

**City of St. Catharines
Citizens' Advisory Committee on Community Sustainability**

Wednesday, April 30th, 2014

Committee Room 1, St. Catharines City Hall

Minutes:

Attendance: Bernie Slepko, Phil Baranoski, Dan Romanko, Vanessa Aykroyd, Katrina Kroeze (Niagara Sustainability Initiative), Councillor Laura Ip, Anthony Corrizato, Greg Washuta

Regrets: Marty Mako (Chair), Councillor Mathew Siscoe, Sam Mahboob

Staff: Marco Marino

1. Committee member Vanessa Aykroyd called the meeting to order at 4:35pm in the absence of Chair Mako.

That the agenda for the April 30th, 2014 meeting be approved.

Moved by: Bernie Slepko

Seconded: Phil Baranoski

Carried

2. Adoption of Minutes:

That the minutes of the March 26th, 2014 meeting be approved.

Moved by: Councillor Ip

Seconded by: Dan Romanko

Carried

3. Delegations:

Presentation provided by Mike Anderson. His Trillium Awards brochure will be made available to committee members, and will be sent via e-mail by Marco Marino.

Mike also outlined the following points about the awards:

- i) 325 Entries/ no re-entering
- ii) Have provided awards to over 1200 properties
- iii) Applicants include institutions/schools, individuals, businesses
- iv) Do not need to be nominated to apply for award

Concern was raised about timing of the awards, who pays for them, and what the award looks like. Mike Anderson responded that committees of council normally do not have to pay for their award and that this is an ask of Council to support the initiative. A value of

\$300.00 is usually spent by private sector organizations that sponsor other Trillium awards, but depending on what the committee decides to do will determine the value of the ask. It was mentioned by Vanessa that we should have a working/discussion session at the committee's next meeting of May 21st, 2014 and that each person of the committee bring back 1 to 2 ideas on what that award looks like and what the award will be.

It was agreed that we should start looking into the logistics now even though we would not be able to have an award until the following year (2015) given that all marketing materials outlining the categories for this year's awards have been created. It was mentioned by Mike Anderson at that time that the committee may want to take an opportunity to speak/present what the committee is all about and what award you we are hoping to sponsor at their awards banquet this year to familiarize those in attendance that another category will be available.

It was agreed by the group that this would be a good idea considering there is usually 100-115 people present at that event, including Councilors and other public officials. Given that this is an election year this will provide awareness of the committee to the community at large.

4. Motions: None

5. New Business

Acting Chair Remarks:

-Vanessa provided background on the presentation that was given to Council on the 28th of April outlining the committees 4 priority areas and that an ask of Council would be made in the future once the committee feels they have an appropriate value to attach to any initiatives moving forward

- Regarding the institution of a policy by the City on front yard gardens, Councillor Ip indicated that she had conversation with David Oakes (Director of Economic Development and Parks and Recreation) and he indicated getting in contact with Kristen Sullivan of parks to work through this policy. Mike Anderson had also indicated that he could be a point of contact to work through some of the issues that were addressed at Council.

NSI Update (Katrina Kroeze):

-Went to a partner event put on in coordination with Sustainable Hamilton

-This event spoke to "buildings that give back"

-Spoke to retrofits of buildings that can be done and there was also a Professor from McMaster that was speaking on the topic of Green Roofs

-Katrina also mentioned that there is "Food Procurement Practices" workshop being put on by My Sustainable Canada on Wednesday May 14th, 2014 from 1:30pm – 4:30pm. Katrina to send Marco the eventbrite invitation for those that are interested in attending. As well Katrina had asked if Marco could look into getting someone from the city's purchasing department to attend. Marco to look into someone at the City to attend the session.

Bernie Slepko (Report on Fracking):

- Bernie attended an event that spoke to fracking in Ontario
- Bernie indicated that the Premier states that fracking is not taking place, but that there are apparently test sites being used – this is yet TBD.
- The focus of the presentation was on Bruce County – Nuclear Site – Parking of nuclear waste underground
- State of Ohio apparently has momentum on this issue and has indicated that research showcased that there have been micro earthquakes and that the root cause was from fracking taking place.
- Bernie would like to see the committee take this to a higher level of government to showcase concern for the use of this process in Ontario

Action Items:

- i) After the presentation at Council and question period ensued on the presentation made by both Chair Mako and Vanessa Ackroyd, Councillor Len Stack suggested that the committee may want to get in contact with the NPCA (Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority) moving forward to see how they can work in coordination with the committee.

No new delegations proposed as the committee would like to have a working session at its next meeting to discuss the Trillium Award and would like to dedicate the majority of discussion and time to that issue.

6. Adjournment

Moved by: Dan Romanko

Carried by: Phil Baranoski

Meeting was adjourned at 6:05pm.