

Minutes

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Atrium Room – City Hall at 5:00 pm

Attendance:

James McWilliam, Mary Jane Clark, Peter Howes, Dick Thomas, Peter Thompstone, Lana Phan, Councillor Garcia

Guest:

Ed Smith – Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee

Absent:

Stephen Holmes

Staff Liaison:

Mike Anderson, Emma Lahay

1. **Call meeting to order (Peter Thompstone)**
5:00 pm
2. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**
None
3. **Motion to approve the agenda**
Motion to approve – Peter Howes
4. **Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting**
Motion to approve – Peter Howes
5. **Presentations (invited guests)**
Councillor Garcia – Port Dalhousie Ward
Ed Smith – Port Dalhousie Business Association

- With the Pan Am Games competing in Port Dalhousie during the summer of 2015, the City of St. Catharines decided to add additional flower pots in the Port Dalhousie ward. A total of 51 pots were placed throughout the downtown business area, Rennie Park, and near the entrance of the grandstands.
- Given the magnitude of the Pan Am Games the Green Committee from 2014 agreed to sponsor 25 flower pots in Port Dalhousie for summer 2015. The committee noted that this would be for 2015 only and that in future years if businesses were interested in renting the pots they could do so just as other businesses in St. Catharines. The committee was not comfortable with giving preferential treatment to specific areas of the City, with the exception of those pots for the Pan Am Games
- The other 26 pots were purchased by the City of St. Catharines, and relocated from other spots of the City (Victoria Lawn Cemetery, the Old Courthouse, and the Golf Course) to Port Dalhousie given the extent of the Pan Am games. Some of the pots would be redistributed to the original locations once the games have commenced.
- Due to the large impact the flowers are having in Port Dalhousie this year, Councillor Garcia and Ed Smith requested that the flower pots stay in downtown Port Dalhousie for the remainder of the 2015 season.
- The Green Advisory Committee is responsible for 25 or the 51 pots
- Motion – the Green Advisory Committee will leave the 25 flower pots they have donated to Port Dalhousie for the remainder of the 2015 season. They encourage the City to leave all 26 City flower pots in the Port Dalhousie area, so that residents and visitors can continue to recognize the beautification impact they are currently having.
 - **All in favour – CARRIED**
- Ed Smith – will be in contact with the Green Advisory Committee in the Fall to plan to have 50 pots in Port Dalhousie during the 2016 season. He will be looking to encourage local businesses to purchase the pots through the Green Advisory Committee's flower pot program.
- Mike Anderson said that the Green Advisory Committee could look at group pricing if business associations in the different wards were to order 10+ pots. Will be added to the next agenda in to be further discussed by the Committee.

6. **Business arising from the minutes**

- **Update on the 327 Glendale project**
 - Update provided by Mike Anderson – the construction on the project started today (July 15.) The City inspector was down on the site doing preliminary work. The existing trees in the middle of the site were cut down (not spaded.) Those trees were poor specimens

and there is no guarantee that trees would survive during the spading process. The timeline for phase 1 to be completed is 10 days.

- The options for the relocation of “the bar” requires further discussion by the GAC once phase 1 work is completed
 - Mike suggested leaving “the bar” where it is until the project is completed and look at other contractors to move it
 - Stevensville cost was priced at over \$5000
 - It is likely that another alternative could be found for a much lower cost
 - Reminder – Peter T. to look into other alternative mentioned to move “the Bar”
- Mike Anderson recommended that a small story be posted on the City website, along with progress pictures as the work be completed
 - Emma or Mike will visit the site each day to take pictures of the construction and have them posted on the City website
- Peter T. – would like to contact the Standard for exposure on the project
- Dick Thomas – Would like to see a sign at 327 Glendale noting Green Advisory Committees involvement
 - Harris signs is usually used by the City
 - Green Advisory Committee to pay for this. Something temporary will be used (Foam core board) with the project design and logo on it
 - Mary Jane suggested that it may be worthwhile if the committee invested in a more permanent sign for use at all future Green Advisory Committee projects. This is something to be looked into for the future
 - For 327 Glendale we will be using the temporary sign due to the need to expedite the sign quickly as construction has already started. Mike Anderson will be responsible for this.
- The discussion moved to the construction of the site, including what is and isn’t included in phase 1 budget. There was some discretion regarding the trees and the money donated from the Horticulture Society
 - In further investigation into this matter, Mike Anderson sent out an email to GAC members providing clarification on these two matters:
 - “It was decided that the tree planting would be deferred to the spring of 2016 at an estimated cost of \$10,000 to be allocated to the 2016 budget.”
 - There was also some concern regarding the \$5,000 donation from the St. Catharines Horticultural Society for plant materials at the 327 Glendale parkette. Those funds are not included in the GAC

budget and remain separate. The proposed planting of shrubs/perennials/grasses for this project will be taken from this donation.

- It was brought up in discussion that Council David Haywood would look into finding some donations for tree planting from local groups during the June meeting. This matter needs to be looked into further.
 - Mike Anderson indicated that a few trees could be donated from the City as a part of this project.
- James – will be responsible for designing a plan for the plant material that will go into the site once Phase 1 construction has been completed by Stevensville
 - City horticulture crew members will be responsible for planting and maintaining this material
 - The \$5000 donation from the Horticulture society will be used to cover the plant material costs.
- **Roundtable discussion on member's goals for the committee over its four year mandate**
 - Peter T. – added this to agenda to see that all members of the Green Advisory Committee are engaged in what is being done by the Committee as a whole. Each member was asked to explain why they joined the committee, what they would like to see the Committee accomplish, what their particular goals and passions are
- **Review and prioritize existing Green Committee projects**
 - **Pearson Park Arboretum**
 - There is currently an arboretum in the City at Rodman Hall owned by Brock University. Would partnering with Brock be a better idea than trying to create another arboretum? This project is very big and complicated to do it the right way.
 - Further discussion regarding the old Niagara College site (320 Niagara Street.) This land will not be further developed at this time by the City or Green Advisory Committee. This location is currently the City's human resources building. There is someone looking into renting the greenhouses in the back.
 - James mentioned that this site feels more private than public. A possible option would be to remove chain link fencing, add signs and pathways to make the public feel more welcome.
 - As of right now the money for this project has been moved to fund 327 Glendale. It was decided by the committee that is project will not be a priority as of right now
 - **Community Gardens**

- Money has been committed to third party (Community Care and the Niagara Region) to expand the community gardens at Torosian Park. This expansion of more plots will be done in the fall of 2015 sometime after the fall harvest/clean up date.
- **Club Roma**
 - Committee members questioned how private this project is. Would like to know what Club Roma is doing with their own money to add to the location for all citizens to enjoy.
 - The money has been committed to a third party (Club Roma) by the previous Green Committee.
- **Hannelore Headly**
 - Need for additional plantings. Peter T. would like to see this parkette have further enhancements in the future. Right now there is \$0 in the carryover from 2014.
 - This is a project to look at in the future, right now not a priority
- **Windows to the Lake**
 - This project money has been reissued to 327 Glendale
 - Currently there is a need for approval from the NPCA if the committee plans to move forward with this project.
 - The previous Green Committee had done some analysis of street ends in Port Dalhousie and noticed that some street ends looked very nice (Bayview and Ann St.) and some needed some work.
 - The end of Ann Street (on the pond side) would be a nice spot to enhance for public use by cleaning up some of the brush and making a view of the Henley more accessible. Add benches to make this are a “window for the public.”
 - This could be a possible extension of the Ann St. Cenotaph
 - Mike Anderson mentioned a separate project he is working on with Youths for Greening. This group is looking to plant trees along the Henley. This is collaboration that needs to be looked into further.
 - It was agreed upon that is project should become a priority for the Green Advisory Committee for further discussion.
- **406 Naturalization Plantings**
 - Planting along the 406 near the Meridian Centre (Merritt Trail.) This is another project the Green Advisory Committee would like to see as a high priority and look further into details of what could be done in this area.
- It was decided to move to the next item on the agenda to keep the meeting moving forward. More discussion will be needed on outstanding projects at a later date.

- **Set timeline for members to review and discuss tree by-law**
 - A copy of the tree by-law was sent to all members of the GAC in order to read and review.
 - The tree by-law set to be a major agenda item for the August meeting.
 - Peter H. mentioned that the by-law is currently unfinished. This committee will need to be the ones to finish what the previous Urban Forestry Committee started.
 - Mike and Peter H. will meet sometime to prepare a presentation for the August meeting.
 - Would like to see this bylaw go to council sometime this fall
 - Further discussion and education on this matter in August

7. **Business**

7.1 Vanessa Aykroyd vacancy

- Unfortunately due work and personal commitments, Vanessa decided she would no longer be able to be a part of the Green Advisory Committee.
 - Mike will be in contact with the clerks department who will then pick from applicants who had applied to be members of the Green Advisory Committee but were not chosen.
 - John Stevens

7.2 Parking for Green Advisory Committee Members

- Mike was to look further into this information after the June meeting
 - Parking for members of committees is not something the clerks supports
 - Mike said that if we would like to find an alternative location to meet at with free parking that is an alternative.

8. **Date of next meeting**

Wednesday, August 12, 2015 – 5:00 pm

9. **Motion to Adjourn**

- James McWilliam – 7:17 pm