

## Minutes

**Wednesday, October 12, 2016**

**Ante Room – City Hall at 5:00 pm**

**Attendance:**

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

**Staff Liaison:**

Mike Anderson, Meagan Gloor

**Guests:**

David Haywood

**Regrets:**

Christine Adams, James McWilliam

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1. **Call meeting to order** (Peter Thompstone) 4:59 pm
  2. **Additions / Deletions to the Agenda:**
    - The items “Water Rates,” “Tree Replacement at Sir Casimir Gzowski Park,” and “Horticulture Management Plan” were added to #7: Business arising from the minutes.
    - The item “360 Niagara Greenhouse” was added to #8: Business.
  3. **Motion to approve the Agenda:** Peter Howes
  4. **Presentations (invited guests):** Rene Ressler and Colleen Beard approached the committee regarding exposing the upper portion of Lock 14, located East of the Sobeys building on Glendale Avenue. The North portion of the wall was visible until the Sobeys was constructed in 2009. Lock 14 is currently the only Second Welland Canal lock that is buried from Lock 5, through to Lock 21. Rene asked if the GAC could support a project to expose the top of a 20-30 foot section of Lock 14 as an extension of the Bill Wiley Parkette. Councillor David Haywood offered to help Rene approach businesses in the area seeking donations to help with this project. The committee agreed that this would be a great addition to the parkette. Moving forward, Mike Anderson will send Rene’s presentation to the horticultural society, and talk to the Planning Department about getting an estimate for the project. Members of the GAC, representatives from Walker Industries, Rene, and Colleen will meet and discuss the interpretive sign that will be placed on site. Colleen can provide a photo from 1921 of how Lock 14 and 15 used to look. The committee will gather more information and bring it to the next meeting to discuss further.

5. **Motion to accept the presentation:** John Stevens. Carried.
6. **Motion to adopt minutes from the previous meeting:** Dick Thomas.
7. **Business arising from the minutes:**
  - **Water Rates:** Peter Thompstone presented the GAC recommendation at the Environmental Sustainability (ESC) Meeting (October 5<sup>th</sup>). Councillor David Haywood will take it to City Council.
  - **Tree Replacement at Sir Casimir Gzowski Park:** Mike Anderson is waiting to hear back from the contractor on the availability of the fringe trees. **Action:** Mike Anderson.
  - **Glenridge Medians:** Mike Anderson informed the committee that there must be more than two lanes of traffic around the median, so the City can create a traffic plan for maintenance, while still allowing traffic through the area. Peter Thompstone will contact Christine Adams to determine the state of the water source on site. **Action:** Peter Thompstone.
  - **New Member Posting:** The application for a new member is now open on the City website. The application closes October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
  - **Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Task Force – Projects:** The committee agreed that planting 150 trees is a great potential project. Stephen Holmes suggested the plot of land near the Seymour-Hannah Sports & Entertainment Center. Mike Anderson will look into the location. Other locations suggested were along the QEW, along the 406 entering the downtown area, or planting 25 trees in each ward (for a total of 150 trees planted in the city). David Haywood will reach out to the other councillors and ask for location suggestions. Mike Anderson also brought up the annual native tree sale hosted by the Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park. The committee could possibly provide a subsidy to residents purchasing the trees during this sale. Mike Anderson will reach out to the Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park to discuss the idea. **Action:** Mike Anderson.
  - **Horticulture Management Plan (HMP):** Mike Anderson advised that the date that the HMP will go to council has been pushed back. The committee raised concerns about the HMP, in terms of making it clear that the recommendation is to remove only the horticulture displays, not the park spaces themselves. The parks on the list to have horticulture displays removed will still be maintained. There were some other general comments regarding phrasing that should be changed. Mary Jane Clark offered to coordinate a letter that incorporates everyone's comments. She will provide this letter to Jeff Silcox-Childs as a formal recommendation from the committee. **Action:** Mary Jane Clark.
  - **Updates on 2016 Projects and Budgets:**

**Project # 1 - 327 Glendale Parkette:** Peter Thompstone has been in contact with Walker Industries to determine what elements in the parkette will be covered by their donation. James McWilliam will calculate the cost for gravel pathways, which is included in the donation. He will also look into an estimate for lighting at the base of the trees. The committee suggested possibly including benches and picnic tables near the parking lot. Another donor reached out to the City to provide two garbage receptacles. Mike Anderson will coordinate the installation. **Action:** Peter Thompstone, James McWilliam, and Mike Anderson.

**Project # 2 - Windows on the Pond.** No change.

**Project # 3 - James/Lake/Welland:** Peter Thompstone discussed the project with Jeff Silcox-Childs who agreed that this would be a good project for the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Services (PRCS) department to help out with. Jeff Silcox-Childs agreed to make arrangements with Stuart Green (Landscape Architect/Planner), who can help devise a plan for the site. Once the plan is ready, the GAC will move forward with contacting potential donors. Peter Thompstone contacted the YMCA again regarding the archway. He will wait a few weeks, and if we don't hear back the project will move forwards without it. Peter Thompstone, Mike Anderson and Stuart Green will meet to formulate a proposal. **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:** Peter Howes contacted the Ministry of Transportation to obtain their "deep ripping" research. The final report isn't out yet, but it was suggested to deep rip the soil up to 90 cm deep, and mix 25% compost with the soil. Mary Jane Clark explained deep ripping as spading a large area, to allow more air in the soil so the tree roots can grow outside of the planting hole. Mark Jane Clark will look into getting more info on how deep ripping is done i.e. what type of machinery/equipment is needed. Peter Thompstone will get an updated quote, adding deep ripping as the method of land preparation, before planting. **Motion:** If the cost does not exceed \$6000 (for trees, transportation, preparation, and planting), Peter Thompstone has the authority to move forward with this project. **Carried. Action:** Peter Thompstone and Mary Jane Clark.

**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 brought in the printed sign from Harris Signs. The plastic sign was printed double sided, comes in a metal frame, and is portable so the committee can move it between sites. The cost with tax was \$142. If we need another sign, the plastic signs can be printed for \$75 plus tax. This first sign will be placed at the Walker's Creek project (#18).

**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 date for planting the bed has been moved to the spring.

**Project # 19 - Centennial Gardens Revitalization:** There has been no contact with our community partners on this project so far. David Haywood will reach out to them.

**Project # 20 - Green Roofing:** Mary Jane Clark met with Lana Phan and obtained the maps of the City. Lana Phan has been working on categorizing the sites based on a specified criteria that includes the accessibility and maintenance requirements of the site. Lana Phan will continue working on this and provide a shortlist of locations. Mary Jane Clark will contact planning, and visit the suggested sites before making a recommendation to the committee on a location for this project. **Action:** Mary Jane Clark.

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

**Project # 22 - BME Church Revitalization:** Mike Anderson advised the committee that nothing will be done with the tree pits at this time due to the construction on North Street.

**Project # 23 - Arboretum: 360 Niagara Street:** Meagan Gloor provided John Stevens with a map of the location, which plotted out each tree on site and the general type of the tree. Previously, there was no formal plan for the site as to how the trees were planted. Mike Anderson spoke with Don Papple, who has agreed to join the sub-committee. John Stevens will set up a meeting with the sub-committee to determine which way they want to go with the project (for example, at the Rodman Hall Arboretum they have clusters of same-type trees). They will need someone to join the sub-committee to create a plan with design features. **Action:** John Stevens.

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

**Project # 25 - Admin Budget:** No change.

## 8. **Business:**

- **360 Niagara Greenhouse:** David Haywood informed the committee that the City would like to take down the greenhouse at 360 Niagara Street. He would like the greenhouse to stay, and be available to the public to use. David Haywood suggested that it could be open to the public from February through the growing season. This would also provide an opportunity to have a community garden in the beds outside. There has already been interest from several schools in the area. David Haywood asked the committee for assistance in helping to save the greenhouses.

- **Report from ESC:** At the last ESC Meeting (October 5<sup>th</sup>) Peter Thompstone provided updates on the GAC projects, including the water rates recommendation, and the project delays experienced this summer due to the drought. It was documented that the proposed tree bylaw project will be led by the PRCS department. The GAC's recommendation will be given and the committee will have further input on the project.

9. **Correspondence:** Nil.
10. **Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, November 9, 2016.
11. **Motion to Adjourn:** Dick Thomas at 6:59 pm.