



Ad-Hoc Grand Trunk Renewal Committee

MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:46 pm

Location: Council Chambers, Stratford City Hall, 1 Wellington St, Stratford, ON

Committee Members: Dan Mathieson – Chair, Mayor Martin Ritsma, Barb Cottle, Melanie Hare, Nic Flanagan, Ron Dodson, Stephen Mitchell, Trudy Jonkman, Mark Vandenbosch, Franklin Famme, Paul Parlee, Andy Bicanic

Absent: Georgia Neely

Staff: Tim Wolfe —Director of Community Services, Emily Robson – Corporate Initiatives Lead, Joan Thomson – CAO, Joani Gerber – CEO of InvestStratford, Lindsay Van Gestel – Recording Secretary, Adam Betteridge – Director of Building & Planning, Krista Robinson – CEO of Stratford Public Library

Working Group Members: John Kastner

Coordinators: Alan Kasperski, Ray Harsant

1. Call to Order

Dan Mathieson, Chair

- The Chair to call the meeting to order at 7:00 pm
- Land Acknowledgment

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None were declared.

Joan Thomson, CAO, provided an overview on a pecuniary interest as requested at the January 15, 2024, meeting. Further information was provided on pecuniary interests, the statutory duties, declaring a declaration at a meeting (or after if not in attendance), registry of declarations, exceptions, and the City's Integrity Commissioner process and contact information (also noted on the City's website).

3. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

**Motion by Mayor Ritsma
Seconded by Nic Flanagan**

THAT the Minutes of the Ad-Hoc Grand Trunk Renewal Committee of The Corporation of the City of Stratford dated January 15, 2024, be adopted as printed.

Carried

4. Delegation Requests

None

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

5.1. GTR Key Messages & FAQs

John Kastner provided an update on the frequently asked questions document which will be posted on the City's website. Specific key messages were pulled from the FAQs document and were relayed to the Committee and attendees. These key messages were about the development, funding and partnership opportunities, business and property taxes, viewing this development as an improvement (and not as a negative concept or development) to the City. Additional key points were about the ownership of the property; and environmental conditions (soils) and uses of future developments.

AdHoc Committee Member A. Bicanic questioned the contamination of soils and to be sure accurate conditions are shared.

AdHoc Committee Member F. Famme asked for verification that City staff have assessed the FAQs document in which Joan Thomson, the CAO, advised multiple departments have reviewed and approved this document.

**Motion by Mark Vandenbosch
Seconded by Ron Dodson**

THAT the FAQs be accepted as prepared.

Carried

5.2. Generative Conversation on Vision & Guiding Principles

Emily Robson recapped the presentation and exercise from January's meeting and the ideas posted by the committee; and asked that committee members prepare additional notes for this part of the presentation. The question asked: What development principles are imperative to the Grand Trunk Renewal Project?

Emily worked with the Committee to group ideas that tell us a story on how we are creating this development; and identified the homework assignment for the next meeting where the committee will have a draft version of the guiding principles to review together.

A question was asked about the City having a dedicated staff member for this development.

6. New Business

None

7. Reports of the Working Groups

7.1. Partnerships

Karen Haslam & Herb Klassen – Not in attendance

7.2. Vision, Planning and Architecture

Melanie Hare provided an update on the working group (inaugural meeting). The working group and Emily will work to shape the guiding principles (after homework assignments completed). There are community events being organized for March 26th regarding where are we, and where are we headed... The second event (learning from others) will be April 13th with a series of speakers offering a range of perspectives, public and private entities. The YMCA has agreed to host these events.

7.3. Real Estate, Legal & Finance F. Famme – no update at this time

7.4. Infrastructure & Environmental - Stephen Cooper – not in attendance

7.5. Communication, Advocacy & Civic Engagement – J. Kastner, no further update

7.6. Working Group Coordinators – R. Harsant – no further update

8. Date of Next Meeting

Monday, March 18th at 7:00 – 9:00 pm in the Council Chambers, City Hall

9. Adjournment

Meeting Start Time: 7:00 pm

Meeting End Time: 8:46 pm

Motion by Paul Parlee

Seconded by Melanie Hare

THAT the January 15, 2024, Ad-Hoc Grand Trunk Renewal Committee meeting adjourn.

Carried