



Meeting Minutes **DRAFT**

West Grey Economic Development Advisory Committee

Monday June 13, 2022 – 8:00-9:30 am

Virtual Meeting: via Zoom

Present: Chair Steve Morel, Hazel Pratt, Darrin Patey, Michelle Patey, Kerri Eady (joined 9:02 am), Deputy Mayor Tom Hutchinson, Councillor Doug Hutchinson, Councillor Stephen Townsend,

Absent: Elizabeth MacKenzie, Paul MacDonald, Pat Crocker.

Staff present: Laura Johnston CAO, Kodey Hewlett Corporate & Community Initiatives Officer

1. **Call to Order:** by Chair S. Morel at 8:27 a.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Moved by H. Pratt, seconded by M. Patey and carried with one addition under New Business
3. **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:** none
4. **Delegations:** none
5. **Guests:** none
6. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Moved by D. Patey, seconded by M. Patey and carried.
7. **Business Arising from the Minutes:** none
8. **Staff Reports and Information:**
 - a) Entrance Arch Update: D. Patey reported on meeting with K. Eady to discuss technical or engineering issues with potential entrance arch projects for our settlement communities starting with Durham and Neustadt. Points for discussion were: singular placement in downtown cores as opposed to multi-entrances; engineering one profile of construction of steel for low maintenance with silhouette/design focus for each downtown area, possible wind or bird issues with sign; and county/provincial approvals for highway routes whereas county would likely approve project following MTO approval. Concern from D. Hutchinson that entrance arches may not be a priority for EDAC budget, and that focus should concentrate on downtown cores and parks/trails. L. Johnston brought forward points that committee needs more information, that this type of project may fall under the Strategic Plan for community

identity and tourism drivers. S. Townsend shared that the Economic Development Strategic Plan would give direction and a lens to prioritize projects, and that we can proceed with planning on arches project to be “shovel ready” for available grants/funding.

- b) Strategic Plan: K. Hewlett: Durham business-mix analysis is completed and being reviewed by K. Hewlett and L. Johnston before review by EDAC and presentation to council and the public. Neustadt’s business-mix analysis will be ready from Grey County soon. L. Johnston shared that data from analysis will help identify gaps and opportunities, and EDAC will use this data for visioning work on the overall Strategic Plan. Starting with these two communities first, residents will see the results of work coming out of the Plan.
- c) Student Start-Up Update: K. Hewlett: Initially slow uptake of youth applications, Saugeen Connects now has six youth applications from West Grey approved and fully funded by sponsorships. Next steps are training/learning objectives with follow-up by sponsors. There are two repeat youth applicants in West Grey – one youth expanded the business with a partner, and one youth trying a different business model.
- d) CIP Update: L. Johnston: GIS services being done by Grey County is needing simplification to be user-friendly. Mapping will show street view with focus on CIP completed projects including form of funding stream. Update that many old store-front signs in Durham have been removed and cleaned up. Neustadt Brewery is continuing their façade project.

9. **New Business:**

S. Townsend advised that the West Grey Library service review is anticipated to be adopted by the board soon. This may come into play with the Rockwood Terrace community hub concept.

10. **Correspondence:** none

11. **Closed Session:** none

12. **Report from Closed Session:** not applicable

12. **Next Meeting Date:** To be determined.

Discussion re: time to review confidential draft strategic plan, submit comments early August to be reviewed at a virtual August meeting. Potential for the September meeting to be in-person to discuss shape/direction of the Economic Development Strategic Plan for West Grey, prior to council and public presentation.

13. **Adjournment:** Motion by M. Patey, seconded by D. Patey, carried at 9:23 a.m.

_____ Chair