



Owen Sound

Minutes of a Joint Meeting of the
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
-and-
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monday April 12, 2010
At 4:00 PM in Council Chambers, City Hall

PRESENT: Councillor Deborah Haswell, Chair
Councillor Jim McManaman
Councillor Bill Twaddle
Ruthann Carson
Mike Moore
Richard MacDonald
Jim Wainwright
Mayor Ruth Lovell Stanners
City/County Councillor Arlene Wright
Councillor David Adair
David Moyer (Chamber of Commerce)
Marsha Barrow
Sharen Skelly Kolohon
Ian Donaldson
Sue Carlton (DIA)
Jeff Sziklai
Steve Holler (Business Development Canada)

REGRETS/

ABSENT: Derek Hewitt
Aly Boltman
Amanda Farrell (Bruce Community Future Dev't Corp)
Pat Foster
Jean Stephenson (Bluewater District School Board)
Michael Warren
Al Diggins (EMC)
Donna Jansen (Georgian College)
Terri Robertson

STAFF: Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Margaret Potter, Community Planner
Amy Cann, Planning Assistant
Steve Furness, Manager of Economic Development & Tourism
Jim Harrold, City Manager

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – 4:00 PM

2. **ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

None declared.

3. **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF FOR MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES OR LISTED ON THE AGENDA**

None declared.

4. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Moved by Jim Wainwright;

“THAT the minutes of the Community Planning and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday March 24, 2010 be approved.”

Carried Unanimously

Councillor Bill Twaddle and Ruthann Carson arrived at 4:05 pm

5. **DEPUTATIONS**

a) **Report and Presentation from Dave Aston, MHBC regarding the Draft Community Improvement Plan**

The CPHAC Chair introduced Mr. Aston to the Committees, after which she invited him to commence his PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Aston introduced the new document to the Committees, noting the proposed expansion of the Community Improvement Project Area, and the creation of new programs and incentives under the Plan. Mr. Aston informed the Committees that expansion of the project area is a trend in many Ontario cities. He added that the Province is not the approval authority; however, the City is required to circulate them for comment. Mr. Aston reviewed the following proposed programs for inclusion in the CIP: Façade and Structural Improvement Program (Downtown & Harbourfront); Vacant Lands Tax Assistance Program (Downtown & Harbourfront); Development Charges Refund Program (Downtown & Harbourfront); Affordable Housing Loan Program (City-wide); Environmental Study Grant (City-wide); Heritage Property Tax Relief Program (City-wide); and the Brownfields Financial Tax Incentive Program (City-wide). He reviewed his recommendation to proceed to schedule a Public Meeting, and to continue to revise the CIP based on public comments received.

The CPHAC Chair thanked Mr. Aston, and asked if the Committees had any questions for the consultant.

The consultant made note that in certain circumstances, relief provided through these programs may be able to be coupled with provincial grant monies, like CMHC's Environmental Study Grant. The Mayor requested that Mr. Aston investigate this matter further and provide further clarification to Committee/Council.

The Director of Community Services clarified that the CIP gives Council authority to establish priorities and to implement a program when appropriate, and that Council will decide what programs are implemented and how funds are distributed through the budget process. This is similar to the Heritage Property Tax Relief Program and the Façade and Structural Grant Program, where the program is established and then the City established the budget through a separate process.

Committee discussed several matters on the proposed document, including:

- That the figures used for the Affordable Housing Loan Program are based on ministry standards or guidelines

- That the second sentence of paragraph 4, page 19 be deleted or amended to reduce confusion.
- That all properties designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act within the City are eligible for the Heritage Property Tax Relief Program.
- The desire to have a comprehensive CIP that is unique to Owen Sound, with the acknowledgement that the legislative framework in which we work limits the 'creativity' we may have in this plan
- The applicability of the Brownfield Program versus the Vacant Land program.
- That the CIP will be able to be amended if necessary.

Committee requested clarification on whether or not the County participated in any property tax relief programs for Heritage Buildings. The Director noted that the County has a CIP policy in its Draft Official Plan and would be able to participate with the City.

a) Moved by Councillor Jim McManaman;

"THAT Planning Staff invite the County of Grey to implement a Heritage Tax Relief Program similar to that offered by the City."

Carried Unanimously

b) Moved by Dave Moyer;

"THAT the Community Planning & Heritage Committee and the Economic Development Advisory Committee receive the Draft Community Improvement Plan and the accompanying report from Dave Aston, MHBC Planning dated March 30, 2010; and further,

THAT the Community Planning & Heritage Committee and the Economic Development Advisory Committee direct staff to schedule a Public Meeting for the Draft Community Improvement Plan as required by the *Planning Act.*"

Carried unanimously

6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION OF COMMITTEE IS REQUIRED

None declared.

7. REPORTS AND MATTERS TABLED

I) HERITAGE

II) GENERAL PLANNING

8. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

None declared.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

None declared.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Committee meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.