

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**  
**SMARTER NIAGARA STEERING COMMITTEE**

**REPORT 6-2011**

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Minutes of a meeting of the Smarter Niagara Steering Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Wednesday, October 5, 2011 commencing at 5:20 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Committee: Councillors Augustyn (Chair), Greenwood (Vice-Chair), Messrs. Barr, Halverson, Henriques, Looby, Ruggieri, Slepko; Ms. Dale, Ms. Shipley.

Staff: Ms. Tanner, Associate Director Regional Policy Planning; Mr. Dick, Policy Planner; Ms. Landry, Policy Planner; Ms. Dawn, Legislative Assistant.

Other: Ms. Pihach, Manager Planning Services – City of St. Catharines

Councillor Greenwood assumed the Chair and called the meeting to order.

**Quorum**

There being a lack of ordinary quorum at the meeting, the Committee Chair determined that the ordinary quorum for the meeting be reduced to eight (8) members, pursuant to Section 22.10 of the Procedural By-law 120-2010.

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

68. Smart Growth Principles – Revised June 2011  
**SNSC 20-2011**

Moved by Ms. Shipley  
Seconded by Mr. Henriques

That this Committee recommends to the Integrated Community Planning Committee:

That Report SNSC 20-2011, July 13, 2011, respecting Smart Growth Principles, be approved; and,

That staff be directed to rework the principles into common use language.

Carried.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Augustyn assumed the Chair.

Quorum

There being a lack of ordinary quorum at the meeting, the Committee Chair determined that the ordinary quorum for the meeting be reduced to nine (9) members, pursuant to Section 22.10 of the Procedural By-law 120-2010.

69. Mr. Barr distributed to members a worksheet entitled, "The meaning of 'Smart Growth'".

Moved by Mr. Barr  
Seconded by Mr. Slepkov

That this Committee recommends to the Integrated Community Planning Committee:

That the worksheet entitled, "The meaning of 'Smart Growth'", be received;

That the worksheet be referred to Smarter Niagara Steering Committee members and Regional staff for completion; and,

That the completed worksheets be brought before the Committee for discussion at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Carried.

(A copy of "The meaning of 'Smart Growth'" is attached to these minutes.)

At this point in the meeting quorum was achieved.

70. Working Group Report on School Closures –  
Smarter Schools for a Smarter Niagara Draft  
**SNSC 21-2011**

Moved by Mr. Slepkov  
Seconded by Mr. Looby

That Report SNSC 21-2011, April 2011, respecting Working Group Report on School Closures – Smarter Schools for a Smarter Niagara Draft, be received;

That this Committee recommends to the Integrated Community Planning Committee:

That the recommendations contained therein be adopted, **as amended**:

That the Provincial Government be requested to amend the Provincial Policy Statement to provide specific guidelines to address the objectives stated herein;

That the Provincial Government be requested to review and amend the development policies of all ministries to bring them into conformity of the planning objectives of the Provincial Policy Statement;

That, in the interim, municipalities, including the Region and the school boards, establish a joint task force with an agreed upon framework for working together to ensure that the interest of both urban planning and education are met;

That, since school closures are a major factor in determining the health of neighbourhoods, school closures and the location of new schools be subject to **a formal appeal process**;

***That Regional Council petition the Ontario Government to remove the Ministry of Education policy that states that the Ministry will not provide funding for new schools or major additions to schools if there is surplus space in existing schools in the municipality; and***

***That as part of the Accommodation Review process, school boards be requested to include a public planning review process to determine alternative uses for surplus school sites, prior to the sale of the school site.***

Carried.

### **CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

71. Moved by Councillor Greenwood  
Seconded by Ms. Shipley

That the following reports and correspondence items be received for information:

ICP 48-2011	Development Charge Forgone Revenue January 1, 2011 to March 31, 2011
ICP 82-2011	Development Charge Forgone Revenue January 1, 2011 to June 30, 2011
ICP 80-2011	Development Charges Act Complaints Crownview Holdings Inc. 344 Glendale Avenue, St. Catharines
SNSC 17-2011	Idea City: Dickson Despommier and the vertical farm The Toronto Star – June 14, 2011
SNSC 18-2011	An email from Bernie Slepko, SNSC Member, dated June 16, 2011 forwarding his letter to the editor of the St. Catharines Standard respecting the article, "Town committee looks into education" (published May 27, 2011), and attaching a motion passed by Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Council on May 24, 2011 respecting the creation of a Committee for Education Accommodation/Service.
SNSC 19-2011	AMO Watch File, Why Plan

- SNSC 22-2011 An email from Bernie Slepko, SNSC Member, dated June 30, 2011 forwarding his address to St. Catharines City Council with respect to a City report concerning the District School Board of Niagara Accommodation Review (the report is also included).
- SNSC 23-2011 An article from Bullet News Niagara (July 22, 2011) entitled "Poor planning has cost us so much in Niagara".
- SNSC 24-2011 An email from Robert Ruggieri, SNSC Member, dated July 27, 2011, respecting the Niagara Region Wind Corporation 230MW Wind Project Community Participation event held on July 26, 2011.
- SNSC 25-2011 An article from The Globe and Mail (August 3, 2011) entitled "Letting go of the suburban dream".
- SNSC 26-2011 New Urban News (March 2011)
- SNSC 27-2011 New Urban News (April/May 2011)
- ICP-C 56-2011 A letter from Mr. Victor Muratori, Sullivan Mahoney, dated September 22, 2011, enclosing copies of the Submissions of the Complainant with respect to a complaint under the Development Charges Act by Crownview Holdings Inc.

Carried.

### **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

72. **Smarter Niagara Steering Committee**  
**July 13, 2011 Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Greenwood  
Seconded by Ms. Shipley

That the minutes of the Smarter Niagara Steering Committee meeting of July 13, 2011, be received for information.

Carried.

**COMMITTEE INFORMATION REQUESTS**

Staff was requested to:

- Circulate a copy of the District School Board of Niagara's Assessment Review criteria to members.
- Place the smart growth design criteria developers are required to meet in order to qualify for development charges exemption on the next agenda and to provide an update on the criteria at a subsequent meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 8:30 p.m. to meet again on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4.

Councillor Augustyn  
Chair

Natasha L. Dawn  
Legislative Assistant

Kevin Bain  
Regional Clerk