

Report to Council

Report Title: Community Improvement Committee Resignations

Prepared By: Fiona Hamilton, Clerk

Department: Clerk's

Date: September 22, 2020

Report Number: CLK2020-35 **File Number:** C11CL, C08

Attachments: N/A

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number CLK2020-35 - Community Improvement Committee Resignation, prepared by Fiona Hamilton, Clerk for information purposes, and further directs that the Community Improvement Committee be dissolved and the mandate of the Committee transferred to the Walkerton Business Improvement Committee, the Economic Development Committee and the Community Development Coordinator.

Report:

Background:

The Community Improvement Committee ("CIC") is a Committee of Council that has been involved in a number of successful community improvement projects in the downtown Walkerton area. The CIC has been successful in obtaining Spruce the Bruce funding in previous years, however at this time the County of Bruce does not appear to be renewing that program again next year. The projects undertaken by the CIC have been limited to area where a Community Improvement Plan has been in place so that the Spruce the Bruce funding could be achieved.

Until recently, the membership of the CIC was three residents, the Walkerton Business Improvement Area (BIA) Manager, a representative of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA), a Fisheries representative and a Rotary Club representative. The CIC has not met since before March 2020. Given the resignation of the resident members, the meeting that was scheduled to occur was cancelled as it was not clear if a quorum would be established.

Analysis:

Recently, two of the resident members of the CIC has resigned their positions. While one member did not provide a specific reason, the former Chairperson indicated that he was resigning, stating: "with our

diminished scope of work and project limitations imposed in the last year, I feel it is now time for me to pursue new opportunities in community engagement and volunteerism in the community”.

Unfortunately, as the Spruce the Bruce program will not be continuing, the next few years may be challenging for various community groups and the Municipality of Brockton to fundraise in the community for the types of projects that were spearheaded by the CIC.

It should be noted that projects in the Community Improvement Plan coincides with the limits of the Walkerton BIA, which has a core legislated mandate: “to oversee the improvement, beautification and maintenance of municipally owned land, buildings and structures in the area beyond that provided at the expense of the municipality generally”. As a result, many of the projects of the kind that were undertaken by the CIC would already fall within the BIA mandate. Any other functions fulfilled by the CIC could be moved to the Economic Development Committee.

The Municipality of Brockton now also employs a Community Development Coordinator that does and will continue to connect the various groups to arrange for projects to move forward outside of the additional formalities required of the Committee-of –Council structure (regular agenda, staff meeting time, minute preparation, etc). The Community Development Coordinator estimates that she should likely save approximately three (3) hours per month of time dedicated solely to arranging CIC meetings, etc. that could now be allocated towards moving those projects forward and liaising with other community groups.

During the 2020 Budget deliberations, Council directed staff to undergo a Committee Review process to find ways in which the Committees-of-Council could be streamlined to reduce costs and use staff time more efficiently. This review is currently underway and a comprehensive report will be brought forward at the October 27, 2020 meeting. Given the resignations provided by two of the Committee Members, the recommendation at this time is to transfer the mandate of the CIC to the BIA and the EDC and dissolve the CIC as a Committee of Council.

If Council approves this recommendation all current members will be notified and we intend to sincerely thank them for their work on various local projects.

Sustainability Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

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| • Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? | Yes |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

The CIC budget this year was \$10,000.00 for downtown banners and there is \$4,760.29 remaining that is recommended to go towards the Heritage banners that staff and the Heritage Committee are currently working on as required. The remainder would go back to general reserves at year end.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Fiona Hamilton, Clerk

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer