

CK Plan 2035 Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2020 - 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Skype Meeting – 1-877-941-7889, ID: 5506844

Attendance: Darrin Canniff ☒ Melissa Harrigan ☒ Joey Cyples ☒
Amy Finn ☒ Marjorie Crew ☒ Earle Johnson ☒
Stephanie Dries ☒ Tracy Callaghan ☒

Staff Support: Don Shropshire ☒ John Norton ☒
Amy Wilcox ☒ Audrey Ansell ☒

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Call to order was completed at 5:37 p.m.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest (Direct or Indirect) and the General Nature Thereof

None.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Stephanie, seconded by Councillor Finn – approved, all in favour.

4. Update of Action Items

Action Items from Staff:

- Outstanding: Report to Council regarding Council Term Priorities – need performance measurable for mental health and addictions services before able to present (June)
- Outstanding: Report to Council regarding community engagement plan and timeline (June)

5. Update from the Co-Chairs

None at this time.

6. COVID-19 Response Presentation by Don Shropshire

- Don presented the COVID-19 response PPT that was given to Council in April
- Must ensure continued municipal services in a safe manner for employees and residents
- Maintaining safe environment for employees has resulted in additional work for ITS and Human Resources (i.e. employees at home, redeployed locations)
- Continuing response for Erie Shore Drive and flooding resulted in the implementation of the IMS system to continue municipal services and to ensure ability to respond to COVID and flooding
- Additional work for long-term care facility, fire service, communications and economic development. Don reviewed those services and modified work and work locations
- Enhanced screening for some employees, i.e. fire service and Riverview Gardens
- Review of municipal services/facilities closed by Ontario government
- Looking at long term solutions for staff and services as research suggesting that infection rate is between 30% to 70% - how to maintain services if employees become ill, how to ensure staff feels safe
- Administration recognizes huge impact on the community from a variety of factors

7. Consider Chatham-Kent's Resiliency in Light of COVID-19 Response by Don Shropshire

- Questions posed by Don to the committee:
 - Given the response to COVID-19, what observations does the committee have on the

- resiliency of the municipality/community?
 - No discussion during the meeting-running out of meeting time
- Is there anything in particular the committee feels we should be measuring/tracking to help evaluate resiliency?
 - Earle: Will an evaluation of the COVID situation be completed and a response plan?
 - Don: Yes, there will be a review of the response, how able to improve, how to measure response and that information will be incorporated into future plans – however, there will probably be several reviews and reports
- What investments should the Municipality consider to enhance resiliency in the future?
 - No discussion during the meeting-running out of meeting time

8. Review Work to Promote Economic Recovery by John Norton

- In January 2020, a meeting took place with Council, Committees of Council and citizens to develop growth strategy to help the community to grow
- Growth Strategy:
 - What: Tactics to fuel growth in Chatham-Kent
 - Why: To increase the population, jobs, and tax assessment which supports quality of life
 - Metrics: Population (Target increase of 1%), Jobs (Target increase of 0.5%), Tax Assessment
- Growth Strategy Tactics
 - **Completed**
 - Engagement
 - Community – Cabinet, Chamber, WFPB, Leaders
 - CDAC, CK Plan, CK^y
 - Special Council Meeting
 - Amended Community Improvement Plan
 - Building department amended fees on residential high-rise
 - Legal review of unnecessary red tape (bylaws)
 - Commenced discussions internally on Development Charges
 - **Proposed to be investigated**
 - Development of the next Business Park
 - Land Development Corporation
 - Utilities forecasting coordination
 - Proposals to prepare “shovel ready” land (fully serviced) that is zoned appropriately for job growth
 - Review of the Official Plan
 - **Continue**
 - Culture Change for Growth; ensuring red tape is reduced, thinking long-term is the normal culture
 - Marketing to attract business and family/younger population from GTA/other to support the workforce demands
- COVID-19 Started: Municipal Economic Crisis Response
 - Upscaled business reach (www.invest.ca)
 - Increased support to navigate grants & resources
 - Enhanced digital support for e-commerce
 - Increased communication to business community investck.ca
 - Offering relevant C-19 training for businesses to adapt
 - Creation of Enforcement team to protect CK’s health
 - Issuing building permits to keep economy open for business
 - Council approves tax deferral
 - Created a Corporate Economic Recovery Committee

- Mayor's Economic Task Force – there will be a chair for each sector and the chairs will work with the Mayor on the Steering Committee

Manufacturing	Professional Services	Agriculture – Food Processing
Small Business & Entrepreneurship (includes Chambers, BIA, Retail, Gym, Golf Course)	Property, Real Estate, Construction	Communications & IT (Media, Telecommunications)
Not-for-profit	Logistics, Transport, Warehouse	Hospitality, Tourism, Arts (Restaurants)

- Questions of Committee from Presentation:
 - Joey: Unemployment rate 6.7% to 9% before COVID-19 – does John know the rate today and why the jump in February?
 - John: No answer at this time for the jump prior to COVID
 - Joey: Has the municipality begun to look at the impact of revenues due to COVID?
 - John: A report has been provided to Council, another to be given to Council in the coming weeks
 - Don: Impact could be between \$2 million to \$5 million based on current information (\$350 million budget) Provincial and Federal government grants will take time to roll out to citizens, CFO recommended defer taxes for those funds to reach the public
 - Tracey – Statement: Many services (i.e. business, schools) have had to move services to on-line platforms – this results in an impact and increases the gap between those with and without good internet service
 - Melissa: Please explain how the Municipality is engaging and spreading information on programs and ensuring we are making the most of the programs
 - John: Gabriel is the lead; he gathers data and updates the Economic Development Officers
 - Tracey – Statement: With closing of Hope House, feels there is an opportunity to promote good-will and celebrate connections publicly
 - Stephanie: What is the business environment like right now in regards to ability to survive COVID
 - John: Agriculture sector will be okay if family-run, large-scale may be hindered if unable to have staff. Hospitality industry will be highly affected. Some people on unemployment will not be able to go back to work. Those that are able to go back to work will never be able to make up for the lost revenue. Impact really hinges on how long the pandemic will last.
- Discussion on should the targets for the growth strategy be revised based on COVID. John Norton stated that the targets are for 2035. Targets were chosen based on the knowledge that there will be ups and downs, similar to the stock market. The majority of the committee believes the targets should remain.
- Stephanie: Work on rural internet – actions should be put on “overdrive” to help pivot and support online services, working from home, student online learning, etc.
- Tracey – Statement: Public information and awareness is very important at this time

9. Discussion of Frequency and Purpose of the Group

- Melissa: Feels we should continue to meet, discuss resiliency and continue to work on goals of CK Plan 2035; she proposes a meeting in June as the situation with COVID is fast changing.

- Committee agrees with Melissa's proposal of a June meeting

10. Non- Agenda Items

- Earle: What provisions have been made in the plan to ensure groups like Blackstone Group do not take advantage (i.e. investment scam, increase rental rates until forces people out)
 - John: Not familiar with the group Earle mentioned, but incentives provided by the CIP is subject to those that qualify, and any groups need to meet conditions of the program and approval by Council – the plan also allows that if a group was not operating per the agreement, tax incentives can be removed
- Melissa: FYI - Information on Lake Erie Shoreline Study will be presented to the committee in future meetings

11. Time, Date and Place for the Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 24 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Space: TBD

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting; moved by Marjorie Crew, seconded by Amy Finn.
The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.