



**Rural Initiatives and Planning Advisory Committee
Minutes**

**August 18, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
Council Chambers
450 Sunset Drive
St. Thomas ON**

Members Present: Warden Ed Ketchabaw
Deputy Warden Grant Jones
Councillor Mark Widner
Councillor Richard Leatham

Members Absent: Donna Lunn, EFA Representative

Staff Present: Don Shropshire, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk
Jenna Fentie, Manager of Administrative Services/Deputy Clerk
Stefanie Heide, Legislative Services Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. with Warden Ketchabaw in the chair.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: Councillor Leatham
Seconded by: Deputy Warden Jones

RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the August 18, 2023 Rural Initiatives and Planning Advisory Committee meeting be approved.

Motion Carried.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by: Councillor Widner
Seconded by: Deputy Warden Jones

RESOLVED THAT the minutes from the meeting held on May 16, 2023 be adopted.

Motion Carried.

4. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None.

5. DELEGATIONS

None.

6. REPORTS/BRIEFINGS

6.1 Manager of Administrative Services/Deputy Clerk - Community Grant Program Review 2023

The Manager of Administrative Services presented the report seeking the Committee's feedback on the Community Grant Program in advance of the 2024 intake period.

The Committee directed staff to amend the application form to ensure that applicants are required to select two (2) out of three (3) eligibility criteria in order to proceed with their applications. Additionally, the Committee directed that Tourism staff be asked to poll attendees at events in order to gather data on how many Elgin residents are in attendance, and that Committee discretion will be used when considering applications for events being held outside of Elgin County municipalities. Finally, the Committee directed that the grant program information be amended to include more information about the County's Strategic Plan and emphasize that events and programs should be in alignment with Council's strategic goals.

Moved by: Councillor Leatham

Seconded by: Councillor Widner

RESOLVED THAT the report titled "Community Grant Program 2023" dated August 15, 2023 from the Manager of Administrative Services/Deputy Clerk be received and filed; and

THAT the Rural Initiatives and Planning Advisory Committee review the current Community Grant Program and provide guidance regarding any necessary amendments to the Program; and

THAT staff be directed to incorporate recommendations from the Rural Initiatives and Planning Advisory Committee into the Community Grant Program for the 2024 intake.

Motion Carried.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

9. CLOSED MEETING

None.

10. MOTION TO RISE AND REPORT

None.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Rural Initiatives and Planning Advisory Committee will be held at the call of the Chair.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Deputy Warden Jones
Seconded by: Councillor Widner

RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn at 9:24 a.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair.

Blaine Parkin,

Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk.

Warden Ed Ketchabaw,

Chair.