

Minutes

Wednesday, August 12, 2015

Atrium Room – City Hall at 5:00 pm

Attendance:

Peter Thompstone, Peter Howes, Mary Jane Clarke, James McWilliam, Dick Thomas, Lana Phan, Councillor David Haywood

Absent:

Stephen Holmes

Guest:

John Stevens

Staff Liaison:

Mike Anderson, Christine Adams, Emma Lahay

1. **Call meeting to order (Peter Thompstone)**
5:04 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 adopt – Dick Thomas
5. **Presentations (invited guests)**
None
6. **Business arising from the minutes**
 - **Update on the budget**
 - Provided by Mike Anderson – a copy of the budget was sent out in an email
 - Total Remaining for 2015 \$16390 (as of July 20th)

- It was noted that this amount could vary as there may be revenue generated from the flower pot program
- **Update on 327 Glendale**
 - Provided by Christine Adams and Mike Anderson
 - Mike Anderson – visited the site with the horticulture foreman who pointed out that there is no water on site. Installing water at the site is recommended by the horticulture foreman before moving ahead with planting
 - Putting in a water box would be acceptable – Christine Adams to further investigate the cost
 - Peter Thompson – is it worth investing in an irrigation system? Christine Adams checked into the cost which was approximately \$30000.
 - Mary Jane asked if it was feasible to invest in irrigation for the long term at this location
 - If the plant materials were mostly self-sustaining, would it be reasonable to have a water truck service this location
 - Mike Anderson noted the plant material needed to be watered regularly in the beginning years in order to establish itself
 - Peter Thompson agreed that without water at a site like this, the plant material will suffer as it has in past projects similar to this
 - Mike Anderson – the City does not have the resources to have a water truck visit this location frequently
 - There is a water hydrant approximately 30 meters away from the site on the road allowance. It was questioned if it would be possible to use this as a source for water. Christine Adams to see if this is a possibility.
 - Christine Adams – phase 1 is nearly complete aside from the seeding.
 - David Haywood – money was donated from the Merritton Lioness Club for a tree
 - Mike Anderson – a line of oak trees will be planted in the Spring of 2016
 - It is an option to plant the other trees (in and around the crescent) in the fall of 2015. The variety of trees would have to change from maples to another species as the City is not planting any maples at this time.
 - Peter Thompson – would like to see some additional colour in the plans for the Horticulture Society plantings.
 - David Haywood – the proposed name for 327 Glendale – Merritton Bill Wiley Memorial Parkette
 - It was asked if “Merritton Bill” could be placed in quotation marks as this was a name that Mr. Wiley was often referred to during his time as a council member
 - There is community support for naming the park by Merritton committees
 - This is a decision that will be passed through council
 - David Haywood – has been in contact with Karena Walter from the Standard

- David Haywood will follow up and ask Karena to contact Peter Thompstone and Peter Howes
- David Haywood – has the opportunity to move “the bar” to the front of the site at no cost
 - At this time there is construction at Johnny Roccas. David Haywood was looking into this company to have the bar moved to the crescent.
 - Mike Anderson pointed out that we need to insure the location where “the bar” will be moved is structurally sound
 - Christine Adams stated that the paths were not adjusted to move “the bar” into the crescent
 - James McWilliam – a visit to the site would be the easiest way to look at the options for “the bars” permanent display
 - Christine, James, and David planning to meet on location to look at the options
 - The committee agreed that they are comfortable with leaving the decision of the relocation to Christine Adams and James McWilliam
 - Peter T. will investigate asking Walker Brothers to move “the bar”
- **Tree By-law Presentation**
 - Provided by Mike Anderson
 - As part of the Urban Forestry Management Plan the previous Urban Forestry Committee planned to establish a private property tree by-law for the City of St. Catharines
 - The committee held two public meetings where a presentation was made on this matter
 - The previous committee wanted to emphasize the education component of the bylaw
 - Looked into what other municipalities are doing regarding a private property tree by-law. Some were extremely punitive (City of Toronto) with applications, inspections, and fines. Others were education based (City of Thorold.)
 - The group had planned to find tangible grounds in-between
 - Created a significant tree list of trees they felt needed to be protected
 - List comprised of less than 10% of the trees in St. Catharines
 - Debated about sizable trees being protected. It was never included by this committee
 - The by-law has to be something the citizens would buy into. It was felt that fining property owners would not work. There was discussion that there would be no fee associated with an application to take down a tree

- It was felt by members of the 2015 Green Advisory Committee that this bylaw is very important. Since the significant tree list protects less than 10% of the trees in St. Catharines, this committee would like to find other ways to include more trees to be protected
 - Native and non-native trees of prospering varieties
 - Trees of a certain size
 - Add more species to the significant tree list
 - Replacement program to help aid tree replacement
- Mike Anderson - the City does not have the budget or staff resources to strictly enforce a tree by-law
- Peter T. noted that this bylaw is protecting trees only on private property. Questioned what the City is doing to protect trees on public land.
 - Mike Anderson spoke that this City has standards and procedures in place during the consideration of cutting down a tree
 - Dick Thomas - should the committee consider making a tree by-law, not just for public property but for public land as well
 - Mary Jane – the policies should move in the same direction on private property and public property. Would an arborist report be used on private property?
 - Mike Anderson spoke that an arborist is used while taking down any trees on City owned land
 - Christine – currently the arborists are working overtime, it is not possible for the City arborists to take on a greater workload to inspect on private land
 - The committee felt that from a public relations point of view, property owners would be more accepting of a tree by-law that covers private and public land rather than private land alone
 - John Stevens – we have to consider how this would affect land owned by the Niagara Region as they have higher jurisdiction over the City
- David Haywood - Geospatial Niagara is currently coding trees in the City
 - Would like to come do a presentation to the Green Advisory Committee in September. David Haywood to arrange this for the next meeting
- There is desire to look into having a tree by-law. Mike Anderson will ask legal services what is possible. In the meantime, the committee will move forward with the private property tree-by-law by competing research as to what other municipalities are doing to enforce the bylaw, as well as how we can enhance the number of trees that are protected
- Mike and Emma will prepare a list of questions to be asked with answers before the next meeting

7. **Business**

7.1 **Trillium Awards**

- The Green Advisory Committee sponsors four awards at the Annual Trillium Awards each year

- Eco Award
- Edible Landscape Award
- Education Award
- Green Leadership Award
- A few members need to compete the judging for the awards – Lana, Mary Jane and Peter T. have volunteered to go out during the week of August 24th - 28th to compete the judging.
- There have been no entries for the education award, only one entry for the green leadership award. Any committee members are welcome to nominate someone for these awards.

7.2 Niagara Restoration Committee - Pollinator Garden in Port Dalhousie

- The Niagara Restoration Committee is asking for a donation to help fund three pollinator gardens in Port Dalhousie. One of the gardens is located in Rennie Park the other two gardens are located in Howes park
- Motion by Peter Thompson
 - The Green Advisory is willing to commit a \$1000 donation to the Niagara Restoration Committee towards funding the Pollinator Garden initiative in Port Dalhousie
 - **All in favour – CARRIED**

Other Business

7.3 Corner of James Street and Lake Street

- The Committee has expressed interest in completing a project in the downtown core. A house burnt down at the corner where James and Lake Street meet. This could be an area the committee could focus on to create a “gateway to downtown”
 - This is a property that Kristine Sullivan has been investigating
 - Mike Anderson to clarify if this is City owned

8. **Date of next meeting**
Wednesday, September 09, 2015

9. **Motion to Adjourn**

- Lana Phan – 7:07 pm