

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
SMARTER NIAGARA STEERING COMMITTEE

REPORT 7-2009

Minutes of a meeting of the Smarter Niagara Steering Committee held on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 commencing at 5:12 p.m. in Committee Room #4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Gabriel, Chair; Augustyn, Vice-Chair; Greenwood; Mr. Ensslen; Mr. Gayler; Mr. Halverson; Ms. Landry; Ms. Shipley; Ms. Stewart; Ms. Wiens.

Staff: Mr. Campbell, Planner; Mr. Forgeron, Senior Planner, Policy Development; Mr. Semple, Senior Planner Policy Amendment; Ms. McManus, Legislative Assistant.

Working Group: Mr. Slepkov; Ms. German.

Quorum

There being a lack of ordinary quorum at the meeting, the Committee Co-Chair determined that the ordinary quorum for the meeting be reduced to seven members, pursuant to Section 22.10 of the Procedural By-law 96-2007.

Councillor Augustyn assumed the position of Chair in Councillor Gabriel's absence.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

50. Moved by Mr. Gaylor
Seconded by Ms. Shipley

That the minutes of the Smarter Niagara Steering Committee meeting of October 7, 2009, be received for information.

Carried.

At this point in the meeting quorum was achieved.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

51. Correspondence re: Heritage Point Subdivision St. Catharines
SNSC 32-2009

Moved by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Mr. Lundrigan

That Correspondence (dated November 17, 2009) from Mr. Pattison, respecting Heritage Point Subdivision St. Catharines, 25% Exemption of Development Fee; be received for information.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Gabriel
Seconded by Ms. Stewart

That Correspondence item SNSC 32-2009 respecting Heritage Point Subdivision St. Catharines, 25% Exemption of Development Fee, be referred to staff for further report regarding Options to ensure policies respecting Exemptions are adhered to.

Carried.

REFINING MODEL LOCAL POLICIES

52. Draft - Refining Model Local Policies

Mr. Campbell presented Committee members with a brief overview respecting the draft Region of Niagara Model Local Policies document and distributed a copy of the following supporting documentation:

- Regional Policy Plan Amendment 2-2009. Region of Niagara Sustainable Community Policies.
- Report ICP 40-2009 Ontario Municipal Board Appeals Regional Policy Plan Amendment 2-2009 Sustainable Community Policies and 2.

Following a lengthy discussion it was:

Moved by Councillor Gabriel
Seconded by Mr. Lundrigan

That the Draft Document respecting Refining Model Local Policies, be received for information.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Gabriel
Seconded by Ms. Shipley

That this Committee recommend to the Integrated Community Planning and Public Works Committee;

That the Smarter Niagara Steering Committee supports the draft Refining Model Local Policies providing guidance in achieving local official plan conformity with the Provincial Growth Plan as addressed through Amendment 2-2009; and

That the Smarter Niagara Steering Committee encourage staff to move forward with development of Draft Region of Niagara Model Official Plan Policies which address the Smart Growth Principles found in Section 5 and Section 6.

Carried.

53. Ontario Municipal Board Appeals
Regional Policy Plan Amendment 2-2009
Sustainable Community Policies
ICP 40-2009

Moved by Councillor Gabriel
Seconded by Mr. Lundrigan

That Report ICP 40-2009 (July 22, 2009) respecting the Ontario Municipal Board Appeals Regional Policy Plan Amendment 2-2009 Sustainable Community Policies, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests)

54. Region of Niagara
Sustainable Community Policies:
Places to Grow/2005 Provincial Policy Statement
Conformity and Niagara 2031 Amendment

Moved by Councillor Gabriel
Seconded by Mr. Lundrigan

That the Region of Niagara Sustainable Community Policies Place to Grow/2005 Provincial Policy Statement Conformity and Niagara 2031 Amendment document, be received for information.

Carried.

UPDATE – WORKING GROUP – DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS SCHOOL SITES

55. Mr. Halverson, on behalf of the members of the Working Group, provided Committee with an Oral Update respecting the progress being made.

Highlights of the update were, in part, as follows:

- Working Group – Disposal of Surplus School Sites; have met once thus far
- Identified that there is a huge body of work to be done
- Researched other jurisdiction's (Canada and United States) policies and procedures
- Root of the problem is that the Minister of Education is not concerned with Urban Development
- Toured (drove by) an ideal school lot; Glenridge (2 ½ acres, 2 stories)
- Next steps:
 - More research
 - What is going into the decisions
 - When is it too expensive to fix an existing school the Board builds a new school.

Mr. Halverson in closing stated that this was just an interim Oral Update and that the Working Group would hopefully have something more substantial for the December 16th meeting.

A discussion ensued whereupon the following comments and ideas were stated:

- How do we deal with “specialty” circumstances (French schools, religious schools, disabled schools etc.); children not able to utilize community schools
- Ministry charts and formulas are in place; can we access information
- Ministries operate in silo's; they do not communicate with each other
- “Institutional Development”; is this addressed within the Model Policies
 - Only addresses complete communities
- Policy direction; alternative land uses need to be considered, set policy direction, set a “redevelopment plan”
- Research how often schools are being utilized for the “Community Use of Schools” Program

Moved by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Mr. Gayler

That the Oral Update respecting the Working Group – Disposal of Surplus School Site, be received for information.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

56. Moved by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Mr. Ensslen

That the following communications be received for information:

- SNSC 29-2009 An article “think global, sell local; back to the city centre”
Financial Post, November 3, 2009
- SNSC 30-2009 An article “Smart Shift: Conversations for a Smarter Planet
Imagine the smart city” Financial Post, October 26, 2009
- SNSC 31-2009 New Urban News October / November 2009

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

57. Inter-Municipal Transit in Niagara

Mr. Gayler inquired as to whether there had been an allotment for Inter-Municipal Transit in Niagara within the Capital Budget process.

Councillor Gabriel provided Committee members with an update respecting the October 29, 2009 Committee of the Whole meeting focused on Inter-Municipal Transit.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests)

58. 2010 Meeting Schedule

Ms. McManus advised Committee members that the 2010 Council and Standing Committee schedule had been approved on November 12, 2009 therefore; Clerks would be scheduling the Smarter Niagara Steering Committee 2010 meeting dates and listing it on the December 16, 2009 meeting agenda for approval.

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUEST

Staff was requested to:

- Forward a copy of the October 29, 2009 Committee of the Whole minutes to Smarter Niagara Steering Committee members (Refer to Minute Item #57) (Mr. Gayler)

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 7:02 p.m. This Committee will meet again December 16, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4

Dave Augustyn
Vice-Chair

Robert Gabriel
Chair

Lisa McManus
Legislative Assistant