meeting to order at 8:30AM.

Introduction of Committee Members

The Committee members and staff present introduced themselves.

Election of the Chair and Vice Chair

Election of the Chair for 2019

The Clerk called for nominations of the Chair of the Economic Development and Planning Advisory Committee for 2019.

ED01-19 Moved by: Councillor Boddy

Seconded by: Councillor Woodbury

That Brian Davenport be nominated as the Chair of the Economic Development and Planning Advisory Committee for 2019.

ED02-19 Moved by: Councillor Keaveney Seconded by: Councillor Woodbury

That the nominations be closed.

Carried

Brian Davenport accepted the nomination of Chair of the Economic Development and Planning Advisory Committee for 2019.

Election of the Vice Chair for 2019

The Clerk called for nominations for Vice Chair of the Economic Development and Planning Committee for 2019.

ED03-19 Moved by: Brian Davenport Seconded by: Councillor Carleton

That Shirley Keaveney be nominated as the Vice Chair of the Economic Development and Planning Advisory Committee for 2019.

ED04-19 Moved by: Councillor Woodbury Seconded by: Warden Hicks

That the nominations be closed.

Carried

Councillor Keaveney accepted the nomination of Vice Chair of the Economic Development and Planning Advisory Committee for 2019.

The Clerk left the meeting.

Brian Davenport assumed the Chair.

Stacy Den Haan joined the meeting.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

Economic Overview

‘Made in Grey’ County – Economic Development Strategy

Steve Furness provided an overview of Goal One of the Corporate Strategic Plan and the Economic Development Strategic Plan. He highlighted the key strategic plan initiatives and noted that the economy is always changing.

Mr. Furness provided an economic overview of Grey and noted that employment in Grey County as a whole is growing. He provided E-Analyst statistics on the sectors with the largest employment in the County. The Committee discussed the agricultural sector, noting that the employment statistics based on payroll data alone, may not tell the whole story. It was noted that Statistics Canada does show growth in the agricultural industry for Grey County. Mr. Furness also highlighted the age distribution statistics and noted that there are a larger number of people retiring than entering the work force.

Philly Markowitz discussed the importance of agriculture. She noted that the number of farms in Grey County has increased. Discussion occurred on changes in the farming and agriculture industry. It was noted that policy considerations in agriculture will have significant impacts on the industry. Discussion occurred on urban sprawl. Randy Scherzer noted that the Grey County Official Plan supports more diversity on farmlands and promotes growth and development within designated settlement areas.

Mr. Furness highlighted the residential market activity in Grey Bruce Owen Sound. He noted that the average price for a home in Grey Bruce is \$364,376. Steacy Den Haan noted that home prices from February 2019 are up 10% from February 2018.

Mr. Scherzer provided information on residential development activity in Grey County. Since 2016, there have been 4,139 residential units that have been approved or are in the approval process. This does not include Owen Sound statistics. Discussion occurred on the speed at which applications are being processed and that developments are beginning construction quicker than in the past.

Mr. Furness discussed the key initiatives for becoming investment ready, creating business friendly environments, accessing key infrastructure, and workforce development, communication and marketing. He provided an overview on the Business Enterprise Centre, which focuses on supporting small businesses. Mr. Furness discussed infrastructure barriers. The Committee discussed the SWIFT project. Ms. Wingrove noted that SWIFT's mandate is to implement fibre connections in rural areas, which is important for businesses and residents. The background work for SWIFT is complete and, pending provincial decisions, Grey County may see construction in 2019.

Ms. Markowitz provided information on the Regional Agri-Food Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) Plan, the land matchmaking initiative, the food asset map, and the Ag 4.0.3 event that will take place in November.

Mr. Scherzer provided information on planning and development key initiatives, including Recolour Grey, Community Improvement Plan (CIP), trails master plan, climate change action plan, and review of existing plans of subdivision.

Mr. Furness advised of the 2019 priorities, being the Regional Skills Training, Trades and Innovation Centre, newcomer attraction and retention, the BR&E action plan, land

matchmaking, Made in Grey, the website (www.madeingrey.com), and Think Canada. It was specified that Think Canada is supporting Foreign Direct Investment in the area. Mr. Furness noted that the investors were interested in areas that are not saturated with development and are looking for future opportunities.

Mr. Scherzer discussed Recolour Grey, which is Grey County's new Official Plan, pending provincial approval. He highlighted the five main pillars of the Official Plan. Mr. Scherzer also highlighted the Community Improvement Plan (CIP), which is in partnership with local municipalities. He noted that Grey Highlands has just approved a new CIP.

EDPAC Committee Key Priorities 2019

The Chair invited discussion on the Committee's key priorities for 2019. The following areas and ideas were identified:

- workforce;
- attainable housing;
- communication;
- supporting education;
- attracting young families;
- assisting local municipalities;
- agriculture;
- SWIFT;
- infrastructure;
- opportunities with Bruce Power (suppliers and people);
- entrepreneurial development and promotion;
- finding opportunities;
- Made in Grey;
- attraction;
- community focus;
- options for different types of housing;
- small business support;
- natural gas;
- the Wiarton International Airport; and
- sporting events.

Community Improvement Plan (CIP) Status

Randy Scherzer provided an overview of the CIP, which permits municipalities to provide incentives for projects. Grey County will be providing funding for incentives at the local level. Mr. Scherzer highlighted the five focus areas of the CIP. He noted that there have been discussions between local municipalities and the County. The draft CIP will be revised and presented to County Council in May/June. A key part of this project will be to monitor the results of the local CIPs.

Kim Wingrove noted structural challenges in developing purpose built rental units. Two areas that are being looked at by County staff are surplus land and development fees.

Upcoming Events

March 27th, 2019: Yong Professional Network Mixer

April 12th, 2019: Arlene Dickinson Event

April 18, 2019: [Property Assessment 101](#) – Registration can be found [here](#).

Other Business

There was no other business.

Next Meeting Dates

The next meeting will be held on a Wednesday in May at the call of the Chair at the Regional Skill Training, Trade, and Innovation Centre (Sydenham Campus).

On a motion of Councillor Woodbury and Warden Hicks, the meeting adjourned at 10:06 AM.

Brian Davenport, Chair