

City of St. Catharines
Citizens' Advisory Committee on Community Sustainability
Wednesday, June 26, 2013
Committee Room, St. Catharines City Hall

MINUTES

Attendance: Marty Mako (Chair), Councillor Greg Washuta, Phil Baranoski, Bernie Slepko, Sam Mahboob, Erin Britnell, Dan Romanko, Vanessa Aykroyd

Regrets: Councillor Mathew Siscoe

Staff: Erin O'Hoski

1. Chair Mako called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. Adoption of Minutes

That the minutes of the May 29, 2013 meeting be approved.

Moved by: Phil Baranoski

Seconded by: Dan Romanko

3. Delegations

- Kate Cassidy from Brock University Community Learning spoke to the Committee regarding Brock's approach to promoting dialogue and education at the community level. Communication, dialogue, creativity and adaptability are increasing in importance in modern society, and the approach is designed to connect citizens with broad community and global issues. As part of programs the team undertakes Conversation Cafes with external stakeholders at rotating venues. This initiative people from different demographics together to promote dialogue and understanding around challenges and issues facing the community. Members of the Committee were asked to spread the word about Conversation Cafes throughout their networks.
- Robin McPherson, Paul Vance and Brent Porter spoke to the Committee regarding the Walk STC program. The program encourages walking as a key mode of transportation and demystifies perception of distance. Directional signs will be posted throughout Downtown St. Catharines highlighting twelve key destinations, to be posted in early July. The project is integrated with a digital media strategy that will be available at walkstc.com. Members of the Committee were asked to spread the word about the initiative throughout their networks.

- Katrina Kroeze of Niagara Sustainability Initiative spoke to the Committee regarding a Crowdsourcing Project that has received funding from the Ontario Trillium Fund. A site to be launched in May 2014 will have a GIS component and category layers so that community members can upload sustainable events, sites, business practices or other categories to be uploaded to the site. A representative from the City of St. Catharines Sustainability Committee was invited to participate on the initiative's focus group.

4. No Notice of Motion

5. Motions

- That Bernie Slepko act as the representative of the Sustainability Committee on the Niagara Sustainability Initiative's Crowdsourcing Sustainability Focus Group.

Moved by: Vanessa Aykroyd, Carried

6. New Business

- Bernie Slepko raised the issue of deliberative polling as a means for policy making that involves community participation.
- Bernie Slepko reported on meeting through Niagara CarShare on June 25. The organization is moving toward corporate sponsorship as a means to get the initiative moving.
- Bernie Slepko and Erin O'Hoski reported on the Smarter Niagara Summit in Port Colborne on June 6. Themes included complete streets, form-based zoning, public/private realm and mixed use planning. There was also content on rethinking how citizens are engaged in the planning process.

7. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 31.

8. Adjournment

- That the June 26 meeting be adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Moved by: Vanessa Aykroyd, Carried