



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE (GRC)
MINUTES

GRC-2/2015

The Government Relations Committee met on Thursday, September 3, 2015 at 1:02 p.m., in the Council Chamber, Regional Administrative Headquarters, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, Brampton.

Members Present: F. Dale; J. Downey, designate for A. Thompson; G. Gibson; L. Jeffrey; M. Medeiros; G. Miles♦; K. Ras; J. Tovey

Members Absent: B. Crombie, due to other municipal business; J. Innis, due to a personal matter

Also Present: D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer; L. Graham-Watson, Commissioner of Corporate Services; S. VanOfwegen, Commissioner of Finance and Chief Financial Officer; D. Labrecque, Commissioner of Public Works; D. Langtry, Acting Commissioner of Health Services; A. Baird, Director, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; D. Arbuckle, Manager, Strategic Public Policy and External Relations; L. Rubin-Vaughan, Advisor, External Relations; K. Lockyer, Regional Clerk and Director of Clerk's; C. Thomson, Committee Clerk; S. Valteau, Legislative Assistant

Chaired by Councillor J. Tovey.

1. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST - Nil

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION GRC-4-2015:

That the agenda for the September 3, 2015, Government Relations Committee meeting be approved.

3. DELEGATIONS

3.1. Harinder Malhi, MPP, Brampton-Springdale, Discussing Issues Related to Provincial Government and Local Constituents

Received

* See text for arrivals

♦ See text for departures

Harinder Malhi, MPP, Brampton-Springdale, advised that the focus of her first year as MPP for Brampton-Springdale has been to engage with constituents to learn their needs and concerns and identify their key priorities.

Harinder Malhi highlighted recent provincial investments in the Brampton-Springdale community in the areas of health care, transit, affordable housing and youth programs. MPP Malhi noted that a lack of health and social services in the Springdale community led to the development of the Brampton-Springdale Network (BSN), led by Baldev Mutta, the Chief Executive Officer of Punjabi Community Health Services. The BSN aims to bring a variety of health and social service agencies together in a community hub, however, the group is having difficulty bringing their plans to fruition.

The Chief Administrative Officer undertook to contact Baldev Mutta to discuss supports the Region of Peel may be able to provide.

Councillor Jeffrey noted that funding for the Children's Aid Society (CAS) in Peel is severely lacking and that the Region of Peel's proximity to the airport requires Peel's CAS to assist in the repatriation of children.

4. REPORTS

4.1. Interdependencies of Growth to 2041 (Oral)

Presentation by Stephen VanOfwegen, Commissioner of Finance and Chief Financial Officer, and David Arbuckle, Manager, Strategic Public Policy and External Relations

Received

Stephen VanOfwegen, Commissioner of Finance and Chief Financial Officer, advised that the Region of Peel's Growth Management Committee (GMC) requested that the issues of federal and provincial investments to growth be shared with the Government Relations Committee. He highlighted information that was shared with the GMC, noting that investing in Peel's growth benefits both the Federal and Provincial governments through increased income and consumption tax revenues. By 2041, Federal and Provincial annual taxation revenues from Peel will increase by approximately \$10B per annum, or 65 per cent.

David Arbuckle, Manager, Strategic Public Policy and External Relations, reviewed current Regional Council endorsed advocacy positions directly related to supporting Peel's growth. He noted that the completion of the Region's Strategic Plan and Term of Council Outcomes will lead to the alignment of current and potentially new advocacy positions with the Strategic Plan, for which individual strategic advocacy plans will be developed.

Councillor Jeffrey noted that advocacy work is also done at the area municipal level and she indicated her support for a more targeted approach between the Region of Peel and area municipalities in this area. She also undertook to provide the Region of Peel with updates from the Big City Mayors' discussions on revenue tools.

Members discussed the challenges associated with losing employment lands to residential growth, noting that the lost tax revenue cannot be borne by residents.

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that the Region of Peel participated with other Greater Toronto Area municipalities in studying the impact of the Growth Plan on municipalities and are advocating, both locally and provincially, for the province to change its approach to planning and planning numbers.

Councillor Tovey stated that there should be better integration between the Region of Peel and the area municipal economic development offices to enable them to work more closely rather than in competition with each other.

4.2. Federal Election Strategy Update (Oral)

Presentation by David Arbuckle, Manager, Strategic Public Policy and External Relations

Received

Councillor Jeffrey stated that the Region of Peel requests contained in the “2015 Federal Election Key Priorities for the Region of Peel” should be more specific and she suggested that they be amended to align with the wording contained in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) 2015 Federal Election Platform.

RECOMMENDATION GRC-5-2015:

That the 2015 Federal Election Key Priorities for the Region of Peel be revised to include the specific requests of the Region of Peel;

And further, that the revised 2015 Federal Election Key Priorities for the Region of Peel be referred to the September 10, 2015 Regional Council meeting.

Councillor Miles departed at 1:50 p.m.

4.3. Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference Update (Oral)

Discussion led by Councillor Tovey, Chair, Government Relations Committee

Received

Councillor Tovey thanked the members of the Government Relations Committee who participated in Peel’s representation at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference, including Mayors Crombie, Jeffrey and Thompson and Councillors Innis, Medeiros and Ras. He also acknowledged Councillors Downey, Groves and Shaughnessy who contributed to a few meetings as well as Councillors Mahoney, McFadden and Starr who attended the conference and provided feedback throughout. In total, 9 meetings were held including meetings with representatives from the following Ministries: Municipal Affairs and Housing; Transportation; Citizenship, Immigration & International Trade; Community & Social Services; Health; and, Long-Term Care. Peel’s delegation also participated in two roundtable discussions with Minister Murray, one on Waste Management and one on Climate Change. Meetings were also held with the PC and NDP Leaders and members of their caucus, who expressed their support for the Region of Peel’s work in areas such as goods movement and affordable housing.

Councillor Tovey noted that staff is already following up with the various Ministries to continue to advance the Region of Peel’s priorities and he extended his appreciation for the support provided by staff at the Conference.

Councillor Medeiros requested that staff provide the Government Relations Committee with status updates on the matters discussed at the AMO Conference, and suggested in future, that the Region of Peel delegation forward its questions to the Ministries in advance of the AMO Conference.

5. GOVERNMENT RELATIONS STATUS REPORT AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES (Oral)

Discussion led by Lowell Rubin-Vaughan, Advisor, External Relations

Received

6. COMMUNICATIONS

6.1. Draft Fall 2015 MP/MPP Advocacy Update

Received

David Arbuckle, Manger, Strategic Public Policy and External Relations, undertook to follow up with staff in Communications to ensure the Region of Peel's Twitter feed supports the Large Urban Mayors and Chairs of Ontario (LUMCO) communication strategy.

7. IN CAMERA MATTERS - Nil

8. OTHER BUSINESS - Nil

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Government Relations Committee is scheduled for Thursday, December 3, 2015 at 1:00 p.m., Council Chamber, 5th floor, Regional Administrative Headquarters, Suite A, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Brampton, Ontario.

Please forward regrets to Christine Thomson, Committee Clerk, (905) 791-7800, ext. 4582 or at christine.thomson@peelregion.ca.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.