

Planning & Development Committee Meeting

Council Chambers
Pembroke, Ontario
October 3, 2023
6:09 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Present:

Councillor Jacyno, Chair
Mayor Gervais
Deputy Mayor Abdallah
Councillor Kuehl
Councillor Lafreniere
Councillor Purcell

Regrets:

Councillor Plummer

Also, Present:

Elijah McKeown, Tourism and Digital Media Officer
Colleen Sauriol, Director of Planning, Building and By-law Enforcement
David Unrau, Chief Administrative Officer
Heidi Martin, Clerk

Councillor Jacyno called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

3. Approval/Amendment of Meeting Agenda

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

Seconded by Councillor Purcell

That the agenda of the Planning & Development Committee meeting of September 5, 2023, be approved as circulated.

Carried

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Lafreniere

Seconded by Councillor Purcell

That the minutes of the September 5, 2023, meeting of the Planning and Development Committee be approved as circulated.

Carried

5. Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

6. Presentations/Delegations

a. Algonquin College Update

Ms. Sarah Hall, Dean and Mr. Jamie Bramburger, Manager of Community and Student Affairs provided an update on Algonquin College enrolment this fall, strategic priorities, new programs/services, challenges, and opportunities for further partnerships with the City of Pembroke. A discussion was held, and the following points were raised:

- Housing is the number one priority at this time for all out-of-town students.
- Public transit would be beneficial to students especially to get to and from work.
- In Ottawa, Algonquin College students have transit fees added to their tuition. There would be a number of steps involved to have the same situation here, but the College is willing to sit down with the City to have further discussions on this matter.

The Chair thanked Ms. Hall and Mr. Bramburger for their presentation.

b. Eastern Ontario Warden's Council '7 in 7' Regional Housing Plan

Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon, Chair Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus (EOWC) and Mr. Jim Pine, Eastern Ontario Resource Network (EORN) Consultant provided information on the EOWC's plan to build thousands of community rental units in the next several years. A discussion was held, and the following points were raised:

- Need to lobby the provincial government to give part of the land transfer tax back to local governments.
- Need to be aware and study future long-term needs.
- Immigration will continue to be a contributor to the need for affordable housing.
- We need to petition all levels of government for funding.

The Chair thanked Warden Emon and Mr. Pine for their presentation.

7. New Business

a. Visitor Information Centre

Mr. McKeown presented the report.

Motion:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Abdallah

Seconded by Mayor Gervais

That the Planning & Development Committee approve that the City of Pembroke join the Pembroke Business Improvement Area as a partner in the existing Visitor Information Centre at 130 Pembroke Street West through the sharing of rental costs until January 1, 2024, with the rental cost funded from the City's operating contingency budget.

Carried

b. Website and Social Media Statistics

Mr. McKeown presented the information report. A discussion was held, and the following points were raised:

- Staff providing social media on behalf of the City are doing a great job.
- Staff to improve promotion of Planning and Building Department through social media.
- Staff are investigating the use of a municipal phone app.

c. Smoking Area Request for The Grind

A Point of Order was raised by Councillor Kuehl. At the June 20, 2023, Parks and Recreation Committee meeting, this item was tabled until the City approved a no smoking/vaping on municipally owned property by-law. The Chair ruled that this item will not be addressed until such time that a no smoking/vaping on municipally owned property report be brought before Committee.

d. Taxi By-law Report

Ms. Sauriol presented the report. A discussion was held, and the following points were raised:

- By-law Enforcement Officers spend many hours on regulating taxicabs and limousines.
- The current limousine by-law prevents ride-share companies from entering the City.
- Ride-share programs would promote competition.
- Licence the vehicles rather than the drivers. Registering the vehicle allows the City to know what cars are on the road.
- Owners shall have the responsibility for their drivers and shall have certain items at their establishment to be called upon by the City during spot-checks.
- Need to dispense with the minimum rate but keep the maximum rate.
- Allow cab companies to offer flat rates.
- Allow for an independent calculated app as opposed to a taxi meter.
- Current wait times are long in the City and ride-share programs would assist with this matter.
- A consultation meeting with taxi companies will be held to obtain their feedback on the new draft by-law.
- Taxi companies may be able to offer a future transit solution for the City.

e. Request to Lease Parking Lot at Corner of Lake Street and College Way

Ms. Sauriol presented the report.

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Lafreniere

Seconded by Councillor Kuehl

That the Planning and Development Committee enter into a parking agreement for the lease of the parking lot at the corner of Lake Street and College Way for a one-year period.

Carried

8. Adjournment

Motion:

Moved by Councillor Kuehl

Seconded by Councillor Purcell

That the Planning & Development Committee meeting of October 3, 2023, adjourn at 8:34 p.m.

Carried