

Minutes

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Atrium - City Hall at 5:00 pm

Attendance:

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

Regrets:

James McWilliam and Christine Adams

Staff Liaison:

Mike Anderson

1. **Call Meeting to Order (Peter Thompstone)**
5:05 pm
2. **Additions / Deletions to the Agenda**
A presentation “Links to Greener School Yards” was added to the agenda.
3. **Motion to Approve the Agenda**
Peter Howes
4. **Motion to adopt minutes of the previous meeting**
As amended: Mary Jane Clark
Amendment to 13 April 2016 Minutes:

The Attachment: “GAC - 2016 Project List” does not form part of the GAC Meeting Minutes and is not to be included with the minutes.

5. **Presentations:** Katie Wood - Links for Greener Learning.
 - Katie gave a presentation on a Links for Greener Learning project “Links to Greener School Yards” and requested the GAC consider assisting with the project scheduled for implementation in May 2016.
 - The GAC received the presentation and advised they would consider possible financial assistance when discussing 2016 GAC project up-dates.

6. **Business arising from the minutes**

- **Update on the budget.** There was no formal update on the budget; however, Mike Anderson shared budget information during subsequent project discussions.
- **Staff report to Council on a Tree By-Law.** Mike Anderson advised that he met with City staff from various departments which included some senior staff. There will be a recommendation for a Private Property Tree Bylaw that will include trees nominated as 'Trees of Significance' for protection and an education program.
- **Updates on 2016 Projects.** The Committee reviewed proposed 2016 projects. Results of the various discussions are shown below (only those projects with recent activity are shown below).
 - Prior to discussing 2016 projects, Stephen Holmes opined that the 'educational aspect' needs more exposure, since it will impact on the majority of St Catharines citizens. While projects like that proposed for Greener School Yards are a good start; the citizenry need to know that trees are important and that we should be protecting them.

2016 Project Updates:

Project # 10 - Links to Greener School Yards. As a follow-up to the earlier presentation, the GAC agreed to assist with the 'Lincoln Centennial School' project and allotted \$2,000.00 for this purpose. Since the project is time sensitive, Mike Anderson offered to contact Katie Wood to let her know of our financial support. **Action:** Mike Anderson

Project # 1 - 327 Glendale Update. Mike Anderson advised that the Allée Trees have been planted and that he has requested quotes for perennials as well as for the side and island beds. He suggested the path needs attention; however, Peter Howes recommended we wait to discuss with Christine Adams as she had suggested the City would be doing work in that area. **Action:** Mike Anderson, Peter Howes and Christine Adams.

Project # 2 - Windows on the Pond: As an incidental to another project meeting, Mike Anderson, Peter Thompstone and Dick Thomas discussed this project with Ed Smith (PD B&W Committee) and a member of the NPCA. The NPCA representative advised she would discuss this proposal with the GAC later in the year and should be able to assist with funding in 2017.

Project # 3 - James/Lake/Welland: Peter Thompstone and Mike Anderson met with the BIA and discussed this potential 'Gateway' to downtown. **Action:** Peter Thompstone

Project # 6 - 48 Ontario Street Parking Lot perimeter planting: Peter Thompstone will contact the parking lot manager to see if we can progress. **Action:** Peter Thompstone

Project # 7 - Eastchester at Bunting: Although there was nothing new to report, John Stevens will discuss with James McWilliam. Peter Thompstone offered to investigate a possible link with Niagara College. **Action:** John Stevens and Peter Thompstone.

Project # 10 - 'Links to Greener School Yards': h: has been added to this project and has been funded at \$2,000.00 from the 2016 budget (see notes above).

Project # 12 - Movable Sign for GAC Projects in Progress: Mary Jane Clark briefed on another supplier "Harris Signs" and showed sample pictures. The Committee were familiar with this company and requested Mary Jane Clark follow-up on alternative support structures. **Action:** Mary Jane Clark

Project # 18 - Walker's Creek: Cindy Road Park Entrance: Peter Thompstone and Dick Thomas visited the site and laid out an outline design. Members of the 'Friends of Walker's Creek' met with City Councillors and Parks Staff and Parks will be doing the bed preparation. Peter Thompstone and Dick Thomas will follow up and assist the 'Friends' with the ordering, placement and planting. **Action:** Peter Thompstone and Dick Thomas

Project # 20 - Green Roofing: A listing of 'Green Roof' plants was circulated. Mike Anderson has a list of possible sites that he and Lana Phan will investigate. Mary Jane Clark offered advice on how the 'greening' should be planted. She advised that using modules vs landscape would reduce any possible future maintenance problems. **Action:** Lana Phan, Mike Anderson and Mary Jane Clark.

Project # 21 - Port Dalhousie Boulevard Beautification. Possible new Project: Peter Thompstone, Mike Anderson and Dick Thomas met with Ed Smith (PW B&W Committee) to discuss a possible project to mask part of s demolition site on Lock Street. Ed Smith advised that the PD Development Project Contractor was willing to share costs with the PD B&W Committee and that all they wanted from the GAC was some advice and a possible plan. Peter Thompstone circulated the plan he had prepared and suggested that the GAC might like to consider financial assistance if required. The GAC agreed with this proposal.

7. Business

- **Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) Presentations:** The NPCA had forwarded an offer to have an NPCA member sit as a member of the GAC. After some discussion, Mike Anderson advised that the City has guidelines for the GAC (and other advisory committees) and that membership was only open to St Catharines citizens and then only after being recommended to and approved by City Council. The suggestion that the NPCA make presentations was considered a good idea; however, the suggestion that it be monthly was not agreed. The GAC will, from time to time, discuss with the NPCA to see if there are items of mutual interest and then the GAC would request an NPCA presentation.
- **Urban Forest Council Presentation:** After discussion, the GAC considered, in its 'Advisory Role to Council' that it should support presentations such as the upcoming "Retaining and Rejuvenating our Urban Forests" workshop and should recommend that City Councillors and Staff consider attending. Accordingly, Peter Howes offered to write a letter from the GAC (through Mike Anderson) to City Councillors and Staff with a recommendation for their attendance. **Action:** Peter Howes.

- **“Hannelore Headley Chess Park”**: Peter Thompstone and Mike Anderson advised that two trees at the ‘Hannelore Headley’ project (an historic GAC project) had died. The discussion centered on whether or not the GAC should replace the missing trees. No decision was reached.

8. **Date of next meeting**

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

9. **Motion to Adjourn**

Mary Jane Clark at 7:13 pm