City of Barrie



Minutes - Final

Transportation and Economic Development Committee

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

7:00 PM

Council Chamber

For consideration by the General Committee of the City of Barrie on September 24, 2012

PRESENT:

Councillor J. Brassard Councillor B. Jackson Councillor M. Prowse Councillor B. Ainsworth.

STAFF:

Chief Administrative Officer, C. Ladd
City Clerk, D. McAlpine
Director of Economic Development, H. Kirolos
Director of Engineering, R. Kahle
General Manager of Community Operations, R. Forward
Manager of Infrastructure Planning, S. Patterson
Supervisor of Council Secretariat, L. Pearson
Supervisor of Transportation, S. Rose.

The Transportation and Economic Development Committee met and reports as follows:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE AND ACTIVITY

H. Kirolos provided an update regarding Economic Development Activity in the City of Barrie. He reviewed the economic forecasts for the next quarter. He provided information regarding global debt, stock markets and the economic impact related to the upcoming United States Election. Mr. Kirolos reviewed current employment figures for the City of Barrie. He outlined the status of the Economic Development Department's recent and current projects and highlighted recent activities including assisting McLean Engineering with their Job Fair, the Global Petroleum Show in Calgary, the upcoming grand opening of the IBM Data Centre and the Ideas in Motion think tank. He noted that an Executive Summary regarding the Ideas in Motion think tank will be provided to City Council in the near future. C. Ladd, outlined the 5 top priorities generated by the Ideas in Motion Forum:

- · A University for Barrie;
- · Developing an ambassador program for businesses;
- · Being open for business;
- Branding; and
- A new Economic Development Service model, a business synergy centre.

Committee Members asked several questions related to the information provided.

TRADE MISSION TO CHINA

H. Kirolos provided an update on the trade mission to China and indicated that preparations and planning for the trade mission are on-going.

LAKE SIMCOE REGIONAL AIRPORT

H. Kirolos provide an update regarding the Lake Simcoe Regional Airport.

RAIL UPDATE

Mr. Kirolos provided an update regarding the freight rail system. He noted that communication is ongoing with CANDO and CP Rail. He commented that staff continues to work on potential business opportunities and land sales adjacent to the rail system.

D. McAlpine noted that discussions have occurred between the County of Simcoe and the Town of Collingwood regarding a potential rail line acquisition. She noted that talks continue with local business to utilize rail as a form of transportation.

A Committee Member asked a question regarding the information provided.

TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

S. Patterson provided an update concerning transportation needs. He noted that the Multi-modal Active Transportation Master Plan is underway and a public information centre has been scheduled for September 27, 2012. He commented that the public information centre will be focused on the transportation elements associated with the phasing of the Growth Management Plan.

WATERFRONT AND MARINA STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

S. Patterson provided an update regarding the Waterfront and Marina Strategic Plan. He noted that a public information centre was held on June 26th where elements of the Waterfront and Marina Strategic Plan were presented to the public. He stated that it is anticipated the draft Waterfront and Marina Strategic Plan will be presented to General Committee at the end of October which will be followed by a Public Information Centre to take place in November.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.