



The City of Saint John

MINUTES - OPEN SESSION GROWTH COMMITTEE MEETING  
APRIL 16, 2019 AT 11:30 A.M.  
8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBER (Ludlow Room), CITY HALL

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Present: Mayor D. Darling  
Deputy Mayor McAlary  
Councillor J. MacKenzie

Absent: Councillor R. Strowbridge  
Councillor B. Armstrong

Also

Present: City Manager J. Collin  
Commissioner Growth and Community Development J. Hamilton  
Deputy Commissioner Building and Inspection Services A. Poffenroth  
Deputy Commissioner Growth and Community Development P. Ouellette  
Population Growth Manager D. Dobbelsteyn  
Senior Financial Analyst J. Forgie  
Commissioner Transportation & Environment Services M. Hugenholtz  
Acting Communications Manager L. Caissie  
Administrative Assistant K. Tibbits

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1. Meeting Called To Order

Mayor Darling called the Growth Committee open session meeting to order.

1.1 Approval of Minutes – March 21, 2019

Moved by Deputy Mayor McAlary, seconded by Councillor MacKenzie:  
RESOLVED that the minutes of March 21, 2019 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED.

1.2 Guest Presenter: Yan Del Valle

Mr. Ouellette noted that there are a number of success stories related to growth in the community and stressed the importance of celebrating these success stories. Going forward, guest speakers will address the Growth Committee in a series entitled, "Growing in Saint John."

Mr. Del Valle spoke of his early experiences as a newcomer, to his success as the owner of three businesses in Saint John. In response to a question with respect to barriers experienced by newcomers, Mr. Del Valle noted that the language barrier is difficult to overcome, but overall, it is the availability of opportunities that matters. In order to retain immigrants, they must have access to work, arts and culture, availability of settlement assistance, and the necessary tools to access these services.

Moved by Deputy Mayor McAlary, seconded by Councillor MacKenzie:  
RESOLVED that the verbal presentation by Mr. Yan Del Valle, be received for information.

MOTION CARRIED.

- 1.3 2018 Reporting and 2019 Outlook
- 1.3.1 2018 Growth Work Plan Overview
- 1.3.2 2019 Growth Targets and Key Initiatives
- 1.3.3 Growth Info-Graphics

Ms. Hamilton stated that 2019 will continue to be a very ambitious year for driving the growth agenda in Saint John and is tied to the corporate priority of fiscal sustainability. The workplan will continue the positive momentum seen since the adoption of the City's growth strategies related to the Roadmap for Smart Growth and the Population Growth Framework. It includes new initiatives related to process improvement and the customer service area.

Referring to the submitted presentation, Mr. Ouellette reviewed the 2018 targets and the year-end results, as well as key initiatives for 2019. Themes for 2019 include a continuation of the beautification of neighbourhoods, celebrating successes, playing a role in enabling growth and an enhanced focus on customer service.

Mr. Dobbelysten commented on the Population Growth Framework, noting that it is a community strategy, not specifically owned by the City. There will be an increased focus in supporting and fostering the development of cultural groups who will act as ambassadors to newcomers and assist in the transition process.

Commenting on the enhanced process for exploratory visits, Mr. Dobbelysten explained that there is a new provincial immigration stream that targets business entrepreneurs, with a net worth of at least \$600K CAD and a willingness to commit at least \$250K in a new business in New Brunswick. The business must create two new jobs in addition to any jobs created for themselves or their family. The city is taking a proactive approach and meeting with these entrepreneurs to encourage settlement in Saint John. Recent data suggests that there are 222 entrepreneurs from around the world being nominated for the program, and 25% have indicated that Saint John is their intended destination. This represents a potential of at least 112 new jobs and over \$14M in business investment.

Ms. Caissie distributed an info-graphic related to growth, the first of a series of info-graphics, to highlight growth in the City. The info-graphics will be primarily distributed electronically through the City's social media channels.

Moved by Deputy Mayor McAlary, seconded by Councillor MacKenzie:  
RESOLVED that the Growth Committee endorse the 2019 Growth Work Plan.

MOTION CARRIED.

- 1.4 Saint John Local Immigration Partnership

Mr. Ouellette stated that the Roadmap for Smart Growth contemplated transferring the Saint John Local Immigration Partnership from the Human Development Council to the City. The LIP is a federally funded program that improves settlement and immigration of newcomers and supports welcoming communities. The Human Development Council is currently the holder of the local immigration partnership, with funding from 2017 to 2020. The Government of Canada is now looking for applications from 2020 to 2025. Work is in place to transition the LIP to the City of Saint John. Funding is approximately \$100K per year for five years which would include funding for a project co-ordinator/manager. It is envisioned that this would be a contract position and fully funded by the grant.

In response to a question Mr. Dobbelsteyn stated that local immigration partnerships are primarily a co-ordinating body. They do not support newcomers directly but provide greater

alignment, resources and programming to address specific needs and usually provide a settlement strategy.

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie, seconded by Deputy Mayor McAlary:

RESOLVED that the Growth Committee endorses a recommendation to Common Council that the City of Saint John apply to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada for funding to host the Saint John Local Immigration Partnership starting in 2020.

MOTION CARRIED.

#### 1.5 Vacant and Dangerous Buildings Program: Growth Reserve Fund Request

Ms. Van Wart reviewed the 2018 statistics and commented on the targets for 2019 for the Vacant and Dangerous Building Program. The program has been very successful in 2018, with a number of positive trends. The severity of conditions of the buildings and the caseload itself are decreasing. In order to achieve the 2019 targets, it is requested that the growth committee recommend that Council allocate \$25K from the growth reserve fund to allow the same level of service as 2018. If funding is not provided, there will be a noticeable difference in the level of service, with an anticipated reduction from 80 resolved cases to 60 resolved cases.

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie, seconded by Mayor Darling:

RESOLVED that the Growth Committee recommend that Common Council authorizes the transfer of \$25,000 from the Growth Reserve Fund to support the enhanced Dangerous and Vacant Building Program for 2019.

MOTION CARRIED.

### **Adjournment**

Moved by Deputy Mayor McAlary, seconded by Councillor MacKenzie:

RESOLVED that the open session meeting of the Growth Committee be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED.

The open session meeting of the Growth Committee held on April 16, 2019 was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

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Recording Secretary