

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

SMARTER NIAGARA STEERING COMMITTEE

REPORT 8-2008

Minutes of a meeting of the Smarter Niagara Steering Committee held on Wednesday, October 1, 2008 commencing at 5:05 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Gabriel, Chair; Augustyn, Badawey, Greenwood, Messrs. Barr, Ensslen, Gaylor, Halverson, Lundrigan, Ms. Landry, Ms. Dale Shipley, Ms. Wiens.

Staff: Mr. Gummo, Associate Director, Comprehensive Community Planning; Ms. Emeneau, Planner; Ms. Ricci, Legislative Assistant.

Working Group: Mr. Slepkov, Ms. German

PREVIOUS MINUTES

40. Smarter Niagara Steering Committee (SNSC) – July 30, 2008
Report 7-2008

Moved by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Mr. Halverson

That the minutes of the Smarter Niagara Steering Committee meeting of July 30, 2008, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests)

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

41. Niagara 2031 – Next Steps

Mr. Alan Gummo, Associate Director, Comprehensive Community Planning provided Committee members with an update respecting the Niagara 2031 Growth Options.

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

- Formulated SNSC July 30th comments in to memo; forwarded memo to Dillon Consulting
- “technically” we’re past the August deadline but not to worry
- Dillon Consulting has begun to work on next phase
 - Response to 3 Options
 - Possibility of a 4th Option (that captures feedback)
 - The above will be coming forward on October 23rd (special meeting of Council)
- Intent is to for Dillon Consulting to present to Council on October 23rd (nothing to approve, just receive); invitations will be extended to all area municipalities
- Staff will repeat the October 23rd presentation at the November 12th meeting of the SNSC
- Consultant work will then be captured in a report
 - That Report will go to Planning & Public Works Committee on December 10th
 - Then on to Council on December 18th
- Key implementation pieces are:
 - Amendments to Regional Policy Plan (significant Phase 5 work)
 - Content of amendments need to be looked at very carefully (early January 2009)
- Historic context:
 - Regional Council adopted Smart Growth Principles; but they’ve not yet made it in to the Regional Policy Plan
- Common concerns:
 - Pretty supportive of Option B
 - Notion of moving market to that degree was not lost, West Niagara needs to be more thought through (consultants are looking at this)
 - No real “red flags”
 - Manageable; no real crisis’s
 - We can create windows of opportunities
 - Name the options appropriately; came through loud and clear
 - Reassessing “indicators”; indicators are as they are but consultants will recommend that when “monitoring” is set up, the indicators are to be included
- Going forward:
 - Council; approve on December 18th

- Come back to SNSC for discussion
- Schedule working meeting

Councillor Goulborne thanked Mr. Gummo for the update and it was at this point that Committee members agreed to discuss the SNSC “Next Steps”.

Mr. Gummo provided a quick overview of past focus of Niagara 2031 and stated that by the end of the year more work will need to be done (e.g. looking at transit, affordable housing etc.,).

Highlights of the Committees thoughts were, in part, as follows:

- Niagara 2031 needs further consideration (structure SNSC agenda’s accordingly)
- Work on Regional Policy Plan (RPP) amendments
 - Implementation of stream coming out of the RPP amendments
- June Presentation to Committee respecting Future direction (please re-circulate)
- Concentrate on how to hone indicators and create measurement of successes (over the past 5 years)
 - Brock University Observatory – Dr. Siegal may be able to assist with this
- Incentives and Development Charge Review
 - Regional Development Charges Task Force should be meeting within the next few weeks; circulate reports to SNSC for discussion/comments

It was at this point in the meeting when Councillor(s) Badawey and Augustyn provided Committee members with an update as to what had transpired at the September 30, 2008 meeting of the Transportation Strategy Steering Committee; they stated that Inter-Municipal Transit was one of the main topics.

Committee members voiced concerns respecting the current transportation system and discussed ways in which the SNSC ideas could help.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests)

CORRESPONDENCE

42. Moved by Ms. Wiens
Seconded by Councillor Augustyn

That the following communications, be received for information:

SG 50-2008	An article entitled "Setting sail; With contaminated lands now clean, Shipyard project finally breaks ground" Toronto Star, September 6, 2008
Memorandum	Niagara 2031 – Smarter Niagara Steering Committee Response to Phase 3 Growth Options
SG 51-2008	New Urban News, Volume 13 – Number 6 - September 2008
SG 52-2008	An article on "Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program Update"

Carried.

43. UPDATE – Smarter Niagara Education and Communication Working Group (SNECWG)

Ms. Landry, on behalf of the SNECWG, informed members that due to their summer hiatus and a need for further direction from the Smarter Niagara Steering Committee and staff assistance that the SNECWG had not been meeting.

She further stated, SNSC members agreed, that there was a lack of *Smart Growth* information (communications, tools, news, etc.,) on the NetCorp website.

Following a lengthy discussion it was:

Moved by Mr. Barr
Seconded by Ms. Wiens

That in an effort to fulfill Council *Smart Growth* initiatives that additional staff time be assigned to create, build and maintain a *Smart Growth* Communications and Education framework;

That this Communications and Education framework be made up of components such as, but not limited to, *Smart Growth* blog site, links to *Smart Growth* packages, information regarding Incentives and *Smart Growth* Development success stories; and

That Staff assigned draw on the expertise of both the *Smarter Niagara* Steering Committee and the *Smarter Niagara* Education and Communication Working Group.

Carried.

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS

Staff was requested to:

- Re-circulate the “City of Welland, Health and Wellness Services Growth Plan” to Smarter Niagara Steering Committee members, asking that comments/interest be forwarded to Lisa Ricci; if nothing is received before November 12th the assumption will be that there is no interest (Refer to Minute Item #40) (Councillor Augustyn)
- Designate an agenda item every other meeting for a Public Works Update and ensure a Public Works representative is in attendance (Minute Item #41) (Councillor Badawey)

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 7:25 p.m. to meet again 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 12, 2008 FULL COMMITTEE, Committee Room #4

5:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 3, 2008, Working Group Committee, Committee Room #4

Robert Gabriel
Chair

Lisa Ricci
Legislative Assistant