

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

**PEDC 9-2021**

**Wednesday, September 15, 2021**

**Council Chamber/Video Conference  
Regional Headquarters, Campbell West  
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee Members Present in the Council Chamber: Huson (Committee Chair), Witteveen (Committee Vice Chair)

Committee Members Present via Video Conference: Bradley (Regional Chair), Bylsma, Campion, Darte, Easton, Fertich, Foster, Junkin, Redekop, Rigby, Sendzik, Ugulini

Absent/Regrets: Bellows, Butters, Greenwood, Heit, Zalepa

Staff Present in the Council Chamber: D. Giles, Director, Community & Long Range Planning, M. Lewis, Client Support Advisor, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, M. Sergi, Commissioner, Planning & Development Services, G. Spezza, Director, Economic Development, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, C. Ventura, Legislative Coordinator

Staff Present via Video Conference: E. Acs, Manager, Community Planning, I. Banach, Manager, Long Range Planning, P. Busnello, Manager, Development Planning, B. Fricke, Senior Planner, Planning and Development Services, D. Heyworth, Official Plan Policy Consultant, V. Kuhns, Associate Director, Economic Development, P. Lambert, Director, Infrastructure Planning & Development Engineering, B. Landry, Manager, Economic Research & Analysis, D. Morreale, Director, Development Approvals

Others Present via Video Conference: P. Di Ianni, Director, Economic Development, Town of Lincoln, M. Marino, Manager, Economic Development, City of Thorold

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Huson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

4. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

5. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

5.1 **PDS-C 48-2021**

Recommendations from the Women's Advisory Committee

Moved by Councillor Bylsma  
Seconded by Councillor Fertich

That Correspondence Item PDS-C 48-2021, dated September 15, 2021, respecting Recommendations from the Women's Advisory Committee meeting held on July 28, 2021, **BE RECEIVED**, and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the presentation respecting Women Owned/Led Businesses **BE USED** to inform policies and programs offered to support businesses ensuring a gender based lens; and
2. That a Gender-based Analysis Plus process **BE COMPLETED** for all economic development surveys where appropriate.

**Carried**

5.2 **PDS-C 50-2021**

Climate Change Motion

Moved by Regional Chair Bradley  
Seconded by Councillor Darte

WHEREAS Regional Council recognizes that climate change is a real and significant threat to both Niagara's natural environment and economy;

WHEREAS Niagara Region has already been impacted by climate change through shoreline and escarpment destruction, millions of dollars of infrastructure damages caused by extreme storm events and increase freeze-thaw cycles destroying our roads and subsurface infrastructure;

WHEREAS Niagara Region's agriculture sector struggles with irrigation challenges that are linked to drought-like conditions caused by climate change;

WHEREAS Niagara Region recognizes all the existing, albeit fragmented, climate change work that has occurred across all Regional departments;

WHEREAS Niagara Region recognizes that all levels of government, including municipalities, have a crucial role to play in the mitigation and adaption of climate change;

WHEREAS many municipalities across Ontario have formal strategies to manage climate change, investing resources to help combat the effects of extreme weather in their communities;

WHEREAS Niagara Region recognizes that addressing climate action and transitioning to lower-carbon options represents an important opportunity for economic stimulation and job growth;

WHEREAS a 2020 study conducted by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) found that climate adaptation costs Canadian municipalities an estimated \$5.3 billion annually, including significant increases in insurance premiums related to the impacts of extreme weather;

WHEREAS the same FCM report found that investments in resilient infrastructure have a return on investment of \$6 in future averted losses for every \$1 spent proactively;

WHEREAS a report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has indicated a need for a massive reduction in carbon emissions by 45%, reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050, in order to have a reasonable chance of keeping global warming to 1.5C and maintaining a climate compatible with human civilization; and

WHEREAS a recent United Nations (UN) report on climate change found that while human behaviour has unequivocally warmed the planet and climate changes are happening more rapidly, there is still a window in which human can alter their path.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. That Regional Council **DIRECT** staff to conduct a fulsome review of all current and former Regional initiatives, including strategic plans, related to the management, mitigation and adaptation of climate change in Niagara;

2. That Regional Council **DIRECT** staff to research municipal best practices across Ontario related to community and corporate mitigation and adaptation of climate change;
3. That Regional Council **DIRECT** staff to provide a report outlining their findings and develop a program proposal, including the immediate 2022 budgetary impacts, to address corporate and community climate mitigation and adaptation to a future Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting; and
4. That Niagara Region **DIRECT** staff to organize and host a climate summit for the purpose of evaluating best practices, coordinating climate action and ensuring all of Niagara is committed to climate change adaptation and mitigation, by the end of Q2 2022.

The following friendly **amendment** was accepted by the Committee Chair and the mover and seconder of the motion, so clause 1 reads as follows:

1. That Regional Council **DIRECT** staff to conduct a fulsome review of all current and former Regional initiatives, including strategic plans, related to the management, mitigation and adaptation of climate change in Niagara **and Regional Council DECLARE a climate emergency**;

The following friendly **amendment** was accepted by the Committee Chair and the mover and seconder of the motion, so clause 4 reads as follows:

4. That Niagara Region **DIRECT** staff to organize and host a climate summit for the purpose of evaluating best practices, coordinating climate action and ensuring all of Niagara is committed to climate change adaptation and mitigation, by the end of Q2 2022 **and that the Provincial and Federal governments be informed and influenced by these best practices**.

The Committee Chair called the vote on the motion as amended, as follows:

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. That Regional Council **DIRECT** staff to conduct a fulsome review of all current and former Regional initiatives, including strategic plans, related to the management, mitigation and adaptation of climate change in Niagara and Regional Council **DECLARE** a climate emergency;
2. That Regional Council **DIRECT** staff to research municipal best practices across Ontario related to community and corporate mitigation and adaptation of climate change;

3. That Regional Council **DIRECT** staff to provide a report outlining their findings and develop a program proposal, including the immediate 2022 budgetary impacts, to address corporate and community climate mitigation and adaptation to a future Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting; and
4. That Niagara Region **DIRECT** staff to organize and host a climate summit for the purpose of evaluating best practices, coordinating climate action and ensuring all of Niagara is committed to climate change adaptation and mitigation, by the end of Q2 2022 and that the Provincial and Federal governments be informed and influenced by these best practices.

**Carried**

**6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

6.1 ED 17-2021

Economic Development Strategy Update and Economic Base Analysis

Blake Landry, Manager, Economic Research & Analysis, provided information respecting Niagara Economic Base Analysis. Topics of the presentation included:

- Section 1: Demographic Characteristics
- Section 2: Labour Force
- Section 3: Industrial Base Analysis
- Section 4: International Trade
- Section 5: Macroeconomic Characteristics
- Section 6: Regional Benchmarking

George Spezza, Director, Economic Development, introduced the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Economic Development Strategy Advisory Council, Marco Marino, Manager, Economic Development, City of Thorold, and Paul Di Ianni, Director, Economic Development, Town of Lincoln.

Moved by Councillor Sendzik  
Seconded by Councillor Foster

That Report ED 17-2021, dated September 15, 2021, respecting Economic Development Strategy Update and Economic Base Analysis, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**Carried**

6.2 PDS 35-2021

Initiation Report for Port Colborne Quarry Regional Official Plan  
Amendment 20

Moved by Councillor Ugolini  
Seconded by Councillor Campion

That Report PDS 35-2021, dated September 15, 2021, respecting  
Initiation Report for Port Colborne Quarry Regional Official Plan  
Amendment 20, **BE RECEIVED** and **BE CIRCULATED** to the City of Port  
Colborne, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, and IBI Group.

**Carried**

6.3 PDS 36-2021

Consultation Response and Further Policy Development on Niagara  
Region Official Plan

Moved by Councillor Sendzik  
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report PDS 36-2021, dated September 15, 2021, respecting  
Consultation Response and Further Policy Development, **BE RECEIVED**  
and **BE CIRCULATED** to the Local Area Municipalities.

**Carried**

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

7.1 Industrial Space Economic Development Opportunities

Moved by Councillor Darté  
Seconded by Councillor Foster

1. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to provide a report to the October 13, 2021,  
Planning and Economic Development Committee that includes:
  - a) information on the number of inquiries received for industrial space  
from both companies that are internal and external to Niagara over the  
past 2 years;
  - b) the number of inquiries that resulted in a successful placement in  
Niagara as a result of those inquiries;
  - c) information on what mapping is available to inform industrial space  
inquiries, identification of who is responsible for ownership/maintaining  
that information, and included in the mapping, show what land is  
serviced and non serviced;

- d) clarification of the inquiry process and suggestions to streamline, reduce timelines and expedite any necessary communication of information or attainment of approvals in helping new businesses locate in Niagara or existing business grow in place; and
- e) report to committee as to what follow up was done by each inquiry not successful including what the details were.

The following friendly **amendment** was accepted by the Committee Chair and the mover and seconder of the motion so clause 1 reads:

That staff **BE DIRECTED** to provide a report to the October 13, 2021, **as soon as possible to** the Planning and Economic Development Committee that includes...

Moved by Councillor Rigby  
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That the motion respecting Industrial Space Economic Development Opportunities **BE REFERRED** to staff for provide additional information including a timeline for report completion.

**Carried**

**8. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 13 at 1:00 p.m.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

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Councillor Huson  
Committee Chair

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Chris Ventura  
Legislative Coordinator

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Ann-Marie Norio  
Regional Clerk