

**Mayor's Economic Recovery Task Force  
March 19, 2021 - Meeting Minutes**

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>MINUTES OF MAYOR'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASK FORCE MEETING 20</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>	Mayor Dan Carter, Scott Henderson, Ivano Labricciosa, Jeff Robinson, Roger Bouma, Stacey Hawkins, Nancy Shaw, Lucy Stocco, Daniel Stober, Dustin Kellow, Kyle Douglas, Peter Stoett
<b>Staff:</b>	Warren Munro, Paul Ralph
<b>Regrets:</b>	Peter Saturno, Ihor Lysyk, Debbie McKee-Demczyk, Glen Posteraro, Chair Tito-Dante Marimpietri, Keith Cowley
<b>Meeting location:</b>	Cisco Webex Meeting
<b>Date &amp; time:</b>	<b>March 19, 2021, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM</b>

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Actions</b>
1. Welcome	<p>Opening remarks by Mayor Carter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair Marimpietri will not be able to attend the meeting.</li> <li>• Lindsay Cotton will not be able to attend for a deputation.</li> <li>• Ontario Shores representative will be a guest speaker at the next meeting.</li> </ul>
2. March 5th Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No changes to the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.</li> </ul>
3. Review of the Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lindsay Cotton's deputation is cancelled.</li> </ul>
4. Deputation – Stephen Kimmerer	<p>Stephen Kimmerer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carriage Trade Cleaners is a third generation family business.</li> <li>• Due to lack of events and social gathering there has been a significant effect on revenue. Year over year suffered a decline of 100% and is currently at about 50%. Business has adapted to do P.P.E. cleaning.</li> <li>• Highly supportive of the Oshawa Loves Local campaign. However, some local businesses are performing well during COVID-19, while others are suffering. There needs to be a focus on helping those who need it.</li> <li>• American organization are creating visuals to demonstrate how to support small businesses that are suffering. Oshawa should consider presenting to</li> </ul>

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	<p>community the best ways to assist certain industries such as high margin items and services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nearly three dry-cleaners in Durham Region have closed their door due to the drop in revenues.</li> <li>• Encourage Task Force to support through word of mouth and utilize local for their own needs.</li> <li>• Cost of metal hangers has doubled in the past year. Cost of chemicals is increasing industry-wide, as they are imported.</li> <li>• Business has the ability to do contactless pickup and drop off but it is a challenge for other businesses due to lack of parking or staff.</li> <li>• Received positive feedback around delivery and pick up but need to navigate the logistics.</li> <li>• Belong to a cleaners association that provides a comprehensive list of resources and suppliers.</li> <li>• Key lesson is to keep overhead costs to a minimum during the pandemic.</li> </ul> <p>Daniel Stober</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offered to connect offline to assist with any programs. Recommended the new BDC-guaranteed Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program (H.A.S.C.A.P.). The program had a high uptake in Durham Region.</li> </ul> <p>Nancy Shaw</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offered to highlight the business through Rediscover Your Neighbourhood video series to share on social media.</li> </ul> <p>Dustin Kellow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noticed that there are more impressions and click-through for shop local links if they are shared more often with the network. Dustin will provide the Task Force members with the resources that show local sources and stores.</li> </ul> <p>Kyle Douglas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With P.P.E. cleaning is there a specific trend you are seeing or wanting in order to be beneficial to your business.</li> <li>• Stephen noted that P.P.E. are not high margin products because customers want to keep the costs low but with high volume it is beneficial stream. Dental industry, small clinics and massage therapist are the source of P.P.E. cleaning.</li> <li>• Small business cleaners cannot match the price points of large organizations in Toronto, which is preferred by large healthcare organizations.</li> </ul>

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5. Roundtable Update	<p>Ivano Labricciosa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OPUC also has telecom infrastructure, which is being leased to large providers. There is a currently a lack of high-speed internet in Oshawa and downtown. OPUC will now be working up the value to provide the service.</li> <li>• Applied for a licence to become a telecom carrier to provide the service to Oshawa.</li> <li>• Now looking to get funding via Provincial and Federal government to fund up to 75% of expansion to under-served and unserved areas in the community. Awaiting on the results of the application.</li> <li>• Looking to connect with Durham Broadband to have agencies working in the community provide the services for the community.</li> </ul> <p>Jeff Robinson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Motors job site continues to grow and is currently retooling. U.S. companies have paired with Canadian firms and they are present at the site now. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J.J. Maguire has 150 people on site and working 6-7 days a week.</li> <li>• Productive meeting with Oshawa's Development Services department regarding permits.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• No COVID-19 cases through the job sites.</li> <li>• Materials continue to be a concern. Copper piping supply is an issue for the construction industry and there is an overall shortage of plumbing material with 6-8 week delay and price gouging on available material.</li> <li>• Shortage of labor due to the increase in construction projects.</li> </ul> <p>Lucy Stocco</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tribute Communities continues to perform strongly in sales.</li> <li>• Noticing a lack of supplies for both high rise and low rise developments.</li> <li>• Biggest concern is within construction due to lockdowns, smaller crews, crew availability, manufacturing plants are periodically shutting down and increasing cost of material and labour. Therefore, closing dates will be delayed and extended.</li> <li>• Continue to be sensitive to maintaining health protocols on all job sites.</li> </ul> <p>Stacey Hawkins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing weather is a positive sign for the builders.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosted a seminar about building net zero for municipalities. Increase in green regulation but it increases the cost of houses, which are already unaffordable. Additionally there is limited manufacturers in Canada, further affecting prices.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="513 420 701 453">Kyle Douglas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Material pricing is increasing a lot but difficult to manage as they are dictated by insurance price list that are set annually. Job quotes provided months earlier have now increased but insurance will not adjust their rates.</li> <li>• Homeowners are good in terms of understanding the social distancing and all health and safety measures related to COVID-19.</li> <li>• Belong to an unofficial association of young business leaders in Oshawa. Group shares ideas around COVID adaptations. Members belong to various groups around the city.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="513 865 695 898">Nancy Shaw</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chamber is ramping up Rediscover Your Neighbourhood video series to advertise more businesses.</li> <li>• Sharing almost daily COVID related updates.</li> <li>• Chamber staff will continue to work from home for the near future.</li> <li>• More members are expressing concerns over steel shortage/ cost and other materials. Gas prices is another issue for businesses especially with more delivery services.</li> <li>• The definition of frontline workers is changing as it relates to lockdown and vaccination. For example grocery store workers are front line workers during lockdowns but not when receiving priority for vaccine. It is a concern for growing number of workers.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="513 1423 685 1457">Peter Stoett</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ontario Tech is working on long-term climate change planning and sustainability issues.</li> <li>• Still determining format for the fall semester. Hoping to have students back on campus but in smaller class sizes.</li> <li>• Ontario Tech is happy to be able to provide assistance for the vaccination rollout but continue to advocate for a downtown site for accessibility.</li> <li>• Pi Day event raised \$110,000 and University will match the donations to help students in need, since many can't work part time.</li> </ul>

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	<p>Scott Henderson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trent University held a town hall for Trent Durham to better understand working and learning from home.</li> <li>• University is planning on returning to campus for fall with small sizes. Social experience is very important for the students. However, there are back up plans in the event that restrictions require learning from home.</li> <li>• Summer start enrolment is up 400%. Fall enrolment currently increased 30%.</li> <li>• Trent will need to consider expansion sites to accommodate the higher student intake.</li> <li>• International students still face a 12-36 week delay for visas for countries such as India and China.</li> <li>• Continue to look for support for experiential learning and placements for students.</li> </ul> <p>Daniel Stober</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TD's quarterly economic forecast report is now out and discusses housing bubble, inflation vaccination rollout, etc. Forecast will be emailed to the members.</li> <li>• Scheduled the TD Economic Outlook event with City of Oshawa's Economic Development Services for May.</li> </ul>
6. Other Business	<p>Mayor Carter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Big City Mayors continue to advocate for support for the culinary industry. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avanti Trattoria's as an example has approximately 8,000 square feet and can only accommodate 10 people due to restrictions.</li> <li>• Culinary industry needs 75% occupancy to make ends meet.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Suggested that Oshawa draft a new letter for increased occupancy and have all Task Force members sign to show support. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No members in opposition of the action item.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Oshawa is working with the Province and Regional government to do vaccinations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current challenge for municipalities is they are not receiving their allocation of vaccines, which is creating issues with appointments.</li> <li>• O.S.C.C. 55+ is helping seniors get registered online and assisting through the phone.</li> <li>• G.M. site suggested as a drive-thru location but it was not adopted.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Oshawa needs to communicate more of their actions and positive news such as low COVID-19 cases.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premier is expected to make decisions regarding lockdown today, Durham should remain open given the data. Mental health as well will be compromised with another lockdown.</li> </ul>
7. Closing Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing remarks by Mayor Carter.</li> <li>• Panattoni Development is currently building their two projects with 400,000 square feet and 600,000 square feet of industrial space. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aosom Canada will be occupying 170,000 square feet.</li> <li>• More announcement are expected to come forward soon.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In discussion with Amazon to promote locations in Oshawa for their new site that was not able to move forward in Pickering.</li> <li>• Ontario Hockey League will not allow fans and might be operating with four city bubbles.</li> <li>• Provincial government recently announced Community Building Fund to provide \$55 million to support operations trail systems, heritage, and recreation programs. It will also provide \$50 million in capital funding for municipalities and non-profit organizations to complete infrastructure repairs. City staff will share this information with appropriate organizations.</li> <li>• No further discussion on the Memorial Cup and whether it will be awarded this year.</li> <li>• Next meeting is April 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM.</li> </ul>