

Minutes

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Atrium – City Hall at 5:00 pm

Attendance:

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

Staff Liaison:

Christine Adams, Mike Anderson, Meagan Gloor

Guests:

David Haywood

Regrets:

Lana Phan

1. **Call meeting to order** (Peter Thompstone) 5:01 pm
2. **Additions / Deletions to the Agenda:**
 - David Haywood requested the item “Rennie Park Planting” be added to the agenda to be discussed under item #8: Business.
 - The item “Glenridge Median” was moved from #7: Business arising from the minutes to #8: Business.
3. **Motion to approve the Agenda:** Dick Thomas.
4. **Presentations (invited guests):** Jeffrey Silcox-Childs and Mike Anderson discussed the response to the proposed Tree Bylaw and the Horticulture Management Plan.
 - **Proposed Tree Bylaw:** The proposed tree bylaw will protect trees on a significant tree list – approximately 10% of all trees in the city. Residents will also be able to nominate trees of a specified criteria (ex. trees of a certain size or specimen), that if approved, will also protect them under the bylaw. Trees on the significant tree list can still be removed, but the removal will have to be approved. Jeffrey Silcox-Childs indicated the Tree Bylaw recommendations made by the GAC in July would be used when formulating a new Bylaw and they would liaise with the GAC and provide a draft of the report/recommendation before it goes to City Council.

- **Horticulture Management Plan:** The GAC was provided with a copy of the Draft Horticulture Management Plan that the City is currently working on. As part of the process, Jeffrey Silcox-Childs requested that the GAC review the document and provide feedback for any comments/concerns that they have. The GAC requested that the City clearly communicate that they are recommending the removal of flower beds/displays in the locations highlighted in red, but the park/parkette will remain a green space.
5. **Motion to accept the presentations:**
 - **Proposed Tree Bylaw:** Stephen Holmes. Carried.
 - **Horticulture Management Plan:** Peter Howes. Carried.
 6. **Motion to adopt minutes from the previous meeting:** James McWilliam.
 7. **Business arising from the minutes:**
 - **Water Rates:** Peter Thompstone and John Stevens will meet to discuss the water rates recommendation, before taking it to the next Environmental Sustainability Meeting (October 5th). **Action:** John Stevens and Peter Thompstone.
 - **Tree Replacement at Sir Casimir Gzowski Park:** The four kwanzan cherry trees along Niagara Street have been removed. Mike Anderson suggested replacing them with ornamental pear trees. Mary Jane Clark suggested that a fringe tree could also be suitable for this location. Mike Anderson will look into the two options before ordering the trees. **Action:** Mike Anderson.
 - **Canada's 150th Task Force – Projects:** Peter Howes will send an official response from the GAC regarding the presentation made at the August meeting. Potential project options discussed included making the flower pot program planters red and white themed for the 2017 year and assisting with a tree planting program. The committee will discuss again at the October meeting.
 - **Updates on 2016 Projects and Budgets:**
- Project # 1 - 327 Glendale Parkette.** There were several items/updates on this project:
- Peter Thompstone, James McWilliam, and Mike Anderson met with Walker Industries last month to discuss the plans for the parkette. Walker Industries has agreed to donate \$10,000 to assist with the installation of gravel paths and an interpretive sign.
 - James McWilliam will calculate the cost for gravel pathways, and come up with a proposal to take to Walker Industries. James McWilliam will work with Christine Adams to make sure the pathway meets city standards.
 - Walker Industries will provide original pictures of the Johansson Bar to use for the interpretive sign.
 - Peter Thompstone suggested installing lighting at the base of each tree in the parkette. Peter Thompstone and James McWilliam will look into the costs of installing hydro and the lighting, before the committee reaches a decision.
 - More potential donors have come forward for this project. They will have the opportunity to present to the committee at the October meeting.
 - **Action:** Peter Thompstone, James McWilliam, Christine Adams.

Project # 2 - Windows on the Pond. The GAC will work to set up a meeting with the NPCA in October. **Action:** Mike Anderson.

Project # 3 - James/Lake/Welland: Peter Thompstone, Mike Anderson, and Meagan Gloor went to look at different options for water features to use at this site. Mike Anderson and Peter Thompstone are awaiting more information to bring to the GAC. Christine Adams suggested that there may be regional funding available to apply for next year. **Action:** Peter Thompstone and Mike Anderson.

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

Project # 5 - Pedestrian Bridge to Meridian Centre: Deferred to next year.

Project # 6 - Ontario Street perimeter planting: No change.

Project # 7 - Eastchester at Bunting: Niagara College has donated five trees and have offered another 12 at a discount for this project. The GAC has received one quote which includes the transportation and planting for all 17 trees. The committee decided that more information was needed regarding the size of the trees quoted. Mike Anderson will look into this, and the committee will make a decision on which company to use at the next meeting. Stephen Holmes suggested “deep ripping” the soil before the trees are installed. Peter Howes will look into accessing the research on this method of land preparation. **Action:** Mike Anderson and Peter Howes.

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’: No change.

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

Project # 12 - Movable Sign for GAC Projects in Progress: Peter Howes worked with Harris Signs to develop a design for the sign. The proposed sign is 24 inches across, 32 inches down, and printed double sided. **Motion:** Dick Thomas moved that one sign be purchased and placed at the Walker’s Creek project (#18). **Carried.** Peter Howes will look into adding a watermark as a background to future signs. **Action:** Peter Howes.

Project # 13 - Community Gardens: Eastmount Park: No change.

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

Project # 15 - Assistance to BIAs with Flower Pot Program: No cost. No change.

Project # 16 - Trillium Awards: No cost. No change.

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

Project # 18 - Walker’s Creek: Cindy Road Park Entrance: The armour stone has been installed along the back of the new flower bed. Peter Thompstone and Mike Anderson will meet to discuss what types of plants should be placed in this location. Peter Thompstone will then come up with a planting design. **Action:** Peter Thompstone and Mike Anderson.

Project # 19 - Centennial Gardens Revitalization: No change.

Project # 20 - Green Roofing: Peter Thompstone notified the committee that Lana Phan has officially resigned, therefore someone will need to take over this project. Mary Jane Clark volunteered to do this. Mary Jane Clark will obtain the list and map of possible locations from Lana Phan, and continue to work on this project. **Action:** Mary Jane Clark.

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

Project # 22 - BME Church Revitalization: The irrigation system has been installed, and the project is now complete. However, there are two empty tree pits along North Street. Mike Anderson and Peter Thompstone will go by and bring forward some options for refinishing the tree pits at the next meeting. **Action:** Peter Thompstone and Mike Anderson.

Project # 23 - Arboretum: 360 Niagara Street: The chain link fence has been removed along Niagara Street. John Stevens and Mike Anderson visited the location to determine what trees are already on site. The committee decided that more research needs to be done, and a plan needs to be created before they can move forward with the arboretum. In the meantime, a second entranceway was discussed. John Stevens, Mike Anderson, Peter Howes, and Mary Jane Clark agreed to form a working group and reach out to outside sources for assistance with the project. **Action:** Mike Anderson and John Stevens.

Project # 24 - Lake Street Armoury planting: No cost. No change.

Project # 25 - Admin Budget: No change.

8. **Business:**

- **Lana Phan Resignation:** Peter Thompstone will send a letter to Lana thanking her for her efforts and wishing her success. Mike Anderson advised that there will need to be a request issued for new volunteers. Members of the Committee suggested that finding someone with similar interests to Lana would be preferable.
- **Glenridge Medians:** Last year a section of flower beds in a Glenridge median was removed and replaced with turf. Peter Thompstone suggested putting in flower pots on the median next year (similar to the ones placed on Fourth Avenue). The location already has an irrigation system in place. Christine Adams will look into the water source and see if any work will need to be done with it. Mike Anderson will look into the cost for these planters. The committee will need approval from the Niagara Region to move forward with this project. **Action:** Mike Anderson and Christine Adams.
- **Rennie Park Planting:** David Haywood informed the committee that on September 17th, there will be a planting day taking place on Rennie Island for the new pollinator beds being installed. There will be 40,000 plants put in that day, and this project is open for any community volunteers that would like to attend.

- **Lock 1 – Port Dalhousie:** David Haywood informed the committee of a potential proposal to rehab Lock 1 in Port Dalhousie. It was asked that any proposal involving softscape elements be run past the Committee for comment.
9. **Correspondence:** Nil.
 10. **Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, October 12, 2016.
 11. **Motion to Adjourn:** Mary Jane Clark at 7:21 pm.