

Economic Development and Planning Advisory Committee

May 29, 2018 – 7:30 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: Chair Brian Davenport; Don Lewis; Fred Varkaris; Lance Thurston; Courtney Miller; Karen Ferri; Councillors Barb Clumpus and John Bell; and Warden Stewart Halliday

Staff

Present: Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer; Randy Scherzer, Director of Planning; Savanna Myers, Manager of Economic Development; Steve Furness and Philly Markowitz, Economic Development Officers; Jacinda Rudolph, Outreach Coordinator; Taylor Corfield, Economic Development Summer Student; and Jacquelyn Morrison, Deputy Clerk/ Legislative Coordinator.

Call to Order

Brian Davenport called the meeting to order at 7:31 AM.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

Reports – Planning

Update on Recolour Grey

Recolour Grey Presentation

Randy Scherzer provided an update on Recolour Grey. The draft official plan has gathered numerous comments, which have been reviewed and posted on the County's website.

Mr. Scherzer provided a summary of the revisions that have been made to the draft official plan. The updated draft official plan has been posted to the County website.

Mr. Scherzer advised the Committee of the next steps. Comments on the revised draft

official plan are to be received by June 29th. The revised draft plan will be presented to County Council in June. In July, any further comments will be reviewed and a final version of the official plan will be presented to County Council. Once the official plan is approved by County Council, it will be sent to the Province for review and approval.

Mr. Scherzer spoke to the conflict resolution process in place regarding the official plan. Mr. Scherzer encourages individuals to contact the Planning Department early and often prior to purchasing a property for future development purposes or when considering developing a property.

Affordable/ Attainable Housing Update

Randy Scherzer provided an update on Affordable/ Attainable Housing.

Affordable and attainable housing concerns were heard through the Recolour Grey process. There is a need for a mix of affordable and attainable housing options to support all age groups. There is also a need to provide transportation options to facilitate affordable and attainable housing.

Mr. Scherzer noted proposed housing policies in the draft official plan, including inclusionary zoning, housing first policies, age-friendly options, policies to support second units, county-wide transportation policies, and tiny home policies. He noted a target of 30% new housing or conversion of units for each municipality to be affordable.

Mr. Scherzer noted steps that have been undertaken regarding affordable and attainable housing, including holding the Mayor's Attainable Housing Forum in Meaford, a housing project study by University of Guelph Masters' students, the Labour Task Force Housing Project, and commencing research for the Community Improvement Plan program.

Fred Varkaris noted the need for attainable short term housing for Georgian College's international students.

Steve Furness encouraged members to look at the South Georgian Bay Labour Task Force attainable housing program.

ED05-18 Moved by: Councillor Clumpus Seconded by: Warden Halliday

That the County of Grey proceed with developing communication and educational materials to create awareness about the need and benefits of affordable and attainable housing; and

That the funds for creating these materials come from existing funds in the Communication, Planning and Economic Development budgets.

Carried

Reports – CAO

CAOR-ED-08-18 Regional Attraction & Retention Campaign

Savanna Myers addressed the above report. Grey County would like to take the lead to attract and retain employees through the development of a Regional Attraction and Retention Campaign (“the Campaign”).

Ms. Myers noted the high turnover rate within the County. She advised that the Campaign will target students, young professionals, and newcomers. She referenced the work already undertaken, including a Tri-County Partnership, a South Georgian Bay Labour Task Force, a stakeholder session, a New to Grey campaign, a Regional Job Fair, and a Young Professionals Mixer.

Kim Wingrove spoke to the importance of employee retention.

Lance Thurston noted that the hospital is interested in, and supports, this initiative.

ED06-18 Moved by: Councillor Bell Seconded by: Councillor Clumpus

That Committee Report CAOR-ED-08-18 titled Regional Attraction & Retention Campaign be received; and

That the staff be directed to formally engage campaign partners, lead the development of an RFP for the campaign materials and contribute \$10,000 to the project from the 2018 economic development budget.

Carried

Lance Thurston left the meeting.

CAOR-ED-07-18 Economic Development and Planning Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Savanna Myers addressed the above report regarding an update to the Committee’s Terms of Reference.

ED07-18 Moved by: Fred Varkaris Seconded by: Warden Halliday

That Report CAOR-ED-07-18 regarding revised Terms of Reference for the Economic Development and Planning Advisory Committee be received; and

That the revised Terms of Reference for the Economic Development and Planning Advisory Committee as attached to Report CAOR-ED-07-18 be endorsed.

Carried

Think Canada – Foreign Direct Investment

Steve Furness advised the Committee about the Think Canada meeting that he attended regarding Foreign Direct Investment.

There is an interest from foreign investors in investment opportunities. Moving forward Grey County will have to be specific on what investment opportunities they have to offer. Mr. Furness noted that discussions are ongoing.

Business Enterprise Centre Introduction

Ms. Myers introduced Courtney Miller from the Business Enterprise Centre. The Business Enterprise Centre relocated to the Grey County Administration Building in April of 2018.

Ms. Miller provided an update on the Business Enterprise Centre. There is currently a satellite office in Hanover.

Dates to Remember

The following dates and upcoming events were highlighted:

June 8, 2018: Warden's Breakfast & Grey County Administration Building Open House;

June 13, 2018: Hawk's Nest Event;

June 21, 2018: Creative Mixer: Young Professionals Network.

Other Business

EmployerOne Survey Results

Ms. Myers provided the Committee with the EmployerOne Survey Results.

Roundtable Updates

Philly Markowitz advised that in the Business Retention Survey she is hearing similar comments regarding retention and attraction of employees in the agriculture and food sector.

Ms. Markowitz also noted that the Grey County Argi-Food map data will be updated and that she is working on the Ag 4.0 Conference for November.

Barb Clumpus provided an update on Meaford's Housing Forum. Meaford is projecting a growth in housing units over the next 6-7 years. She noted that Meaford will be

receiving a Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder clinic, which will be a positive addition to the area.

Warden Halliday congratulated staff on all initiatives. He advised that Grey Highlands will be implementing similar policies.

Karen Ferri noted the great bloom this year for agriculture.

Taylor Corfield, the Economic Development Summer Student, noted that she is updating the business directory.

Fred Varkaris noted that Georgian College is offering business programs again. Georgian College will be adding more new programs in the future. Mr. Varkaris noted that Georgian College's recruitment for staff is going well.

Don Lewis noted a renewed interest in agriculture. The Holstein Agro Expo will be held on July 6th and 7th, 2018. He noted that Councillor Bell will be participating in the Agro Expo.

Next Meeting Dates

The next meeting will be determined at the call of the Chair.

On motion by Warden Halliday, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM.

Brian Davenport, Chair