

Minutes

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

Ante Room – City Hall at 5:05 pm

Attendance:

Mary Jane Clark, Stephen Holmes, Peter Howes, James McWilliam, Lana Phan, John Stevens, Dick Thomas

Absent:

Peter Thompstone

Staff Liaison:

Christine Adams, Mike Anderson

1. **Call meeting to order (Peter Howes)**
5:05 pm
2. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**
 - **Deletion: Item 5: Presentations** (there were no guests or presentations)
 - **Addition: Item 7.4: Meeting Nights**
 - **Addition: Item 7.5: Hanging Baskets**
3. **Motion to approve the agenda**
(Moved to approve as amended - Dick Thomas)
4. **Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting**
(moved to approve as amended – Peter Howes)
5. **Business arising from the minutes**
 - **Update on the budget.** This item generated several discussions:
 - Inspection costs: why now when not before? Christine to investigate
 - Labour and equipment: what and why? Mike explained
 - Carry Over: how does this work? Christine and Mike explained
 - Approximate 2016 Budget amount after deductions: confirmed, subject to Council approval
 - **Staff Report to Council:** Staff Report to Council has not yet been presented. Probably will not be done until after Budget deliberations are completed. GAC

members wondered if they could see a copy of the presentation - Mike to investigate

- **Permanent Sign for Green Advisory Committee Projects.** This item generated considerable discussion. Mike provided examples and sample costs. Mary Jane offered to investigate various options and report back to the GAC at the next meeting.
- **Update on 327 Glendale**
 - Moving the 'Rock and Bar': Not done, winter and soil conditions will preclude movement until spring
 - Water: nothing new
- **Tree Sub-Committee:** Peter Howes reported there were a few volunteers and that he would be calling a meeting within the next week. He would advertise the meeting so that any interested member could attend.
- **List of new Projects for 2016:** This item was tabled at the end of the meeting.

7. Business

7.1 Draft Letter to Councilors requesting potential beautification projects:

The draft letter had been circulated to members and several suggestions / comments had been incorporated into a revised draft which was circulated to members. After a few additional amendments, it was agreed the re-amended version would be circulated to members and then sent to the Mayor and all Councilors within the next week. **Action:** Peter Howes

7.2 Welland Ave at Midtown Plaza, boulevard tree replacement: Certain 'Site Plan' trees have died and should be replaced. What is being (or can be) done to ensure 'Site Plan' trees survive as stipulated in the original agreement? **Action:** Christine to investigate.

7.3 Eastchester Avenue at Wright Street - removal of tree supports: Trees planted in 2011 still have supports and wires which should have been removed. **Action:** Mike to investigate.

7.4 Meeting Nights: Due to a conflict, Stephen Homes requested the committee consider possible alternative meeting nights. After discussion, it was discovered:

- Monday evening: OK for most;
- Tuesday evening; not possible for 5 members
- Wednesday evening: difficult for 1 member (whole meeting not possible)
- Thursday evening: not possible for 5 members
- Friday evening: not desired by any member

It was decided to leave the meeting schedule as it is for now: this is, on the second Wednesday of each month at 5:00 pm

7.5 Hanging Baskets: The Committee strongly opposed the budget proposal to remove 'hanging baskets' from the 2016 Parks Budget.

- **Motion:** The Green Advisory Committee, in its capacity as an 'Advisor' to Council, to write a letter to the Mayor and Councilors expressing our concern with this seemingly backward move. Moved by Dick Thomas
- **Action:** Peter Howes will draft a letter and circulate to members by 18 Jan, 2016. Members will provide comment so a final version can be sent by 21 Jan, 2016.

Item 6 List of new projects for 2016 (deferred from earlier in the meeting).

- At our Dec Meeting, members had been requested to consider possible new GAC projects. In addition to suggested new initiatives, members agreed that projects on the 2015 list which had been deferred would be included in any revised project listing.

A listing of 2016 projects could include:

- Hydro One Corridor (C/O from 2015)
- Windows to the Lake (C/O from 2105)
- Pearson Park Arboretum (C/O from 2015)
- Downtown Gateway – James/Welland/Lake Streets (new: Peter T) Development of St Paul St 'empty space' (maybe include artifact) (new: Peter T)
- Work with partner on Ontario Street parking lot perimeter planting (new: Peter T)
- Eastchester Ave at Bunting - add more trees to existing planting (new: Peter T & Peter H)
- Increased natural spaces (reduce mowing) in selected areas (new: John S)
- Establish contract with local grower to grow selected native trees (Shuman Oak, Tamarack and Northern Hackberry) for the city to plant (new: John S)
- Coordinate Education Seminars (new: Mary Jane C)
- Encourage Community Gardens (new: Mary Jane C)
- Possible hire of Student Intern (new: Mary Jane C)
- Add to Student Intern suggestion: Co-ord with non-profit like Greening Niagara (Lana P)

At the end of the possible project discussion, Mike reminded the Committee that the new Horticultural Plan could see closure of remote or under-viewed plantings. If the Committee has plans for a new initiative, it must remember that other existing beds may have to be closed.

8. **Date of next meeting**
Wednesday, February 10, 2016
9. **Motion to Adjourn**
James M.