

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
SMARTER NIAGARA STEERING COMMITTEE

REPORT 5-2009

Minutes of a meeting of the Smarter Niagara Steering Committee held on Wednesday, August 5, 2009 commencing at 5:20 p.m. in Committee Room #4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Gabriel, Chair; Greenwood; Mr. Barr; Mr. Lundrigan; Ms. Shipley; Ms. Stewart.

Staff: Mr. Gummo, Associate Director, Comprehensive Community Planning; Ms. McManus, Legislative Assistant.

Working Group: Mr. Slepko.

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 five members, pursuant to Section 22.10 of the Procedural By-law 96-2007.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

34. Moved by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Ms. Shipley

That the minutes of the Smarter Niagara Steering Committee meeting of June 24, 2009, be received for information

Carried.

Quorum

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

PRESENTATION

35. Neighbourhood Mapping – Helps Community Services Build Neighbourhood Profiles

Mr. Marc Todd, Manager Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities and Ms. Tiffany Gartner, Manager Children's Services presented Committee members with information surrounding "Neighbourhood Mapping".

A summary of the slides offered were, in part, as follows:

- Niagara's Prosperity Projects
- Community Impact = Neighbourhoods Matter
- Why look at neighbourhoods?
- Building the Neighbourhood Profile
- Understanding Neighbourhoods
- Provincial Indicators
- Next Steps
- Neighbourhood Work & Children's Services
- Parent & Family Literacy Centres
- Use of Neighbourhoods in British Columbia

Committee members discussed possible benefits of the above information to the Smarter Niagara Principles; highlighted areas of discussion were as follows:

- "If" and/or "When" a Smarter Niagara Summit is planned; this information needs to be a focus
- Staff may wish to invite Mr. Todd and Ms. Gartner to a future Area Planners meeting
- Information is of huge importance; great work
- How can this be incorporated into decision making?
- Educate and communicate importance of diverse neighbourhoods

Moved by Ms. Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That the presentation regarding Neighbourhood Mapping – Helps Community Services Build Neighbourhood Profiles, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests)

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

36. City of Burlington and Niagara Region Current Processes
For the Disposal of Surplus School Sites

Mr. Gummo provided Committee members with an overview as to 'why' this item was up for discussion. He stated that at the June 24th meeting of the Smarter Niagara Steering Committee the request was made to have current processes regarding "The Disposal of Surplus School Sites" researched by staff.

The following are, in part, the result of that research:

- SNSC 26-2009 correspondence outlining the City of Burlington's current process regarding the disposal of surplus school sites
- Niagara Region current process
 - i. Recent interest by the School Board to engage the Region in discussions respecting possible opportunities
 - ii. Policy supporting co-location is in the Regional Plan

A discussion ensued respecting the possibility of forming a Working Group that would address / discuss the Region getting involved in the sustainability of schools and neighbourhoods instead of selling off lands.

Members suggested the following questions / ideas:

- "Planned before Sold"
- Utilize multi-purpose levels (school on bottom floor; condo second floor)
- Design a process that will help
- Research other Regions and their current practices
- Get on a future School Board meeting agenda (possibly outline RPP 2-2009)
- Get the data, do the work, create the process 'Regionally' and then take it to the Province

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests)

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

37. Development Charge Reserve Funds
January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008

Moved by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Mr. Lundrigan

That Report CSD 91-2009 respecting Development Charge Reserve Funds
January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008, be received for information.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

38. Moved by Mr. Lundrigan
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That the following communications be received for information:

SNSC 24-2009 New Urban News – June 2009

SNSC 25-2009 An article entitled “Why Richard Florida’s honeymoon is over; The urban guru arrived two years ago as the toast of the town. Today, his critics argue he is a glib salesman and elitist. How did such a sweet marriage go wrong?”

SNSC 26-2009 Correspondence (dated July 8, 2009) from Mr. Mike Greenlee, City of Burlington to Mr. Alan Gummo, Associate Director, Comprehensive Community Planning respecting Transition of school sites

Carried.

**SMARTER NIAGARA EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION WORKING
GROUP (SNECWG)**

39. Ms. Shipley, on behalf of the SNECWG, advised Committee members that due to their commitment to the Smarter Niagara website a formal meeting had not been held in some time.

Ms. Shipley noted that it was her hope that should another Working Group be formed to address procedures and policies surrounding the disposal of surplus school sites; that this Committee provide clear direction, a written mandate and staff/management assistance.

OTHER BUSINESS

40. **CNU Conference – Experiencing The New Urbanism: The Convenient Remedy**

Mr. Barr advised Committee members that he had attended the 2009 CNU Conference, held in Denver, Colorado.

Mr. Barr suggested that staff consider studying Denver, as it had the following similarities with the City of St. Catharines:

- 130,000 population
- Regional context
- Downtown BIA
- Management of the Town is virtually the same

41. **Update: Regional Policy Plan Amendment 2-2009**

Mr. Gummo updated Committee members regarding the Regional Policy Plan Amendment 2-2009.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests)

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUEST

Staff was requested to:

- Circulate the link to the BEC site (Refer to Minute Item #35) (Councillor Gabriel)
- Issue a notice to all Smarter Niagara Steering Committee members inquiring as to 'who' would be interested in taking part on a Working Group addressing the disposal of school surplus lands (Refer to Minute Item #36) (Councillor Gabriel)
- Forward a copy of Regional Policy Plan Amendment 2-2009 to Mr. Glenn Barr (Refer to Minute Item #41) (Mr. Barr)

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 6:50 p.m. This Committee will meet again October 7, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4 and the Education and Communication Working Group will meet September 16, 2009.

Robert Gabriel
Chair

Lisa McManus
Legislative Assistant