



## **Mayor's Economic Recovery Task Force July 9, 2021 - Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Mayor Dan Carter, Chair Tito-Dante Marimpietri, Scott Henderson, Ivano Labricciosa, Jeff Robinson, Roger Bouma, Daniel Stober, Lucy Stocco, Dr. Peter Stoett, , Dustin Kellow, Nancy Shaw, Kyle Douglas

**Staff:** Warren Munro, Hailey Wright

**Guest:** Amber Derby, Holiday Inn Express & Suites

**Regrets:** Stacey Hawkins, Debbie McKee-Demczyk, Keith Cowley, Glen Posteraro, Peter Saturno, Ihor Lysyk, Paul Ralph, Brett Murphy, Mary Cousineau

**Meeting Location:** Cisco Webex Meeting

**Time:** 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

### **1. Welcome**

#### **Chair Marimpietri**

- Welcomed and thanked all Task Force members for joining.
- Is excited to see tangible results from work that this Task Force puts forth and believes our community benefits and is a testament of where we want to go as a City.
- Introduced and welcomed the new Director of Economic Development, Hailey Wright.

#### **Hailey Wright, Director, Economic Development**

- Brief introduction of herself as new Director of Economic Development at the City.
- Is excited to be part of this Task Force and looking forward to continuing to push through initiatives in the coming months.

### **2. Review of Minutes**

The minutes from June 4, 2021 were reviewed and no changes were made.

### **3. Deputation**

#### **Amber Derby, Holiday Inn Express & Suites**

- Thanked Task Force members for their time today.
- Provided a brief outline on how the Hotel has been impacted by COVID-19.
- Corporate, leisure and sports travel came to a halt in March of 2020 resulting in the lay-off of Hotel staff; some staff have returned and many are still on the initial lay-off.
- Outlined different ways in which the Task Force can assist businesses in Downtown Oshawa, including scheduling events; information sharing in the absence of the BIA; marketing tourism in Oshawa highlighting what the City has to offer.
- Shared comments received from Hotel guests.
- Highlighted how the Hotel assists, volunteers and gives back to the community.
- Answered questions from Task Force Members including:
  - the request for decentralization of social services;
  - suggested how Council can assist in the management of the Downtown area;
  - the need to highlight tourism in the City.

#### **Chair Marimpietri**

- Thanked Amber Derby for her deputation and for her volunteer efforts during the Pandemic.
- Addressed the cancellation of certain B.I.A. and City-led events due to the Pandemic.
- Addressed issues the City and individuals face due to the lack of social services throughout the Durham Region.

#### **Justin Kellow, Durham Recruiting**

- Inquired about City specific events that were run by the B.I.A. and the status of the events going forward.

#### **Mayor Carter**

- Outlined a number of resources being utilized at this time to deal with issues faced by downtown businesses.
- Advised Members of new City Hall Head of Security and the increased security measures in place, including working with DRPS and the CCTV program.
- Advised of current investments made by DRPS to address issues in downtown and the issues DRPS face with their attempts.
- Advised Members of his request to the Region for the immediate set up of "Hubs" across the Durham Region for Social Services resources, Oshawa does not have the capacity to entertain additional services.
- Addressed the disbandment of the B.I.A. and expressed his confidence in Hailey Wright and the Economic Development team to create and implement a plan for the downtown businesses, when she has authority to do so.
- Is committed to bringing the downtown area back to a safe, healthy, vibrant community.

- Highlighted recent efforts on housing the unsheltered population and updated Members on recent discussions with Medicine Hat who has a 0 homelessness community.

#### **Scott Henderson, Trent University**

- Provided his vision of how to bring recovery back to the downtown area.
- Have positive activity back not just have people moving through but create a bustling downtown.

#### **Roger Bouma, Durham Region Association of Realtors**

- Shared a downtown business owner experience who believes that downtown works better when there are people downtown, challenges will lessen as businesses do well.
- Patios on Simcoe St would help slow traffic down.

### **4. Review of Task Force Action Items**

#### **Hailey Wright, Director, Economic Development**

- Provided a brief overview of feedback received on the Action Item document that was circulated after last month's meeting.
- An infographic tool is being created and will be shared with the group which highlights the accomplishments of this Task Force.
- The development of an Economic Development Strategy for the City of Oshawa and the development of a Downtown Action Plan, Plan 2030, are top priority and preparations are very much in progress.
- Advised there is lots of interest in the Northwood Business Park area.
- We will be reaching out to Task Force Members on how they can support the City's campaign to bring a new Hospital to North Oshawa.
- Acknowledged various ongoing action items including: development charge exemptions and the Spring C.I.P. program; efforts made surrounding Oshawa Harbour; poverty reduction; COVID testing and vaccination support.

### **5. #OshawaLovesLocal – Campaign Update & Social Media Metrics**

#### **Hailey Wright, Director, Economic Development**

- Provided an update on the campaign which includes a video focusing on downtown patios with hopes of finalization next week. A final version of the video will be shared with Task Force Members.
- Campaign is still successful across social media and Curbex signs around the City have been extended for another month.

## **6. Roundtable Discussion**

### **Warren Munro, Commissioner, Development Services**

- Provided an update on construction permits through June 30, 2021 indicating \$305M in permits were received.
- Excited to see there is a balance in permits received, residential vs. industrial/commercial.

### **Chair Marimpietri**

- Assured Members of efforts made to land opportunities for our community.
- The City has looked at Business Parks as a whole in other municipalities to see how the environment and the need for job creation can be integrated.
- Thanked Jeff Robinson for the investment in Northwood Business Park and other areas in the City.

### **Jeff Robinson, J.J. McGuire General Contractors**

- Northwood Business Park is a good investment opportunity for our company and for business partners, our sign is up there now and we are hopeful to start construction in the Spring of 2022.
- The facility will be 60,000 square feet of office and warehouse space.
- Hopes to have Durham Outlook and soup kitchen up and running by the end of this year.
- Advised there is lots of work going on at General Motors.

### **Daniel Stober, TD**

- Provided an economic overview of last Spring.
- Forecasted positive news and growth with the lifting of COVID restrictions.
- Expects that any rate hikes won't happen until mid to late 2022.
- Lots of equipment financing right now which is a positive sign for the economy.

### **Ivano Labricciosa, Oshawa P.U.C.**

- Is currently working with Back Door Mission to support continued community initiatives in the downtown.
- Getting pick up on Durham Broadband for internet services.

### **Dustin Kellow, Durham Recruiting**

- There is a significant amount of jobs available but not enough applicants.
- There is an increased number of people demanding to work at least 3 days from home.

### **Lucy Stocco, Tribute Communities**

- The good news is sales are in a current Summer slowdown but are still very strong for high-rise and low-rise.
- The bad news is the slow-down in the supply chain and the lack of resources for material and labour.

### **Nancy Shaw, Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce**

- Provided an update on COVID rapid testing kits for small to mid-sized businesses (up to 150 employees) indicating that the kits have not yet been received, and that distribution of the kits will take place at Oshawa City Hall.
- Is working with Ajax/Pickering Board of Trade, Whitby Chamber of Commerce and Clarington Board of Trade on applying for a grant to the Ontario Chamber of Commerce to start a campaign of shop and support local.

### **Roger Bouma, Durham Region Association of Realtors**

- Provided an update on real estate in Durham Region, indicating June sales were down approximately 10% over May of 2021 which is normal.

### **Scott Henderson, Trent University**

- Updated Members on student activities in Oshawa.
- Indicated that Fall is looking good and is planning for a full return of students back to campus.
- May have an opportunity for a vaccine clinic on campus.
- On-line courses will still be offered for those students not comfortable coming back.

### **Dr. Peter Stoett, Ontario Tech University**

- Does not expect full in-person attendance in the Fall but expects approximately 8,000 students on campus in September.
- Expressed his concern about housing prices.
- Announced new building on the North Campus to open in September called Shawenjigewining Hall.
- Updated Members on the University's vaccine site.

### **Kyle Douglas, CRCS DKI**

- Updated Members on an initiative involving various community partners called the Innovation Corridor, set up through various chamber networks, to link with other municipalities.

## **7. Other Business**

None.

## **8. Action Items**

- Hailey to distribute infographic outlining task force achievements once completed to task force members
- Hailey to distribute #OshawaLovesLocal downtown video to task force members once officially launched

## **9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on August 6, 2021.