



Regional Municipality of Waterloo

Economic Development and Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

10:35 a.m.

Regional Council Chamber

150 Frederick Street, Kitchener, ON

Present were: Chair H. Jowett, D. Craig, D. Jaworsky, G. Lorentz, J. Nowak, S. Strickland, B. Vrbanovic, and K. Seiling

Regional Chair K. Seiling assumed the chair to conduct elections for the Committee Chair.

Election of Chair

Moved by K. Seiling

Seconded by D. Jaworsky

That Councillor Helen Jowett be nominated and accepted as Chair of the Economic Development and Promotion Committee.

Carried

H. Jowett assumed the chair.

Election of Vice-Chair

Moved by D. Jaworsky

Seconded by G. Lorentz

That Councillor Joe Nowak be nominated and accepted as Vice-Chair of the Economic Development and Promotion Committee.

Carried

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest Under The Municipal Conflict of Interest Act

None declared.

Reports

Interdepartmental

- a) CAO-15-01/PDL-ECD-15-01, Strengthening Our Economy - Waterloo Region Economic Development Implementation Update

Mike Murray, Chief Administrative Officer advised this report is further to the information presented at the All Council meeting on January 29, 2015. He stated the cities of Cambridge and Kitchener have dealt with the recommendation. D. Craig confirmed Cambridge approved a recommendation with the addition of the Corporation being non-political and having a labour individual included. B. Vrbanovic advised Kitchener also approved the recommendation with additions regarding the selection committee and providing detailed financial reports annually.

Committee members debated the recommendation and asked questions related to the current economic development entities in the area municipalities and the budget money for them. Rob Horne, Commissioner, Planning, Development and Legislative Services advised staff have requested this information from the area municipalities. A Committee member noted the area municipalities do not have economic development corporations but departments that deal with economic development.

A question regarding the relationship with the Regional economic development corporation was raised. It was noted a partnership agreement is being developed that will detail the working relationship and provide a more seamless approach than in the past. The specific process for securing new development was discussed and it was advised this will be a two way process where the new corporation will inform the area municipalities.

The matter of meetings of the new economic development corporation meetings being open to the public has not been discussed and it will be a decision to be made by the corporation. They do not fall under the provisions of the "Municipal Act" and it has been created as a not for profit corporation.

In response to an inquiry, Mike Murray, Chief Administrative Officer stated the corporation will report annually to the All Council meeting and to individual area Councils on request.

Amendments to the recommendation were proposed regarding elected representatives, guidelines for open and closed meetings, future recruitment and full review of the operation.

Moved by K. Seiling

Seconded by D. Craig

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo take the following actions regarding Economic Development in Waterloo Region:

Approve the first Waterloo Regional Economic Development Strategy dated December 2014, developed in partnership with all Area Municipalities as described in Report CAO-15-01/PDL-ECD-15-01, dated February 11, 2015.

Direct staff to implement and promote the Waterloo Regional Economic Development Strategy in support of existing economic prosperity and as a means of attracting new investment.

Approve the framework and financial model for a new Waterloo Region Economic Development Corporation (WREDC) as described in Report CAO-15-01/PDL-ECD-15-01, dated February 11, 2015, subject to approval of the 2015 budget.

Authorize the CAO to enter into such agreements as necessary to implement the WREDC, with such agreements to be satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor.

Thank the members of the Economic Development Advisory Committee for the time and expertise they dedicated to advancing these new economic development initiatives in the interest of further supporting the regional economy and broader community prosperity.

Moved by S. Strickland

Seconded by B. Vrbanovic

That there be at least one elected official on the WREDC Board.

Motion Lost

Moved by S. Strickland

Seconded by B. Vrbanovic

That staff and the new WREDC Board be requested to develop guidelines for open and closed meetings with respect to the affairs of the Corporation.

Carried

Moved by B. Vrbanovic

Seconded by S. Strickland

That the Steering Committee be requested to consider maintaining the Selection Committee as a standing committee to appoint future board members as needed.

Carried

Moved by G. Lorentz

Seconded by D. Craig

That a review be completed by the Chief Administrative Officers in early 2017, after one full year of operation of the WREDC.

Carried

Main Motion Carried, as amended

Finance

b) COR-TRY-15-13, Approach to Economic Development and Promotion Grants

M. Murray provided an overview of the report and asked for Committee's input if they want the process changed. There were questions regarding how the applications are advertised and Angela Hinchberger, Director Treasury Services/Deputy Treasurer stated they contact the groups that had received a grant in the previous year and there are also one time requests that are received by staff.

A suggestion was made that the core groups that receive funding through this grant process be added to the base budget. It was agreed to continue with the process for this year.

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A request was made to encourage transit ridership to support local events and how a more integrated transit network can be developed.

Received for information.

Adjourn

Moved by K. Seiling

Seconded by D. Craig

That the meeting adjourn at 11:45 a.m.

Carried

Committee Chair, H. Jowett

Committee Clerk, L. Wetzel