

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

PEDC 7-2020

Wednesday, September 9, 2020

Council Chamber/Video Conference

Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West

1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON

Committee Members Present in the Council Chamber: Darte (Committee Vice-Chair)

Committee Members Present via Video Conference: Bradley (Regional Chair), Butters, Campion, Easton, Fertich, Foster, Huson (Committee Chair), Redekop, Rigby, Sendzik, Witteveen, Zalepa

Other Councillors Present via Video Conference: Disero

Absent/Regrets: Bellows, Bylsma, Greenwood, Heit, Junkin, Ugulini

Staff Present in the Council Chamber: E. Fabiani, Technical Support Analyst, V. Kuhns, Acting Director, Economic Development, R. Mostacci, Commissioner, Planning & Development Services, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Staff Present via Video Conference: I. Banach, Manager, Long Range Planning, P. Busnello, Manager, Development Planning, N. Charette, Manager, ERA Business Support, D. Heyworth, Official Plan Policy Consultant, P. Lambert, Director, Infrastructure Planning & Development Engineering, K. McCauley, Senior Planner, Secondary Plans, D. Morreale, Director, Development Approvals, R. Muzzell, Manager, Accounting Services, S. Norman, Senior Planner, K. Provost, Manager, Strategic Economic Development, M. Trennum, Deputy Regional Clerk, B. Zvaniga, Interim Commissioner, Public Works

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Vice-Chair Darte called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

4. **DELEGATIONS**

4.1 **Securing a Ramsar Designation for the Niagara River - Canadian Portion (PDS-C 11-2020 - Agenda Item 6.4)**

Jocelyn Baker, Canadian Co-Chair, Jajeon Rose-Burney, U.S. Co-Chair, and Kerry Mitchell, U.S. Member, Niagara River Binational Ramsar Designation Steering Committee appeared before Committee to provide information respecting the designation of the Canadian portion of the Niagara River as a wetland of international importance (Ramsar site) and to request Council endorsement of the nomination.

Moved by Councillor Huson
Seconded by Councillor Foster

WHEREAS, the Ramsar Convention is a voluntary global treaty, signed in Ramsar, Iran in 1971, that promotes the conservation and wise use of water-based ecosystems, including lakes and rivers;

WHEREAS, a nomination for the Niagara River to become a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Site) and the first transboundary Ramsar Site in the America's is being sought by U.S. and Canadian partners in order to recognize the importance of the Niagara River's contribution to the global natural environment;

WHEREAS, a binational steering committee was formed to pursue the nomination, including oversight of the development of nomination documents, engagement plans, and other procedural requirements, as outlined in the Ramsar policy documents for each respective country;

WHEREAS, the designation will not impose any additional regulations on property owners along the Niagara River Corridor; and

WHEREAS, the designation will open up greater opportunities for expanding tourism programming, promote increased public awareness of the River's importance to global biodiversity through research and development, and allow the Niagara River region to further foster cooperation and partnership between the United States and Canada to ensure conservation both within and around the Niagara River Corridor.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Regional Municipality of Niagara **ENDORSE** the nomination of the Niagara River as a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Site).

Moved by Councillor Easton
Seconded by Councillor Witteveen

That the motion **BE REFERRED** to staff to provide additional information regarding the designation.

Defeated

The Committee Vice-Chair called the vote on the motion as follows:

WHEREAS, the Ramsar Convention is a voluntary global treaty, signed in Ramsar Iran in 1971, that promotes the conservation and wise use of water-based ecosystems, including lakes and rivers;

WHEREAS, a nomination for the Niagara River to become a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Site) and the first transboundary Ramsar Site in the America's is being sought by U.S. and Canadian partners in order to recognize the importance of the Niagara River's contribution to the global natural environment;

WHEREAS, a binational steering committee was formed to pursue the nomination, including oversight of the development of nomination documents, engagement plans, and other procedural requirements, as outlined in the Ramsar policy documents for each respective country;

WHEREAS, the designation will not impose any additional regulations on property owners along the Niagara River Corridor; and

WHEREAS, the designation will open up greater opportunities for expanding tourism programming, promote increased public awareness of the River's importance to global biodiversity through research and development, and allow the Niagara River region to further foster cooperation and partnership between the United States and Canada to ensure conservation both within and around the Niagara River Corridor.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Regional Municipality of Niagara **ENDORSE** the nomination of the Niagara River as a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Site).

Recorded Vote:

Yes (10): Bradley, Butters, Campion, Darte, Fertich, Foster, Huson, Redekop, Rigby, Sendzik.

No (3): Easton, Witteveen, Zalepa.

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

Provide a map of the Niagara River Watershed. Councillor Easton.

4.2 Endorsement of the Glendale District Plan (PDS 27-2020 (Agenda Item 5.1))

Moved by Councillor Zalepa
Seconded by Councillor Huson

That Stephen Bedford **BE PERMITTED** to appear before Committee as an individual delegate respecting Report PDS 27-2020 - Endorsement of the Glendale District Plan.

Carried

4.2.1 Stephen Bedford, Development Manager, LANDx Developments Ltd. on behalf of White Oaks

Stephen Bedford, Development Manager, LANDx Developments Ltd., appeared before the Committee on behalf of White Oaks, to speak in favour of the endorsement of the Glendale District Plan.

5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 PDS 27-2020

Endorsement of the Glendale District Plan

Kirsten McCauley, Senior Planner, Secondary Plans, provided information respecting Endorsement of the Glendale District Plan. Topics of the presentation included:

- Glendale Study Area
- Glendale District Plan Process Timeline
- Engagement Highlights
- Vision Statement
- Demonstration Plan and Key Directions
- Main Street and Community/Transit Hub
- District Plan Summary
- Regional Official Plan Amendment
- Glendale Secondary Plan Update
- Technical Advisory Committee
- Coordination of Next Steps

Moved by Councillor Huson
Seconded by Councillor Zalepa

That Report PDS 27-2020, dated September 9, 2020, respecting Endorsement of the Glendale District Plan, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Council **ENDORSE** the Glendale District Plan (Appendix 1 to Report PDS 27-2020) as a land use strategy for the future growth, design and development of the Glendale area;
2. That Council **AUTHORIZE** staff to work collaboratively with the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake on the update to the Glendale Secondary Plan;
3. That Council **AUTHORIZE** the ongoing work of the Glendale District Plan Technical Advisory Committee with the mandate to implement the key directions, strategies and recommendations of the District Plan; and
4. That Report PDS 27-2020 **BE CIRCULATED** to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the City of St. Catharines for their information.

Carried

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Fertich

That the following items **BE RECEIVED** for information:

ED 10-2020
COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Economic Development

PDS-C 8-2020
COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Planning and Development

PDS-C 10-2020
Glendale District Plan

PDS-C 11-2020
Ramsar Request for Endorsement

ED 11-2020
Economic Recovery Plan Update

There being no objection, Correspondence Item PDS-C 11-2020, respecting Ramsar Request for Endorsement (Agenda Item 6.4) was considered separately as follows:

That Correspondence Item PDS-C 11-2020, being a memorandum from E. Acs, Manager of Community Planning, dated September 9, 2020, respecting Ramsar Request for Endorsement, **BE RECEIVED** and staff **BE DIRECTED** to provide information respecting the Ramsar designation on the Councillor Weekly Correspondence Distribution.

Carried

The Committee Vice-Chair called the vote on the balance of the motion as follows:

That the following items **BE RECEIVED** for information:

ED 10-2020

COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Economic Development

PDS-C 8-2020

COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Planning and Development

PDS-C 10-2020

Glendale District Plan

ED 11-2020

Economic Recovery Plan Update

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

Forward Correspondence Item ED 11-2020, respecting Economic Recovery Plan Update (Agenda Item 6.5), to the Women's Advisory Committee for information. Councillor Huson.

Provide information respecting specific programs for youth in Niagara to address unemployment and information respecting programs and services other municipalities have in place to support youth. Councillor Huson.

6.6 PDS 28-2020

Regional Structure Background Report

Isaiah Banach, Manager, Long Range Planning, provided information respecting Growth Management in the Official Plan. Topics of the presentation included:

- The Growth Management Program
 - Relationship Between Growth Management Strategies
 - The Land Needs Assessment Process
- Next Steps and Engagement
- Takeaways

Moved by Councillor Easton
Seconded by Councillor Butters

That Report PDS 28-2020, dated September 9, 2020, respecting Regional Structure Background Report, **BE RECEIVED** and **BE CIRCULATED** to local municipal Planning Directors and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Carried

6.7 PDS 29-2020

Settlement Area Boundary Review Program: Growth Plan Forecasts and Land Needs Assessment Update

Moved by Councillor Zalepa
Seconded by Councillor Fertich

That Report PDS 29-2020, dated September 9, 2020, respecting Settlement Area Boundary Review Program: Growth Plan Forecasts and Land Needs Assessment Update, **BE RECEIVED** and **BE CIRCULATED** to local municipal Planning Directors and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Carried

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items of other business.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Headquarters.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Councillor Darte
Committee Vice-Chair

Matthew Trennum
Deputy Regional Clerk

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk