



**Brockton Economic Development Committee
Minutes
Monday, May 13, 2019
Brockton Municipal Office, Walkerton
12:00 p.m.**

Voting Members

Dan Gieruszak – Chairman	Present
Mayor Chris Peabody – Ex Officio	Absent
Dean Leifso – Councillor	Present
Kym Hutcheson, Councillor	Present
Randy Saunders – Business Improvement Area	Absent
Alex Baran – Industry Representative	Present
Carl Kuhnke – Institutional Representative	Present
Mike Dupuis – Agriculture Representative	Present

Non-Voting Members

Sonya Watson – CAO/Clerk	Present
Paulette Peirol – Community Development Coordinator/Sec.	Present

Advisory Members

Rose Austin – Saugeen Economic Development Corporation	Absent
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Others Present

1. Call to Order/Attendance

The meeting was called to order by D. Gieruszak at 12:00 p.m.

2. Acceptance of the Agenda

Moved by C. Kuhnke, Seconded by K. Hutcheson

That the Economic Development Committee accept the agenda for the May 13, 2019 meeting as presented.

CARRIED

3. Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof.

None

4. Delegations

None

5. Passing of Minutes

5.1 Brockton Economic Development Committee Minutes, April 15, 2019

Moved by M. Dupuis, Seconded by C. Kuhnke

That the Economic Development Committee accept the minutes of the April 15, 2019 meeting.

CARRIED

6. Business arising from the minutes

None

7. Business Items

7.1 Mayor's Breakfast June 10

The Mayor's Breakfast at the Best Western Hotel has been changed from June 17, 2019 to June 10, 2019. The EDC meeting set for that date will be held immediately following the breakfast, at about 10 a.m., rather than the usual time of 12 noon.

7.2 Volunteer Appreciation Event

EDC members are encouraged to attend the Municipality's first volunteer appreciation event on Wednesday, May 29, 2019.

7.3 Bruce Power Tri-County Economic Development Initiative

D. Gieruszak briefed members on Bruce Power's economic development initiative in Bruce, Grey and Huron counties.

7.4 Labour Force Diversification Forum

About 40 people attended this event in Neustadt, including two advanced manufacturing companies from Brockton and several members of our EDC.

A key issue identified was lack of affordable housing to attract new employees to the region. The committee discussed geared to income and subsidized housing and whether it could be mandated that a portion of new apartment or condo units be affordable. A. Baran says the municipality should get involved in this.

Transportation was another issue identified. Options include expansion of the Saugeen Mobility transit system, formalized carpooling, or the use of electric vehicles for bussing.

Members discussed forming an ad hoc committee to study housing and transportation needs. A. Baran, D. Gieruszak, C Kuhnke and K. Hutcheson volunteered to take part.

Moved by C. Kuhnke, Seconded by A. Baran

That the Economic Development Committee form an ad hoc committee, the terms of reference to be provided by the committee, to explore challenges and opportunities in accommodation and transportation.

CARRIED

7.5 Economic Impact of Provincial Government cutbacks

EDC members discussed concerns about wide-ranging funding cuts by the Provincial government, which could affect flood control and source water protection, schools, daycare and emergency services. Municipalities may be asked to make up the shortfall. Saugeen Valley Conservation and OMAFRA are two organizations that will be directly affected.

C Kuhnke said the Walkerton Clean Water Centre will likely not face cuts, and may even expand.

7.6 Brockton Community Profile

P. Peirol asked the committee whether there were specific topics they wanted to see in the new Community Profile. They identified information about health care and essential services (such as doctors, hospital, dentists), schools, services for seniors, recreation and service clubs.

They also wanted to see regional maps and information about the airport and driving times to the GTA, the Blue Mountain ski resort, beaches, Tobermory, etc.

Links to land available for purchase and housing developments would also be helpful.

The CDC said the guide will form part of our new Welcome Package for new residents and businesses

7.7 Roots of Bruce

M. Dupuis said the 20th annual Roots of Bruce event was successful, for adults and kids alike. He would like to see it incorporated into the agricultural fair, as part of programming for kids in Grades 4, 5 and 6. Several agricultural producers are interested in this. He would like to bring in precision equipment and drones and teach students about crops, spraying, organic farming, community gardens and sustainable farming. OYAP may get involved. D. Gieruszak said Brockton's Economic Development Committee might be able to assist.

8. Reports

8.1 Spruce the Bruce Grants (Report to Council attached to agenda)

8.2 BIA Report – Alishia Oberle

- A. Oberle said the 2019 Visitor Guide was completed and distributed at the regional brochure swap held near Owen Sound. The BIA is hiring an assistant, and is also planning its coming events.

8.3 Saugeen Economic Development Corporation Report – Rose Austin

R. Austin was absent from the meeting

8.4 Community Development Coordinator Report – Paulette Peirol

P. Peirol discussed the completion of the new, redesigned Visitor Guide with the BIA, which is to be published online and promoted by the Walkerton Herald-Times. She attended the Community Development 101 Forum at the Regional Airport, the April airport board meeting, the Labour Force Diversification Forum, and a Saugeen Connects meeting.

P. Peirol also attended a week-long training program at the University of Waterloo in the Fundamentals of Economic Development. This is part of a Certificate in Economic Development program offered through the Economic Development Association of Canada.

9. Business Recognitions

9.1 Auditory Health is celebrating 20 years in business on Friday, May 31, 2019. All members of the EDC are invited.

10. Finance/Budget

10.1 S. Watson said two land sales in the East Ridge Business Park are set to close at the end of June, 2019.

11. New Business

D. Gieruszak received approval for a summer pilot project at the Walkerton Clean Water Centre for 20 students in Grades 11 and 12 to work on “big data” projects with the Nuclear Innovation Institute August 13-23, 2019. The project involves partnerships with the NII, Trinity Theatre, the WCWC and a nuclear physicist who runs a STEM program across the country.

The principle of big data is there are trillions of data on the World Wide Web and students can use this to create solutions to issues. They can often solve problems that large corporations can't. D. Gieruszak said he will work with school boards to ensure they can follow through with the program throughout the school year. It's open to students in Grey, Bruce and Huron counties, with potential to expand across the province, or country.

One aim is to give students exposure to interconnected issues. In this case, Bruce Power is looking to examine the effects of global warming on Lake Huron and its operations. The students will study this, and how it will impact our communities. S. Watson, C. Kuhnke and Mary Jane Bushell of Larsen & Shaw are potential guest speakers.

Funding and transportation are the next hurdles, on a tight timeline.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Next meeting Monday, June 10, 2019