



Mayor's Economic Recovery Task Force March 11, 2022 - Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Mayor Dan Carter, Chair Tito-Dante Marimpietri, Margaret Spiegelman, Glen Posteraro, Ivano Labricciosa, Jason King, Jeff Robinson, Lucy Stocco, Peter Stoett, Roger Bouma, Scott Henderson, Stacey Hawkins, Sali Fitzpatrick

Staff: Paul Ralph, Warren Munro, Economic Development Services staff

Guests: Dave Wilkes, President and CEO, Building Industry and Land Development Association

Regrets: Debbie McKee Demczyk, Dustin Kellow, Ihor Lysyk, Kyle Douglas, Peter Saturno

Meeting Location: Cisco Webex Meeting

Time: 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

1. Welcome

Mayor Dan Carter

Shared that commercial and industrial investments are on the rise and bringing many job opportunities. Expressed excitement for the conversation around housing.

2. Delegation – Dave Wilkes, President and CEO, Building Industry and Land Development Association

Hailey Wright, Director of Economic Development Services

Conveyed gratitude to be joined by Dave Wilke, who is the CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association in the GTA. Dave joined the taskforce as a guest to speak high level about the report that was put forward from the housing affordability

taskforce, where he is a member. Hailey expressed excitement to speak on this topic, as this taskforce has had conversations surrounding this topic.

Dave Wilkes, President and CEO, Building Industry and Land Development Association

Shared the opportunity for Oshawa to be a model to change the way we think about housing supply. Demand is not going away and the GTA and Oshawa are desired destinations for newcomers looking for housing. Over a two month period, they met with 140 individuals across all areas that influence housing supply and worked as a taskforce to address chronic supply of housing. The need is urgent to provide solutions to this issue. It was discovered that many items were needed to address these issues including adhering to a new growth mindset, reduce the cost to build, buy and rent, change the way population is forecasted to include international students, and other recommendations within the 55 that were included in the report. The system requires a revolution to change the housing landscape. Shortage of skilled trades is a barrier to growth that presents two solutions to change the environment including an expressed entry system that focuses in on bringing skilled trades to Canada and encouraging post-secondary recruitment to skilled trades.

Scott Henderson, Trent University

From a post-secondary perspective, affordable rental options are very important and impacts overall growth and the activity in the community. This upcoming year will be a challenge for students in the area to find suitable housing options and will impact the overall post-secondary experience.

Roger Bouma, Durham Region Association of Realtors

Thought that addressing immigration policy and post-secondary education was very key in the report.

Ivano Labricciosa, Oshawa Power

Expressed cautious concern for quality and sustainable communities with the growing housing market.

Glen Posteraro, Real Estate Investment Brokerage Inc

Raised concern for conservation authorities and growing regulation.

Lucy Stocco, Tribute Communities

Expressed perspective that the variety of housing is needed and development in the white belt in the Durham Region. More lands need to be recognized for this variety of housing and look where growth should occur. There is a gap of information and an issue with forecasting for growth.

Mayor Dan Carter

Asked questions around affordability measurement where Dave responded by sharing that if supply does not increase, there will continue to be growing challenges and have the market be brought to a better balance. Mayor Carter shared excitement for future projects, yet with these increasing interests for development, finding skilled trade staffing continues to be an area of focus.

3. Other Business

No other business was brought forward.

4. Next Meeting

April 8, 2022 at 11:00 AM