

DRAFT Minutes

Wednesday, December 14, 2016

Atrium Room – City Hall at 5:00 pm

Attendance:

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

Absent:

James McWilliam

Staff Liaison:

Christine Adams, Mike Anderson, Meagan Gloor

1. **Call meeting to order** (Peter Thompstone) 5:00 pm
2. **Introduction of New Committee Member: Robin McDonald**
3. **Additions / Deletions to the Agenda:**
 - The item “2017 Projects” was added to #8: Business arising from the minutes.
 - The items “Vimy Oaks,” “TreeOcode” and “2017 Meetings” were added to #9: Business.
4. **Motion to approve the Agenda:** Peter Howes.
5. **Presentations (invited guests):** Nil
6. **Motion to accept the presentation:** N/A
7. **Motion to adopt minutes from the previous meeting:** Dick Thomas.
8. **Business arising from the minutes:**
 - **2017 Projects:** Dick Thomas provided the committee with a list of ongoing and delayed 2016 projects, for the committee to decide if these projects will be continued in 2017. The committee determined that they will move forwards with all projects considered in 2016, except for project #2: Windows on the Pond, and #6: 48 Ontario Street. These projects may be considered in the future, but no money will be allocated to them for the 2017 year.
 - **Updates on 2016 Projects and Budgets:**

Project # 1 - 327 Glendale Parkette: There were several items/updates on this project:

- Mike Anderson and Peter Thompson met with Rebecca Cann (Cultural Services Supervisor) to discuss the interpretive sign. She will determine the specifications and layout for the sign, and work with all parties involved to determine the content.
- In total there will be three signs on site: a City park sign, a donor sign and the interpretive sign.
- The committee agreed that they would still like irrigation along the side beds on Mountain Street. The water is already on site, but the existing service would need to be extended. Mike Anderson will obtain a quote for this.
- Peter Thompson met with Walker Industries who would like to put an asphalt pathway through the parkette as part of their donation, instead of the original stone dust pathway. Christine Adams will provide the specifications for the pathway, to be passed on to Walker Industries.
- Stephen Holmes suggested trying permeable or decorative paving, but the committee decided to wait until the pathway is designed to discuss this further.
- James McWilliam is working on other 'wish list' items for the project, which may go forward next year if partners can be found to fund them.

Action: Mike Anderson, Christine Adams and James McWilliam

Project # 3 - James/Lake/Welland: Peter Thompson and Mike Anderson will be meeting with Stuart Green (Landscape Architect/Planner) from the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Services (PRCS) department to start planning the design ideas for this project.

Action: Peter Thompson and Mike Anderson.

Project # 7 - Eastchester at Bunting: Niagara College has agreed to hold the donated trees for use in spring 2017. The committee is currently seeking more information on the process of deep ripping, and James McWilliam will continue working on the plan for the site. Once a plan has been created, the committee will need to speak with the Engineering department regarding the gas line on site. **Action:** James McWilliam.

Project # 13 - Community Gardens: Eastmount Park: The public notification process has been completed. The PRCS department is sorting through the feedback before it can be approved and the project can move forward.

Project # 18 - Walker's Creek: Cindy Road Park Entrance: Part two of this project sees a second bed planted at this site next year, on the southeast side of the sidewalk. Regional approval will be required; however, if this is a problem, the new bed will be relocated onto City property on the northeast side. **Action:** Peter Thompson.

Project # 20 - Green Roofing: Mary Jane Clark has an updated list of potential locations. She will work with Christine Adams to determine the feasibility of these sites, and visit potential locations in the spring. **Action:** Mary Jane Clark and Christine Adams.

Project # 23 - Arboretum: 360 Niagara Street: The sub-committee met in November to determine the objective for the project. They recommend that the committee develop an educational collection of indigenous native and horticulturally significant trees, accessible by a recreational trail system. The sub-committee will meet again on December 19th to develop a work plan that aligns with this objective. The plans will be brought to the GAC for approval before it is passed on the PRCS department. The sub-committee proposes the project should:

- Remove dead and undesirable trees and shrubs;
- Design and construct additional trails;
- Create a focal point entrance;
- Create a new name for this area to distinguish it from the nearby park;
- Organize a “friends of” group to help steward the property;
- Apply for funding to source and plant new and rare trees; and
- Install identification signs providing common and scientific names for the species.

Motion: John Stevens moved that the GAC approve the objective for this project. **Carried.**

Project # 28 - Canada’s 150th Task Force: As approved last meeting, the number of flower pots for 2017 will be increased to 150. These new flower pots will be ordered in 2017. If the extra pots are not rented, the GAC discussed placing them in highly visible locations for Canada Day celebrations. While the committee would like to move forward with planting 150 trees, they will need to seek additional sponsors. Mike Anderson suggested planting trees in parks and green spaces, which would be smaller than boulevard trees. The committee also discussed partnering with the City and their tree planting program for this project. **Action:** Mike Anderson

9. **Business:**

- **Information from/Comment to Committee of Adjustment:** Robin McDonald spoke to the GAC about the Committee of Adjustment, and their role in processing severance applications. He proposed that we make a recommendation to the City regarding preserving trees when severance applications are processed. This was discussed over the summer months when the GAC worked on the proposed tree bylaw. Robin McDonald will look into how we can move forward with this, and how the committee can potentially be involved in the process. **Action:** Robin McDonald.
- **Vimy Oaks:** Robin McDonald provided the committee with a handout on the background of this project. 2017 will be the 100th anniversary of the battle of Vimy Ridge. A Canadian soldier brought back acorns from an English Oak tree, to be planted in Canada. Saplings grown from these trees, now known as “Vimy Oaks,” will be taken back to France and planted in the Vimy Foundation Centennial Park. Canadian organizations can also purchase some of these Vimy Oaks to be planted here in Canada. The GAC discussed planting a few of these trees in front of the Lake Street Armory. Mike Anderson informed the committee that Oaks are only planted in April-May. The GAC will discuss purchasing some of these trees at the next meeting.

- **TreeOcode:** Mike Anderson provided the committee with a link to the New York City street tree map. New York City mapped every street tree in the City, including the type of tree and its leaf, the trunk diameter and a Google Street view of the tree. The map also provides the ecological benefits of each tree, in terms of the amount of stormwater intercepted, energy conserved, air pollutants removed and carbon dioxide reduced. These amounts were converted into a total dollar value of annual benefits. John Stevens informed the committee that the City has been approached regarding adding their trees into the treeOcode system. The GAC agreed that they should support and possibly give money to this project next year. The committee will look into this more and discuss at the next meeting.
- **2017 Meetings:** Christine Adams brought up changing meeting times for 2017. The committee agreed to move the next meeting to the third Wednesday in January, and discuss scheduling times for 2017 at the next meeting.

10. **Correspondence:** Nil.

11. **Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, January 18, 2017.

12. **Motion to Adjourn:** Mary Jane Clark at 7:13 pm.