



**Port Colborne
Economical Development Advisory Committee
Terms of Reference**

Committee: Economic Development Advisory Committee

Date Approved: June 13, 2023

Date Revised: N/A

Approval: Council

Committee Resource: Economic Development Officer

1. Purpose

The Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) is an Advisory Committee of Council established to offer advice and recommendations to Council to support and to provide local perspective, guidance, and expert strategic advisement in the delivery of economic development services in the City of Port Colborne.

2. Mandate

The mandate of EDAC is to provide advice to Council on matters relating to the delivery of various economic development services in the City including, but not limited to:

- 2.1 Review and/or participate in the development of policies, programs and initiatives for the purpose of encouraging job creation, sustaining employment and business development in Port Colborne.
- 2.2 Remain informed and act as a strategic planning advisor on tourism projects, business and industrial developments in the community, as well as proposed future local and regional projects which could affect the community's economic growth.
- 2.3 Investigate and recommend to Council funding opportunities that may be available for tourism and economic development initiatives.
- 2.4 Identify market sectors supported by the City with sector experts as they change, shift and expand.
- 2.5 Provide guidance on business retention, attraction and expansion opportunities, programs or strategies.



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- 2.6 Work in partnership with local economic development partners to actively assist in fostering and promoting a positive community image and a healthy business environment for existing and prospective businesses.
- 2.7 Identify barriers and opportunities in the community to guide strategic direction.

3. Membership Composition

The Economic Development Advisory Committee shall consist of the following voting and non-voting members:

- 3.1 Nine voting members including:
 - one representative from the Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors;
 - one representative from the Main Street Business Improvement Area (BIA);
 - one representative from the Downtown Port Colborne BIA; and
 - six members from the Port Colborne business community.
- 3.2 Two non-voting members of Council will be appointed to the Advisory Committee to act as a liaison to the Committee. The Mayor is an ex-officio non-voting member of the Committee.
- 3.3 One non-voting member of staff who shall act as a resource person, recording secretary and shall provide administrative support to the Committee. Additional members of staff may be called on for specific subject matter expertise as a committee resource.
- 3.4 If any organization listed in subsection 3.1 is unable to supply a representative to serve on EDAC, that position shall be held in abeyance until a suitable appointment is made.

4. Citizen Membership Eligibility Criteria

To facilitate the nomination and appointment of new members to the EDAC, the following criteria will be considered. The aim is to achieve a diverse committee with a combination of technical experts and business representatives.



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- 4.1 The member from the Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce must be a resident of Port Colborne or affiliated with the Port Colborne business community.
- 4.2 The process to select the Business Improvement Area representatives shall be open to the general membership of the BIAs. The BIAs shall be responsible for soliciting interest from the general membership and making a recommendation to Council regarding appointment.
- 4.3 Consideration shall be given to the individual's level of participation and knowledge of economic development issues. The relevance of their interests to the mandate of EDAC will be an important consideration.
- 4.4 Applicants with academic qualifications and/or work experience in a business-related discipline will be an important consideration.
- 4.5 It is imperative that an applicant be able to attend as many EDAC meetings as possible and undertake work outside of the regular meetings.

5. Membership Recruitment

- 5.1 Membership recruitment will be conducted in accordance with the City's Appointments to Boards and Committees Policy.
- 5.2 The membership on the Committee shall consist of appointments by Resolution of Council.

6. Term

The Committee appointments shall follow a four-year term in order to maintain the staggered structure. Each member of the Committee shall hold membership until his/her successor is appointed. In the case of a vacancy for any cause other than expiration of term, the member appointed to fill the vacancy shall hold office for the balance of the term of the member whose place is vacant.

7. Resignation

A voting member of the Committee shall cease to be a member of the Committee upon submission of a letter of resignation to the City Clerk or if he/she absents himself/herself



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from three successive scheduled meetings of the Committee without being authorized to do so by a resolution of the Committee entered into the minutes.

8. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

At the first meeting of the new term of the Committee, the members shall appoint, from among their number, a Chair and Vice-Chair. Members of Council are not eligible to act as Chair or Vice-Chair.

9. Role of the Chair

The role of the Chair is to:

- 9.1 Preside at the meetings of the Committee in accordance with the City's Procedural By-law and keep discussion on topic.
- 9.2 Provide leadership to the Committee to encourage that its activities remain focused on its mandate as an Advisory Committee of Council.
- 9.3 Review agenda items with the Staff Liaison.
- 9.4 Recognize each Member's contribution to the Committee's work.
- 9.5 Serve as an ex-officio member of subcommittees and attend subcommittee meetings when necessary.
- 9.6 Liaise with other Committee members.
- 9.7 Make deputations, presentations, etc. before Council.
- 9.8 Prepare a report with recommendations for Council in coordination with the Staff Liaison on the prescribed template.

10. Role of the Vice-Chair

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair will chair meetings and assume all functions of the Chair as necessary.



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11. Role of Committee Members

The role of Committee Members is to:

- 11.1 Work collaboratively with City staff to develop an annual Work Plan and prepare annual progress reports. Work Plans will ensure workload is manageable and appropriately shared between Committee members and staff.
- 11.2 Ensure that the mandate of the Committee is being fulfilled.
- 11.3 Conduct research to help inform of outreach campaigns, by-laws, etc.
- 11.4 Provide the Chair with solid information regarding agenda items.
- 11.5 Fairly represent the field of expertise, interest and involvement of the Committee.
- 11.6 Notify the Staff Liaison if unable to attend Committee meetings to ensure that quorum will be available for all meetings.

12. Meetings

- 12.1 All meetings shall be open, and no person shall be excluded therefrom except for improper conduct or for matters identified in section 239(2) of the *Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25*.
- 12.2 All matters pertaining to a closed meeting must first be approved by the Clerk to ensure it is appropriately being dealt with in closed session.
- 12.3 The Committee shall hold a minimum of four (4) meetings in each calendar year. At the first regular meeting of the new term, a meeting schedule will be adopted by the Committee.
- 12.4 The Chair shall cause notice of the meetings, including the agenda for the meetings in accordance with the City's Procedural By-law.
- 12.5 Meetings will be held on a set day and time as may be determined by the Committee or at the call of the Chair. The Committee will establish a



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meeting schedule taking into account the business needs and the schedule of Council.

12.6 The location of the meetings will be set by the Committee at a City facility.

13. Minutes

The minutes of all Committee meetings shall be recorded and distributed to Committee Members and to the City Clerk for safekeeping and inclusion on the regular Council agenda.

The minutes shall be open to inspection in accordance with the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25., as amended and such minutes will be posted on the City's website.

14. Quorum

A quorum of EDAC shall consist of a majority of sitting, voting members; vacant seats shall count as seats for the purpose of calculating a quorum.

If a quorum for an Advisory Committee meeting is not present within fifteen (15) minutes of the time fixed for the commencement of the meeting, the Committee may proceed without a quorum, provided that at least three Members are present. The Clerk is not required to be present, and no motions will be passed, or minutes prepared.

15. Conflict of Interest

It is the responsibility of each member to identify and disclose a pecuniary interest on any item or matter before Council, or Committee in accordance with the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*, R.S.O.1990, c.M. 50.

Where a Member has any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in any matter and is present at a meeting of the Committee at which the matter is the subject of consideration, the Member will, in accordance with *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*, R.S.O.1990, c.M. 50 (5):

- file a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the Clerk prior to the meeting;
- not take part in the discussion of, or vote on any question with respect to the matter;
- not attempt in any way before, during and/or after the meeting to influence the vote on the matter.



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Where a meeting is not open to the public, in addition to complying with the requirements under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*, the Member will forthwith leave the meeting for the part during which the matter is under consideration.

The Clerk will record the particulars of any disclosure of pecuniary interest made by Members of Committees in the minutes of that meeting and update the Pecuniary Interest Registry. The Registry will be available for public inspection.

16. Procedures

Procedures for the proceedings of meetings shall be governed by the City's Procedural By-law as well as Robert's Rules of Order.

17. Remuneration

All members of the Committee shall serve without remuneration.

18. Staff Liaison

City staff from key positions within the Corporation, plus technical staff as required from time to time, will provide support for the reviews and activities of the Committee. The Staff Liaison will provide administrative, procedural, and technical support to the Committee. The Staff Liaison will co-ordinate all requests for advice from the Committee, through meeting agendas.

19. Annual Workplan

An annual workplan with an estimate of the resources necessary for the coming year shall be prepared by the Committee.

20. Terms of Reference

Any responsibilities not clearly identified within these Terms of Reference shall be the responsibility of the City of Port Colborne staff. Council may, at its discretion, change the Terms of Reference for this Committee at any time. Any changes proposed to these Terms of Reference by the Committee shall be recommended to Council via the City Clerk through a report. At the discretion or upon the mandate of the Committee being fulfilled, the Committee may be dissolved by resolution of Council.



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21. Resources

21.1 Procedural By-Law

21.2 *Municipal Act*

21.3 Code of Conduct

21.4 Appointment to Boards/Committees Policy

21.5 *Conflict of Interest Act*

21.6 Robert's Rules of Order

21.7 *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)*