

Meeting Agenda



City of Guelph

Downtown Advisory Committee (DAC)

May 16th, 2019

City Hall, Meeting Room B

From 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Chair: Doug Minett

Agenda Items

Item 1 – Discussion on DAC mandate

- General discussion on the future of DAC and its mandate.

-Paul Smith questions what changed in terms of active agenda items from Ian's time to Rino's; need for a further understanding of the transition

Rino responds that after looking over the previous 6 years the agenda **wasn't active in terms** of real discussion points; over the last 8 months **there haven't been any active items; dormant**

Doug disagrees; thinks **going through agenda and minutes don't capture** the capacity of the group; no resolutions, mostly discussions regarding key projects (Baker, Wilson); suggest that this group can have a prominent input in CIP

-Paul M.; wants Rino's opinion, feels that these meetings have been a waste of his time, David Durbin's recent email sparked his interest and was the only reason for his attendance today; thinks some people like to come in and have a chit chat but **the core of people likely don't know where this is going; unsure** whether to show up or not

-Paul Smith; thinks council should be made aware of the dysfunction of DAC

-David N; questions if this is a worthwhile committee to Rino?

Rino responds that the committee is important, notes he is looking for opinions and expertise but wants to refer to what the Clerks recently advised in terms of agenda items; looking for items that require further discussion, mentions that DAC and GEDAC both under review, option to combine both into an Ec Dev advisory committee from Guelph (not just Downtown), want to ensure that the rest of Guelph are aware of the Downtown

Marty thinks this is **problematic and a disconnect, when we've taken Baker and Parking off the table no wonder there's nothing to talk about; thinks** this is insulting to the people who have been appointed

Doug disagrees with Rino, thinks DAC **isn't the same as GEDAC because it's** the only area of the City that relies on multiple departments within the City; DAC became DAC because there was a recognition of that; I am recognized that in his job he was in charge of managing all the different **silos; GEDAC can't address downtown issues**

-David N; we don't get any meaningful work from Rino to discuss, 2019 DAC mandate is on every single agenda item

-Marty; the mandate of the committee is to talk about the issues, need to have other City departments in attendance to discuss these issues; notes that the idea of Conestoga College and YMCA involvement in Baker District came out of this committee

-Paul Smith; DAC is meant to look at downtown comprehensively, a holistic view of the downtown, need different staff to come in on different issues, disagrees that Baker has its own consultation; stresses that we **can't have another meeting like** this, needs to make an issue concerning the role of the committee

Marty; notes that DAC is appointed by council, it can address council in a letter, the committee has been narrowed too much in recent times; need Waste, Planning, Police etc. here to touch on more issues

-Chuck; clearly what we have here isn't working; we are on the advisory committee but not getting to help on the larger issues; need some kind of more clearly defined function

-David D; mandate included words related to downtown Guelph, DGBA has a focus on the downtown core, the downtown **is wider than what we've been talking about** at these last meetings; need to be involved in more, Rino brought up Fountain street parking lot and there needs to be more conversation about that, concentration on the need for getting into downtown as a cyclist; is there a wider staff representation that needs to be at this meeting every month?

-Dan; DAC provided Library with better understanding of what goes on in the downtown, being on the committee opened their eyes to downtown challenges, the Live Work Play document still informs a lot of decisions on Baker District

-David D; takes a while to develop understanding of the groundwork of DAC, all **learning what we're supposed to be doing, sees value in the mandate and looking** into social, cultural aspects; do we have the power to demand external people to come to these meetings?

-Jack; Can we identify issues and have additional speakers come to the meeting to discuss? Informational items?

-Paul Smith; thinks we need a change in model in order for these to happen; might **be better to articulate it on paper and send to council so it's on the record**

-Paul M; what happens when we leave here? In the past did anyone use DAC input

Marty notes that DAC support have been included in some Staff reports

-David N; needs to know from Rino what the function is

Rino responds that he is fairly new to the role, working on trying to establish what the function of the committee is, mandate needs to be changed, looking for advice on CIP in June post stakeholders meeting, Fountain street, **Wellington street and CIP are Rino's projects, committee** would have to put together a report to take to council regarding the streetscape, **Rino can't put forth that** report

-Chuck; some of the Streetscape manual can be changed with a bylaw review, need Rino to provide some guidance, Rino is their city representative

-Paul S; if we articulated what we wanted on paper then staff could effectively address our concerns

-Marty; questions rhetorically whether DAC is advisory to a staff member or to council? DAC has a right and responsibility to call in who**ever they'd** like to talk to, reiterates that combining GEDAC and DAC is the right move

Rino responds that he is not against asking City staff to come to DAC meetings and clarifies that the combination of GEDAC and DAC is an option, not a definite

-Doug; if we have a coherent streetscape issue to raise, the Planning department is more likely to come without any push back, not sure the value in doing so when no one is prepared

-Chuck; DAC can raise issues regarding the streetscape and pass possible bylaws

Paul M responds that he is not here to learn, **doesn't** want to drag Planners down here for information sessions, need to do research on our own time to have valid questions to propose to a Planner

-Doug; question of what value this memo would serve, proposes instead that we research and get involved and invite people into the room

Paul Smith puts forth a motions that DAC prepare a memo to council articulating that

- the DT advisory committee provides a holistic perspective on downtown issues reflecting the 2005 mandate
- City staff supporting the committee need to draw in staff from various departments to address this wide variety of topics

In favor, Paul S, David N, Chuck C, Paul M, Doug M

Against, David D

*Paul to make 1st Draft and send to members

*David D proposes we send the memo to both staff and Council

Item 2 –Streetscape manual

- Members to provide information as per discussion at previous meeting.

*Chuck to schedule further meeting

Item 3 – CIP Informal information session

- Budget available to promote the CIP
- Unable to force people to apply

Action Items

1. Paul Smith to make first draft of Memo and send to DAC members
2. Chuck C to schedule Streetscape Manual meeting with other DAC members
3. Request for Baker District follow up after engagement on next staff agenda
4. DAC members to read CIP information and come with questions for next DAC meeting

Motion to adjourn David N.

All in favor

15 mins

Next Meeting:

June 20th, 2019
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.