

Minutes

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Boardroom – PRCS Offices, 320 Geneva St. at 5:00 pm

Attendance:

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

Staff Liaison:

Christine Adams, Mike Anderson, Meagan Gloor

Regrets:

Stephen Holmes, James McWilliam

1. **Call Meeting to Order** (Peter Thompstone) 5:05 pm
2. **Presentations** Nil
3. **Motion to Adopt minutes from the previous meeting** Dick Thomas
 - **Discussion arising from the minutes:** John Stevens requested clarification regarding the funding opportunities listed in the 'Updates on 2016-17 GAC Projects' Project 1, bullet # 7 "Funding Opportunities". He wondered where the prices were derived and if there were other funding opportunities. After Peter Thompstone and Mike Anderson reviewed the origin of the bench and tree costs, the question of additional donations was addressed.
 - **Motion:** Mary Jane Clark moved that additional donations be sought and that a minimum donation of \$200.00 would allow the donor's name to be included on a plaque at the site. **Carried**
4. **Additions / Deletions to the Agenda**
 - John Stevens requested that the agenda item numbering be corrected to remove two #3's: following the first #3, items were renumbered from #4 to #10 (vs. #3 to #9) .
 - John Stevens also requested the item "Water Rates" be added to the agenda to be discussed under (renumbered) item **#7 - Business**
5. **Motion to Approve the Agenda** (as renumbered and amended) John Stevens

6. **Business arising from the minutes:**

- **Update on the budget:** Since the update on the budget was integrally tied to the project updates, it was agreed to discuss the two items together. Further, it was agreed that future agendas should only include one line item for this purpose, to wit: "Updates on 2106 Projects and Budgets".
- **Update on report to Council regarding Tree By-Law:** As requested at the previous GAC Meeting, Peter Thompstone, as GAC Chair (and therefore member of the Environmental Sustainability Committee [ESC]) discussed the GAC Tree By-Law submission at the 11 Jul, 2016 ESC Meeting. He expressed the GAC's disappointment that the 4-years work invested in the By-Law had been rejected without any rationale. After discussion at the ESC, Peter Thompstone was requested to inform the GAC that a formal reply would be forthcoming when the Acting PRCS Director, Mr. Jeffrey Silcox-Childs, returned to work. GAC members wondered if there was a timeline for the reply.
- **Updates on 2016-17 GAC Projects**

Project # 1 - 327 Glendale Parkette. In addition to approving a third alternative for making donations for the project and a plaque to recognize such donations, the GAC discussed the 'Interpretative Sign'. After several tries, James McWilliam has been unsuccessful in trying to obtain staff assistance for the sign. Peter Thompstone offered to review other cities signs and also to review the process the former Green Committee used for the BME plaque. **Action:** Peter Thompstone

Project # 2 - Windows on the Pond. Since discussions with the NPCA are being arranged for fall 2016 and therefore little action will happen in 2016, the GAC reduced the 2016 Project funding commitment from \$5,000.00 to \$1,500.00. **Action:** Christine Adams

Project # 3 - James/Lake/Welland: Peter Thompstone indicated he is working with the Downtown Association and suggested that a more elaborate project including a water fountain could be possible. He requested GAC approval to seek a source of '3-D' drawings which would depict the GAC proposals.

Motion: Mary Jane Clark moved that a sum of \$300 be authorized (out of the existing Project # 3 budget) to acquire a 3-D rendering of the proposal to be used for discussions with the Downtown BIA. **Carried. Action:** Peter Thompstone

Project # 4 - St Paul at Carlisle: Project cancelled.

Project # 5 - Pedestrian Bridge to Meridian Centre: Still on the books for next year.

Project # 6 - Ontario Street perimeter planting: Peter Thompstone will discuss again with the parking lot manager; project may not go.

Project # 7 - Eastchester at Bunting: Peter Thompstone will again ask Gauld Nursery for a quote to move the donated trees. He suggested asking RF (Bob) Ziraldo Tree Moving for a quote as well. **Action:** Peter Thompstone.

Project # 8 - Increased Natural spaces: No Cost. No change

Project # 9 - Grow select native trees: No cost. No change

Project # 10 - 'Links to Greener School Yards': Lincoln Centennial Garden was planted: project complete (except for fence)

Project # 11 - Student Intern: No cost. No change

Project # 12 - Movable Sign for GAC Projects in Progress: Once again, a new thought for a sign was discussed. Peter Howes offered to investigate. **Action:** Mary Jane Clark and Peter Howes

Project # 13 - Community Gardens/Eastmount Park: \$5,000 budget confirmed, otherwise no change.

Project # 14 - Co-ord with non-profits: No cost. No change

Project # 15 - Assistance to BIAs with Flower Pot Program: Cost being updated, otherwise no change.

Project # 16 - Trillium Awards: Mike Anderson gave an update on the 2016 Trillium Awards program and budget. The GAC was disappointed with the contents of the update.

Project # 17 - Councillor's Projects: No cost. No change.

Project # 18 - Walker's Creek: Cindy Road Park Entrance: Mike Anderson had received a quote for the armour stone. The GAC approved the quote and requested Mike Anderson to proceed with having the armour stone installed, and also requested he inform Stuart Green that the sign could be relocated. **Action:** Mike Anderson

Project # 19 - Centennial Gardens Revitalization: No change.

Project # 20 - Green Roofing: Christine Adams advised she had not been able to complete the structural analysis of the proposed roof. She also advised that access to the proposed roof could only be gained by ladder from the roof above. The GAC requested she continue the investigation and that Lana Phan and Mary Jane Clark investigate plantings, planting mediums and methodologies. **Action:** Christine Adams, Lana Phan and Mary Jane Clark.

Project # 21 - Port Dalhousie Beautification: No cost. No change.

Project # 22 - BME Church Revitalization: Peter Thompstone and Mike Anderson had received a quote for the proposed irrigation. Peter offered to follow-up with the BME and Horticultural Society. **Action:** Mike Anderson and Peter Thompstone

Project # 23 - Arboretum: 360 Niagara Street: Christine Adams advised that, from an 'Engineering' stand point, the fence was no longer required. Mary Jane Clark asked if a portion of it could be relocated to the Lincoln Centennial School project. Mike Anderson will consult with 'Parks' to ensure the fence is no longer required from their perspective. **Action:** Mike Anderson

Project # 24 - Lake Street Armoury planting: Peter Thompstone proposed a project to enhance the front of the Lake Street Armoury. He advised that Dick Thomas had approached the Lincoln and Welland Regiment who requested a letter and sketch of what was being proposed so they could forward to their HQ. Christine Adams offered to forward street/utility plans for review. The GAC approved \$750.00 for the project. **Action:** Peter Thompstone, Dick Thomas and Christine Adams

Project # 25 - Admin Budget: Peter Thompstone proposed an independent “Admin Budget” to look after minor expenses (so a member could expedite a project without waiting for the next GAC Meeting). The GAC approved \$500.00 for this purpose, but did not specify the amount which could be expended without prior approval.

7. **Business.**

- **Water Rates:** John Stevens described how the Water/Waste Water billing was compiled. He expressed concern that in the summer, especially in ‘drought-like’ conditions, residents were reluctant to water their own plantings and lawns, let alone street trees which had been planted in front of their homes.
 - He noted that he had observed many cases where newly planted (1-3 years after planting) trees were dying. He wondered if the GAC in its advisory role should advocate for some form of relief for the ‘waste water’ portion of the bill so residents would be less reluctant to water dying trees.
 - Lana Phan wondered if the reduction could be tied to a specific period of drought. While the GAC considered this to be a good idea, they thought the city would be unable to calculate individual daily usage, since the bill is calculated for usage over a 4-month period.
 - The GAC suggested that the 4-month summer period be considered for such a waste water reduction. John Stevens offered to prepare a DRAFT letter for circulation to the GAC and thence onward to Council. **Action:** John Stevens

8. **Correspondence:** Nil.

9. **Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, August 10, 2016

10. **Motion to Adjourn:** Mary Jane Clark at 7:19 pm