

SPECIAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Community and Development Services Office
Main Floor Meeting Room
66 Grand River Street, North, Paris
Monday, November 17, 2008
6:06 p.m.

Present: Mayor Eddy, Councillors Schmitt, Powell, Simons, Wheat, Gatward, Atfield, Coleman, Haggart and Chambers

Others: Mr. John Kennedy and Ms. Nancy Reid, MMM Group Limited

Regrets: Councillor Hodge

Staff: Johnston, Pomponi, Stone, Davidson, Moore and Wilson

Approval of Agenda

Moved by – Councillor Coleman
Seconded by – Councillor Wheat

That the agenda for the Planning Advisory Committee meeting of November 17, 2008, be approved as distributed, with the following additions:

Chairman Chambers requested the addition of Chairman's Remarks and noted that First Urban has withdrawn as a delegation.

.Carried

Chairman's Remarks

Councillor Chambers welcomed the members of the public to the special planning meeting scheduled to review submissions on the County of Brant Official 5 Year Plan. He explained that during the review of the Official Plan Update, approximately 200 public requests/submissions have been received with regards to the Official Plan. County of Brant staff has categorized the requests/submissions as follows:

1. General Policy Changes and Comments
2. Settlement Area Expansion
3. Miscellaneous Site Specific Requests
4. Rural (Estate) Residential Requests

Councillor Chambers reported that the General Policy Changes and Comments are on the agenda at this evenings meeting. He reviewed that County of Brant staff has written a report for each request/submission received and each submitter received notification that they would be allotted a three minute presentation time at the meeting. He noted that requests/submissions may be duplicated or redundant as they may have previously been dealt with, however every submission is included with a report in the agenda as a record.

Mayor Eddy and Councillor Haggart expressed concern regarding responses to the public, with respect to the requests submitted, and questioned how staff intended to follow up with responses.

Official Plan Submissions - Delegations

Carol Parafenko – Species at Risk

Carol Parafenko, publisher-owner of the St. George Lance and The Paris Chronicle newspapers, presented information on distinctive natural features and species at risk in the County of Brant. She reported that the Blue Lake area is seen as a candidate for UNESCO, (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) site designation. UNESCO site designations include properties around the world such as the town of Lunenburg in Nova Scotia, Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks and other Canadian National Parks.

She expressed concern with the implementation of wetlands and woodlands as parks and parkland designation, noting that it is difficult to use wetlands as a park. She suggested that these parks be made accessible to the public by use of boardwalks and chip walkways, allowing the public to appreciate the wetlands and woodlands, being careful not to disturb these areas.

In conclusion, she requested the following:

- that the County protects species at risk by incorporating the areas of special significance into the County of Brant Official Plan;
- develop a list or inventory of species including trees, insects, and archaeological aspects;
- establish a voluntary advisory committee to deal with the species at risk.

In response to a question, it was noted that Ms. Parafenko was referring to wetlands and woodlands in building plans for developments, not personal property.

L. Nowicki-Prime and Ella Haley - Sustainable Brant

Ms. Nowicki-Prime thanked the County of Brant Planning Committee for the opportunity to comment on the draft Official Plan. She expressed concern regarding the importance of preserving the rural character of Brant County and that areas for urban development are not expanded. She questioned how the expansion on Rest Acres Road could affect the environment and water supply in the area. She noted that residents of the County of Brant have requested the removal of heavy industry in this area, in an effort to protect the water supply. It was noted that the Nith Peninsula is surrounded by wetlands and woodlands, prairies and fields used for agriculture and Barker's Bush area, having multiple designations of natural heritage features and hazards. She stressed that the Official Plan needs to explore all options for preserving and protecting the above.

In conclusion, she requested the following:

- that schedule C and appendices 1,2, 3, in the draft Official Plan, which contain environmental designation for the County, be made available for the public;
- that the County publishes a County Map of the draft Plan in the Expositor to enhance the involvement of the public;

- that the County of Brant exceed minimum standards of the Provincial Policy Statement, in an effort to embrace, promote and protect natural resources, by implementing creative solutions.

Ms. Haley expressed concern with respect to the Cainsville Area Study. She expressed her belief that the residents of Cainsville want to protect the agricultural lands in the Cainsville area and that they will not be receptive to potential, future development. On behalf of Sustainable Brant, Ms. Haley noted that Sustainable Brant would prefer more public consultation with respect to the draft Official Plan as it relates to Greenbelt protection initiatives.

Ms. Haley expressed concern with regard to the draft Transportation Master Plan, stating that it is difficult to interpret. She suggested that a public meeting be organized to further review the draft Transportation Master Plan.

Ms. Haley requested information with respect to the public focus group reviewing the various elements of the draft Official Plan and particularly, if there are minutes of meetings of the public focus group.

Chairman Chambers thanked delegations and requested that presenters provide County of Brant staff with a written copy of their presentation.

Reports from Staff: PAC-08-60

Mr. Mark Pomponi, Chief Planning Official, reported that the “General Policy Changes and Comments” section contains 35 submissions and that these submissions have been forwarded to planning staff and MMM Group Limited for consideration. He noted that reports have been written to summarize each individual submission, ideas have been incorporated in the 5 Year Official Plan, and some submissions are currently being investigated.

Discussion was held regarding the process and procedure respecting the best manner in which to address the submissions. Concern was expressed regarding communication and public notification with regard to each individual submission. It was suggested that each submitter should receive a response from the County and that individuals should not have to request follow up information regarding their individual submissions.

The Chief Planning Official reported that staff recommends receiving the list of submissions indicated on the agenda as information with the exception of B-7 & E-2, which has been deferred to a subsequent meeting.

Moved by – Councillor Schmitt
Seconded by – Councillor Powell

That the following submissions and correspondence for consideration of the review of the 5 Year Update to the Official Plan be received as information:

- i. A-15; A-24; A-29; B-11; B-13; C-1; C-2; C-3; C-4; C-5; C-6; D-3; E-4; E-5; E-6 & F-27; E-10; E-12; F-5; F-6; F-9; F-10; F-35; F-39; F-41; G-1; G-2; G-3; G-4; H-1; H-6; H-9; H-11; H-15; H-20.

.Carried

In response to a question regarding a more walkable community, it was suggested that walkways and bicycle paths should be investigated at an upcoming Public Works Committee meeting.

Other Business

It was suggested that future meetings dates for Official Plan Submission Review meetings be determined at the Council meeting scheduled on Tuesday, November 18, 2008. These dates will be posted on the County website and all submitters will receive notification of the meeting at which their submission will be heard.

The next scheduled Official Plan Submission Review meeting will deal with section 2, "Settlement Area Expansion".

Attendance of the public was taken; name, address, and phone number were included for future notification of meeting dates.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Secretary