

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

PEDC 4-2024

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

**Council Chamber - In Person and Electronic Meeting
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee: Bateman*, Bradley (Regional Chair)*, Campion, Davies (Committee Vice Chair), Foster*, Ganann, Huson (Committee Chair), Junkin*, Kaiser*, Morocco, Redekop*, Rigby, Seaborn, Siscoe*, Steele, Ugulini, Witteveen

Other Councillors: Craitor* Sorrento*

Absent/Regrets: Ip, Jordan

Staff: E. Acs, Manager, Community Planning, P. Busnello, Manager, Development Planning*, S. Cole, Manager, Strategic Initiatives, S. Dunsmore, Director, Infrastructure Planning and Development Engineering, E. Chou, Manager, Trade & Investment, R. Hill, Legislative Assistant, B. Landry, Manager, Economic Research and Analysis, D. Morreale, Director, Development Approvals*, M. Marino, Associate Director, Economic Development, B. Menage, Director, Procurement and Strategic Acquisition*, R. Muzzell, Manager, Program Financial Support*, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, C. Ogunniyi, Manager, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Indigenous Relations, M. Robinson, Director, Strategic Transformation Office, M. Sergi, Commissioner, Growth Strategy & Economic Development, G. Spezza, Director, Economic Development, J. Spratt, Legislative Coordinator, A. Stea, Director, Community & Long Range Planning, C. Tia, Planner, R. Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer

* indicates members who participated electronically, all other members participated in person

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Committee Chair Huson read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Niagara Workforce Coalition

Vivian Kinnaird, CEO/Strategy Lead, Workforce Collective, and Rachel Crane, Learning & Engagement Lead, Workforce Collective/Executive Director, Literacy Link Niagara, provided information respecting Niagara Workforce Coalition. Topics of the presentation included:

- Integrating workforce planning and development in Niagara
- Priorities
- Electric vehicle manufacturing workforce
- Common language
- Intended outcomes
- Timeline

There being no objection, Confidential Report PDS 10-2024 was dealt with at this time.

9. CLOSED SESSION

Committee Chair Huson confirmed that no Committee member wished to go into closed session to discuss the item.

10. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

10.1 Confidential PDS 10-2024

A Matter of Litigation Affecting the Municipality under s. 239(2)(e) of the Municipal Act, 2001 – Ontario Land Tribunal Appeal of Regional Official Plan Amendment (ROPA) 3

Moved by Councillor Bateman
Seconded by Councillor Morocco

That Confidential PDS 10-2024, dated April 10, 2024, respecting A Matter of Litigation Affecting the Municipality under s. 239(2)(e) of the Municipal Act, 2001 – Ontario Land Tribunal Appeal of Regional Official Plan Amendment (ROPA) 3, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein, **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

5. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

6. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

There were no items for consideration.

7. **CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

7.1 **PDS 12-2024**

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan 2023 Progress Report

Cassandra Ogunniyi, Manager, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Indigenous Relations, provided information respecting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan 2023 Progress Report. Topics of the presentation included:

- Overview
- Vision and mission
- Focus Areas
 - Inclusive Workplace Culture, Leadership, and Accountability
 - Increased Understanding and Humility Through Learning
 - Diverse Workforce Reflective of Niagara's Community
 - Programs and Services Meet the Needs of Everyone
 - Addressing Discrimination
 - Inclusive Communication

Moved by Councillor Ganann
Seconded by Councillor Steele

That Report PDS 12-2024, dated April 10, 2024, respecting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan 2023 Progress Report, **BE RECEIVED** and **BE CIRCULATED** to the Local Area Municipalities.

Carried

7.2 PDS 13-2024

2023 Niagara Employment Inventory Results

Cynthia Tia, Planner, and Blake Landry, Manager, Economic Research & Analysis, provided information respecting 2023 Niagara Employment Inventory Results. Topics of the presentation included:

- Overview
- How data is utilized
- 5-year participation rate trend
- Top 5 North American Industries Classification System (NAICS) sectors
- Engaging business communities
- Next steps

Moved by Councillor Foster

Seconded by Councillor Ugulini

That Report PDS 13-2024, dated April 10, 2024, respecting 2023 Niagara Employment Inventory Results, **BE RECEIVED** and **BE CIRCULATED** to Local Area Municipalities, Local Economic Development Offices, Workforce Collective, the Niagara Chambers of Commerce, Brock University and Niagara College.

Carried

7.3 ED 5-2024

Economic Development Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Update

Eric Chou, Manager, Trade & Investment, Economic Development, provided information respecting Economic Development Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Update. Topics of the presentation included:

- 2023 Q3 / 2024 Q1 overview
- Building Niagara as a global brand and invest in the growth of emerging sectors
- Attracting businesses, creating jobs, and supporting a skilled workforce in Niagara
- Outbound investment attraction activities to build Niagara as a global brand
- Being an effective and unified voice to advocate FDI with senior governments on behalf of Niagara
- Implementing continuous improvement and modernized processes to ensure effective reporting on key performance indicators on FDI activity

Moved by Councillor Davies
Seconded by Councillor Witteveen

That Report ED 5-2024, dated April 10, 2024, respecting Economic Development Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Update, **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

Consider including steps to ensure that companies being targeted when promoting Niagara align with environmental, social and governance priorities. Councillor Foster

7.4 PDS 9-2024

Shared Services Update

Moved by Councillor Seaborn
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report PDS 9-2024, dated April 10, 2024, respecting Shared Services Update, **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

Provide information on the savings generated as a result of these partnerships including non-financial benefits. Councillor Redekop.

7.5 PDS-C 12-2024

Workforce Coalition

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Steele

That Correspondence Item PDS-C 12-2024, dated April 10, 2024, respecting Workforce Coalition, **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 City of St. Catharines Planning Approvals

Councillor Bateman requested information on recent planning approvals at the City of St. Catharines, if changes needed to be brought to Regional Council for approval, and the effect low-density residential areas would have on infrastructure. Michelle Sergi, Commissioner, Growth Strategy & Economic Development, advised that Local Official Plan Amendments and Local Zoning By-law changes do not require approval by Regional Council. She noted these changes were made with direction from the Province and in accordance with the Planning Act and low-density areas are being monitored for any infrastructure effects.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Headquarters.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Councillor Huson
Committee Chair

Jenna Spratt
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk