



Regional Municipality of Waterloo

Economic Development and Promotion Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

12:20 p.m.

Regional Council Chambers

150 Frederick Street, Kitchener

Present were: Chair H. Jowett, D. Jaworsky, J. Nowak, S. Strickland, B. Vrbanovic*, K. Seiling

Absent: D. Craig, G. Lorentz

Also Present: K. Kiefer

Declarations Of Pecuniary Interest Under The Municipal Conflict Of Interest Act

None declared.

Reports – Planning, Development and Legislative Services

- a) PDL-15-06, 2015, Proposed Changes to Regional Council's Economic Development and Promotion Committee

Rob Horne, Commissioner, Planning, Development and Legislative Services provided an overview of the report and background information on the proposed prescribed roles for the Committee.

*B. Vrbanovic entered the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Committee members inquired about the liaison with the Waterloo Region Economic Development Corporation (WREDC) and the Waterloo Region Tourism Marketing Corporation (WRTMC) and what that would entail. R. Horne stated it would consist of annual reports and performance measures. Mike Murray, Chief Administrative Officer stated staff supports an interactive discussion at the Committee level with these organizations. These could become standing agenda items for the Economic Development Committee.

With respect to development applications, R. Horne stated this is a top priority in 2016 and approvals and timelines will be provided to this Committee.

There was a discussion on funding for the WREDC and WRTMC. The Memorandum of Understanding that was signed between all eight municipalities and the WREDC was also noted. M. Murray advised the reporting relationship states attendance a minimum of once a year at an All Council meeting and meeting with any of the municipalities at their request.

Moved by S. Strickland

Seconded by D. Jaworsky

That the Economic Development and Promotion Committee recommend to Regional Council that it be renamed the Economic Development Committee (EDC);

And That the Economic Development Committee assume the prescribed roles, as described in Report No. PDL-15-06, dated December 16, 2015.

Carried

Reports - Finance

a) COR-TRY-15-117, Options for Economic Development and Promotion Grants

Angela Hinchberger, Director of Treasury Services/Deputy Treasurer provided background information, noting the current budget of \$154,000 for the five core groups receiving annual ongoing grants. She outlined the four options included in the report and stated there is a parallel review process underway of the grants to community organizations.

There was discussion about the intent of the recommendation and M. Murray confirmed it is to provide the same funding to the five core organizations that receive annual
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ongoing grants for 2016 and review the process during 2016. In response to a question, it was clarified that additional grants in the past have been funded from the contingency, which no longer exists, or through an overexpenditure of the budget line.

A suggestion was made to include the review of these grants along with the review underway for community organizations. Committee members were supportive of this approach.

K. Kiefer requested an amendment to page 17 of the staff report to reflect all seven area municipalities receiving economic benefit for the Cambridge Highland Games. A. Hinchberger noted this information was taken directly from the application.

It was agreed a coordinated approach makes sense and a suggestion was made to consider funding through a tiered system similar to what is used in Kitchener. There are a number of large festivals held throughout the Region that could be considered for funding and this could be divested to another group for deliberation. It was suggested this may get worked out between the WREDC and the WRTMC.

The Economic Development Committee has a lot of work to do and the focus will be on economic development and tourism.

A revised motion was put forward.

Moved by K. Seiling

Seconded by S. Strickland

That the Economic Development 2016 budget for grants be set at \$154,000;

And that the five core organizations receiving annual ongoing grants be funded for 2016;

And that no new grant applications be received for this program;

And that the Economic Development and Promotion Committee refer the review of the five organizations that currently receive an on-going grant to the Ad Hoc Working Group on Community Grants.

Carried

Reports – CAO

a) Waterloo Region Economic Development Corporation (WREDC)

M. Murray provided an update on the WREDC, stating the CEO has been hired. Tony La Mantia will start on January 4, 2016. Jane Black, Board member is the interim CAO for the transition from Canada's Technology Triangle to the WREDC. It is expected T. La Mantia will provide an update to an All Council meeting in the new year but a request can be made for him to meet with the Economic Development Committee in the first or second quarter.

Adjourn

Moved by B. Vrbanovic

Seconded by D. Jaworsky

That the meeting adjourn at 1:15 p.m.

Carried

Committee Chair, H. Jowett

Committee Clerk, L. Wetzel