

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES**

COTW 7-2019

Thursday, September 5, 2019

Council Chamber

**Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

- Committee: Bradley (Regional Chair), Bylsma, Chiocchio, Darte, Disero, Easton, Edgar, Fertich, Foster, Gibson, Greenwood, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Redekop, Rigby, Sendzik, Steele, Ugulini, Villella, Whalen, Zalepa
- Absent/Regrets: Bellows, Butters, Campion, Diodati, Gale, Junkin, Nicholson, Witteveen
- Staff: M. Bannerman, Program Manager, Grants & Incentives, D. Barnhart, Executive Officer to the Regional Chair, H. Chamberlain, Director, Financial Management & Planning/Deputy Treasurer, L. Ferrell, Program Financial Specialist, D. Giles, Director, Community & Long Range Planning, T. Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, Enterprise Resource Management Services, Dr. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, V. Kuhns, Acting Director, Economic Development, R. Mostacci, Commissioner, Planning & Development Services, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, K. Scholtens, Manager, Business Development, Expedited Services, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Regional Chair Bradley called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Update on Core Housing Need – Regional Affordable Housing Strategy

Paul Smetanin, President, Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis, and Helen Chamberlain, Director, Financial Management & Planning\Deputy Treasurer, provided information respecting Update on Core Housing Need - Regional Affordable Housing Strategy. Topics of the presentation included:

- Core Needs Definition
- Results:
 - Households in Core Need
 - Households in Core Need by 2041
 - Household Types in 2041
- Unmet Demand:
 - Households, Occupations
 - Occupations
- Conclusions
- Investment Required to Eliminate 23,747 in Core Housing Need
- Investment in Core Housing Need

4. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 PDS 34-2019

Grants and Incentives Review

Rino Mostacci, Commissioner, Planning & Development Services, provided information respecting Niagara Region Incentives. Topics of the presentation included:

- Existing Regional Incentives
- Refocus on the Future
- Existing Annual Requirements
- Development Charge Rebates
- Existing Multi-Year Commitments
- Tax Increment Grants
- Realizing the New Strategy
- Transition = Refocus the Existing Base Budget
- Next Steps

Moved by Councillor Huson
Seconded by Councillor Steele

That Report PDS 34-2019, dated September 5, 2019, respecting Grants and Incentives Review, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to develop incentive programs under the categories:
 - affordable/rental housing
 - brownfield remediation
 - employment growth in key sectors
 - quality of life/public realm;
2. That recommendations to repurpose Niagara Investment in Culture funding to the incentive program categories above and to not reinvest in Waterfront Improvement and Smarter Niagara Incentive Simple Grants **BE REFERRED** to the 2020 budget process;
3. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to not approve or partner with any new CIPs or incentive programs until such time as Regional Council approves incentive programs under the categories above;
4. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to advise Local Area Municipalities on the direction of the incentive programs prior to bringing recommendations back to Regional Council; and
5. That Report PDS 34-2019 **BE CIRCULATED** to Local Area Municipalities.

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Insinna

That the motion **BE AMENDED** to read as follows:

1. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to develop incentive programs under the categories:
 - affordable/rental housing
 - brownfield/ **archaeological** remediation
 - employment growth in key sectors
 - quality of life/public realm;
2. That recommendations to repurpose Niagara Investment in Culture funding to the incentive program categories above and to not reinvest in Waterfront Improvement and Smarter Niagara Incentive Simple Grants **BE REFERRED** to the 2020 budget process;

3. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to not approve or partner with any new CIPs or incentive programs until such time as Regional Council approves incentive programs under the categories above;
4. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to *consult and* advise Local Area Municipalities on the direction of the incentive programs prior to bringing recommendations back to Regional Council; and
5. That Report PDS 34-2019 **BE CIRCULATED** to Local Area Municipalities.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Insinna
Seconded by Councillor Steele

That the following clauses **BE REFERRED** to staff for inclusion in a future report:

2. That recommendations to repurpose Niagara Investment in Culture funding to the incentive program categories above and to not reinvest in Waterfront Improvement and Smarter Niagara Incentive Simple Grants **BE REFERRED** to the 2020 budget process; and
3. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to not approve or partner with any new CIPs or incentive programs until such time as Regional Council approves incentive programs under the categories above.

Carried

The Regional Chair called the vote on the balance of the amended motion, as follows:

That Report PDS 34-2019, dated September 5, 2019, respecting Grants and Incentives Review, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to develop incentive programs under the categories:
 - affordable/rental housing
 - brownfield/archaeological remediation
 - employment growth in key sectors
 - quality of life/public realm;

4. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to consult and advise Local Area Municipalities on the direction of the incentive programs prior to bringing recommendations back to Regional Council; and
5. That Report PDS 34-2019 **BE CIRCULATED** to Local Area Municipalities.

Carried

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

There were no consent items for information.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Core Housing Needs

Councillor Heit requested that the presentation respecting Update on Core Housing Need - Regional Affordable Housing Strategy, be circulated to the local area MPPs and MPs.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 3, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:19 p.m.

Jim Bradley
Regional Chair

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk