

Minutes

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Atrium, City Hall at 5:00 pm

Attendance:

Mary Jane Clark, Peter Howes, Robin McDonald, James McWilliam, John Stevens, Dick Thomas, Peter Thompstone

Staff Liaison:

Mike Anderson, Ray Vachon, Ilyse Norton

Regrets:

Stephen Holmes

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1. **Call meeting to order** (Peter Thompstone) 5:02 pm
 2. **Additions / Deletions to the Agenda:**
 - **Para 7. Business.**
 - Design Review Committee Framework
 - Report from Environmental Sustainability Committee
 3. **Motion to approve the Agenda:** Dick Thomas
 4. **Presentation:** Mr. Ed Smith, representing the Kiwanis Club of St Catharines, gave a brief presentation regarding the proposed redevelopment of Lock 1 of the Second Welland Canal. Accompanied by a short video, he explained the project and requested GAC assistance. The GAC request was primarily aimed at design advice for area surrounding the four 'Tow-Horses'. Peter Thompstone and James McWilliam offered to meet with Ed Smith to determine what the GAC could offer.
 5. **Motion to adopt minutes from the previous meeting:** Peter Howes.
 6. **Business arising from the minutes:**
 - a. **GAC Membership:** Peter Thompstone advised our request for a Planning representative had been approved. Scott Ritchie has been appointed as the Planning and Building Services Department representative to the GAC. Peter advised that he will be meeting with Scott to determine his availability to attend GAC meetings.
 - b. **GAC Staff Liaison:** Mike Anderson introduced Ilyse Norton who will be assisting him as the PRCS Staff representative.

c. Updates on 2016/2017 Projects and Budgets:

1: 327 Glendale:

- James McWilliam circulated a revised landscape plan detailing possible north end enhancements for the project.
- James McWilliam and Peter Thompstone will meet with Walker Industries to determine if their donation offer could be used for this purpose.

4: James / Lake / Welland:

- Peter Thompstone advised that he had been requested to submit a formal request to the “Y” regarding the use of the “Y” Arch.
- As noted in the previous minutes, once the “Y” Arch is confirmed, a more detailed plan will be prepared to seek possible partners.

6: Eastchester at Bunting:

- Peter Howes had circulated a possible ‘Deep Ripping’ specification. He will coordinate with Ray Vachon and Mike Anderson to prepare an ‘RFQ’ to seek at least 3 quotes for the deep ripping part of the project..

11: Flower Pot Program: Mike Anderson advised that 51 of the 100 pots have been sold. He suggested the GAC might want to advertise this Canada 150 initiative.

12: Walker’s Creek - Planting Beds:

- Dick Thomas advised that he had contacted Della Trojan, ‘Friends of Walker’s Creek’ spokesperson, to arrange for a ‘planting day’ in late May. Della had also offered to pick-up the greenery from the nursery.
- Peter Thompstone informed that he had contacted Heritage Perennials, in Virgil, to source the herbaceous plants needed.
- Peter Thompstone also advised he continues to work on a rough plan of the second bed so Stuart Green, PRCS Staff, can seek Regional approval.

13: Green Roof: Mary Jane Clark advised she will be working on this project over the summer.

14: 360 Niagara Street ‘Arboretum’:

- Mary Jane advised that her Niagara College students had prepared three ‘Management Plans’ for the site and that she had shared these with the sub-committee. Following further discussion, the sub-committee will report to the GAC.
- Peter Howes advised he had met with Mike Anderson and John Belleheumer at the 360 Niagara. PRCS will be arranging a ‘clean-up’ of the site.
- Peter Thompstone advised that he had requested Councillor Dave Haywood to assist with obtaining a name for the park space (which would allow us to seek potential partners.

15: Lake Street Armoury: Ray Vachon advised he is still trying to get a suitable plan so Peter Thompstone can prepare a project design.

18: Vimy Oaks: Robin McDonald advised a ‘Vimy Oak’, the first in Canada, had been planted and dedicated at Memorial Gardens. Possible additional planting sites include: Montebello Park, Lake Street Armoury and another to be determined.

19: Canada 150 - 150 Trees: Peter Howes circulated a summary of the proposed locations (25 per ward) for the 150 trees. Mike Anderson advised we will need detailed locations by early May to allow for contractor planting this year. Peter Howes offered to liaise with a PRCS representative to complete this process.

7. **Business.**

- a. **VIMY Oak Memorial Park Dedication:** On behalf of the GAC, Peter Thompstone thanked Robin McDonald for his efforts to make this happen. He noted that in addition to this tribute to the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, the 'Vimy Oaks' program has received publicity in several local media. Robin McDonald indicated he is still working with the 'Vimy Oaks Organization' to continue the program, both locally and Canada wide. The GAC accorded Robin a "Well Done" for his efforts.
- b. **Design Review Committee Framework:** Robin McDonald advised he believes this matter will be discussed at the 1 May, 2017 City Council Meeting. He wondered how we could push for the framework to include, or at least support, realization of a Tree By-Law (both public and private). Peter Thompstone offered to discuss this possibility with Scott Ritchie.
- c. **Report from the Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC):** As the GAC representative to the ESC, Peter Thompstone attended the 18 April, 2017 meeting. He reported that:
 - An outline of the 2017 GAC initiatives he presented to the meeting was well received;
 - The ESC spent considerable time and effort discussing Community Gardens. From a GAC perspective, future Community Garden projects will be funded elsewhere; and
 - He had requested info on a date for the Private Tree By-Law
- d. **Malcolmson Eco-Park Earth Day:** Mike Anderson advised that the community, including GAC members, are invited to participate in the Sat, 22 Apr Earth Day activities at Malcolmson. He also advised there would be a native plant and tree sale coincident with the park planting, mulching and clean-up activities.
- e. **Mike Anderson Retirement:** Peter Thompstone announced that our PRCS Staff advisor, Mike Anderson, will be retiring as of end-April. The GAC thanked Mike profusely for his many years as our guide and mentor. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

8. **Correspondence:** Nil.

9. **Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, May 17, 2017.

10. **Motion to Adjourn:** Mary Jane Clark at 6:43 pm.