 Committee Minutes

# Economic Development and Planning CommitteeApril 18, 2017 – 7:30 AM

The Committee met on the above date at the County Administration Building with the following members in attendance:

**Present: Chair Brian Davenport; Councillors Barb Clumpus and Stewart Halliday; Lynda Bumstead, Karen Ferri, Don Lewis and Ashley Chapman**

**Regrets: Warden Alan Barfoot**

**Staff**

**Present: Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer; Randy Scherzer, Director of Planning; Savanna Myers, Economic Development Manager; Philly Markowitz and Steve Furness, Economic Development Officers; Scott Taylor, Senior Planner, Mary Jane Hills, Administrative Assistant and Tara Warder, Committee Coordinator**

**Dale Schenk, Interim Dean of Georgian College was also in attendance.**

## Call to Order

Chair Davenport called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM.

## Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

## Business Arising from the Minutes

### Economic Development and Planning Advisory Committee minutes dated January 24, 2017

These minutes are for information only as they were adopted by Grey County Council on February 23, 2017.

## Reports – CAO

### CAOR-ED-07-17 Municipal Partnership Fund Intake One Applications

Savanna Myers presented the above noted report, providing an overview of the applications received as part of the Municipal Partnership Fund. Applications were received from Grey Highlands, Southgate, Chatsworth, and Owen Sound and all have local and regional impact and meet the qualifications under the program.

Ms. Myers noted that staff anticipate another intake in June.

*ED05-17* Moved by: Councillor Clumpus Seconded by: Lynda Bumstead

**That Report CAOR-ED-07-17 regarding applications for the Municipal Partnership Fund be received and that the projects from Grey Highlands, Southgate, Chatsworth and Owen Sound as outlined in the report, be supported.**

 Carried

### Local Agri Food Strategy

Philly Markowitz addressed the Committee on the Local Agri-Food Strategy and requested the Committee’s endorsement of the Strategy. Planscape Land Use Planning Consultants assisted with the project. If endorsed, it will proceed to Committee of the Whole on April 27, 2017.

It was noted that there are a small number of counties that have a local food strategy, but it is not commonplace at the county level.

Committee members noted that it really ties in well with healthy communities’ initiatives.

*ED06-17* Moved by: Lynda Bumstead Seconded by: Councillor Halliday

**That the Local Agri Food Strategy be received and the recommendations therein be supported.**

 Carried

## Investment Ready Protocol

Steve Furness presented the investment ready protocol. The protocol was developed in consultation with the Economic Development Working Group and provides a coordinated approach to handling investment inquiries that come to Grey County and how those inquiries are shared with member municipalities.

## Bluewater Angel Update

Savanna Myers provided an update on the work undertaken by the Bluewater Angels. It was noted that the group now has 18 Angels, 3 associates, and about a dozen investment opportunities.

## Intelligent Communities Forum Itinerary

Savanna Myers noted that the tour will be four days in length, beginning this coming Sunday and will include tours of each municipality in Grey County. Ms. Myers provided an outline of the itinerary.

## On Farm Business Report

Randy Scherzer provided an update on the on farm business report, noting that Grey County partnered with University of Waterloo students to examine existing policies surrounding on farm businesses and make recommendations on what the County should consider when making policy on this subject.

Scott Taylor provided the Committee with the results of the study, noting that policies need to encourage innovation and be permissive and consistent, and that uses are secondary to farm uses. Further, it is important to have ease of access to information, be consistent with new provincial guidelines and have a process that is predictable and able to be navigated quickly.

Staff addressed questions from the Committee including the rationale from the recommendations, specifically the one pertaining to not permitting residences on smaller farm lots and the need to protect farmers.

## Agricultural Lot Size Study Update

Randy Scherzer provided an update on the agricultural lot size study, also undertaken by the County and University of Waterloo students. The study examined whether smaller lot sizes would encourage entry into farming.

Scott Taylor spoke to the results of the study, noting that allowing smaller lot sizes does not necessarily result in lower prices nor that the land will be any more affordable. When smaller lots are created, the price per acre increases significantly. Alternatives to smaller lot sizes including incentive programs, could be used. The students researched alternative tenure relationship, such as land banking found in Nova Scotia.

It was noted that the County has a generous inventory of smaller lot sizes that come on the market so there is not as much pressure to create new ones.

Mr. Taylor spoke to the legislative tools that are available in other jurisdictions.

## Age Friendly Community Study Update

Randy Scherzer presented the Committee with an update on the Age Friendly Community study. The County partnered with the University of Guelph to conduct a study on age friendly communities.

The recommendations stemming from the study included those surrounding transportation, employment, public spaces and housing.

## Recolour Grey Update

Randy Scherzer noted that all the above information is being collected and will be considered in the Official Plan update.

Five themes have been developed from the results of the Recolour Grey process: Live Grey, Cultivate Grey, Develop Grey, Move Grey and Natural Grey. Mr. Scherzer elaborated on what each theme entails.

There was a sixth category that is outside of the scope of the official plan update but comments from this category will be forwarded on to the appropriate partners.

## Roundtable Updates

Committee members shared updates from their relevant municipalities and organizations.

## Other Business

### Upcoming Dates and Events

Upcoming dates and events were included in the agenda package for information.

## Next Meeting Dates

**Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at the Grey County Administration Building.**

On motion by Councillor Clumpus, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 AM.

 Brian Davenport, Chair