

MARCH 17, 2021
MEETING OF THE PORT COLBORNE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the twenty-first regular meeting of the Committee Members of the Port Colborne Economic Development Advisory Committee, held some members present at City Hall on March 17, 2021 4:00 p.m.

The following Committee Members and staff were in attendance:

Present: Mayor Bill Steele, Gary Long, David Semley

The follow committee members, council and staff were in attendance virtually:

Committee Members: Marilyn Barton, Andrea Boitor, Jesse Boles - Downtown BIA representative, Larry Fontaine, Kate Ostryhon-Lumsden, Kevin Reles, and Len Stolk - Chamber of Commerce representative

Council: Councillor Gary Bruno, Councillor Harry Wells

Staff: Bram Cotton, Greg Higginbotham, Karen Walsh

Regrets: Angela Doyle, Scott Luey and Main Street BIA representative

1. WELCOME CALLED TO ORDER: 4:04 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: Marilyn Barton
Seconded by: Len Stolk

THAT the agenda for Economic Development Advisory Committee March 17, 2021, be approved as presented.
CARRIED

3. INTRODUCTION

Around the Table providing name, business and what the committee should accomplish.

4. APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:

Approval of the February 19, 2020 minutes.

Moved by: Len Stolk
Seconded by: Larry Fontaine
THAT the minutes from February 19, 2020 be approved as presented.
CARRIED

5. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None

6. INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE

Betty Konc resignation letter.

Moved by: Marilyn Barton
Seconded by: Kate Ostryhon-Lumsden

THAT the Economic Development Advisory Committee accept Betty Konc's resignation.
CARRIED

7. OPENING REMARKS – David Semley

Input from everyone and direction for the committee.

8. CURRENT PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES – Presentation by Gary Long, Manager of Strategic Initiatives, Bram Cotton, Economic Development Officer, and Greg Higginbotham, Tourism Coordinator.

Presentation attached.

Discussion took place on several items questions were answered including the cruise initiative project, Industrial land, and CIP initiative and work on the downtown CIP Phase.

9. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE EDAC COMMITTEE – Where do we go from here?

Discussion took place with all in attendance including Mayor and councilor, board members, and staff members' items discussed Tourism, Terms of Reference, mandate for the committee, communication, committee needs more structure, and revisit the subcommittee (Tourism, Commercial and Real Estate).

Action Item: Economic Development staff discuss the Terms of Reference and mandate for the committee. Meet with Chair David Semley to discuss the issue. The city is on the cusp that is going to move the city.

10. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Status of Vacancy Tax

- The city does not have the ability to set the class has vacancy. We do not have the ability to do this because the tax rate is set by the region. Subdivision agreements lapse after a certain amount of time, they can renew the agreement. Renewal fees can be higher.

Action item: Mayor and Gary Long will discuss with Bryan Boles if there is an update with the region.

b) EDO to provide on update on Cruise Ships

- Was included with the projects and priorities presentation

c) Update from Mayor regarding Hospital/Urgent Care facility.

- The Mayor provide an update on the relationship with the NHS and other service being provided in Port Colborne.

10. NEW BUSINESS – all items deferred to next meeting after mandate has been established

- a) Discussion and Confirmation of “Vision” Statement – “Port Colborne is a place to live well and enjoy life in a safe, healthy, prosperous, well-run, inclusive and respectful community.”
- b) Request all members to review Economic Development Strategic Plan
- c) Request that all committee members present one idea for economic development to discussed at our next meeting.
- d) Economic Development Draft Version and KPIs. Distribute for discussion at future meeting.
- e) Other

11. NEXT MEETING

Before the end of June, 2021 4:00 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Gary Bruno
Seconded by: Jesse Boles

Resolved that we do now adjourn.
CARRIED

Time of adjournment 5:59 p.m.