

Minutes

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

Burgoyne Woods Room, City Hall at 5:00 pm

Attendance:

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

Staff Liaison:

Ilyse Norton, Ray Vachon

Regrets:

Mary Jane Clark, James McWilliam

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1. **Call meeting to order** (Peter Howes) 5:02 pm
 2. **Additions / Deletions to the Agenda:** Nil
 3. **Motion to approve the Agenda:** Robin McDonald
 4. **Presentations:**
 - **Club Roma Presentation.** On behalf of Club Roma, Lou Marcantonio, gave a short presentation on their expansion proposals. He requested the GAC consider assisting with their project. The GAC thanked him for his presentation and indicated we would advise him of our ability to assist.

At the end of the meeting, the GAC discussed possible avenues of assistance.

Motion: Moved by Dick Thomas, Seconded by John Stevens: That the GAC financially support the Club Roma initiative with a \$2,500.00 grant, subject to the following conditions:

- The grant will be used to plant a variety of native trees and/or pollinators;
- Club Roma will erect a sign indicating the grounds are open to the public.

CARRIED

- **Niagara Farm Project Presentation:** On behalf of the Niagara Farm Project, Renee Delaney, accompanied with several other project team members, outlined the 'project's' raison d'être and led a lively discussion of what they were trying to accomplish and how the GAC might possibly work with their team. GAC overall consensus was that the GAC, with its push for pollinators and 'Bee City' status, could assist with educating St Catharines citizenry. The GAC thanked the team for their presentation. A link for the Bee City Initiative is:
<http://www.beecitycanada.org/become-a-bee-city/application/>

5. **Motion to adopt minutes from the previous meeting:** Robin McDonald
6. **Business arising from the minutes:**
 - a. **Tree By-Law:** Ilyse Norton advised that the presentation to Council would probably be on Mon, 10 Jul, 2017. She indicated that PRCS would circulate a draft of their deliberations and had requested the GAC review their proposals. Ilyse Norton indicated she would circulate the document later this week and would set up a meeting time/place for either Tues or Wed of next week. If members could not make the meeting, they were encouraged to review the document and to submit their comments for deliberation at the meeting.
 - b. **Updates on 2016/2017 Projects and Budgets** (Note: all 2017 GAC projects were discussed):

1: Torosion Park community Garden: Is this project complete or active? Ilyse Norton to investigate and advise

2: Glendale Parkette: The only remaining GAC commitment for this project is the 'Interpretative Sign'. Peter Thompstone indicated he had attempted to advance work on the sign; however, it may still be in the distant future. Peter Thompstone also indicated that he and James McWilliam would meet with Walker Brothers to see if we can rescue the donation they had offered for this project.

3: Windows on the Pond: Project on hold for a future year.

4: James / Lake / Welland: Peter Thompstone advised that although we have tentative/verbal approval (at no cost to the GAC), we do not yet have formal approval from "Y" for the "Y" Arch.

5: St Paul Bridge to the Meridian Centre: Project on hold for a future year.

6: Eastchester at Bunting: GAC members suggested they should contact a local landscape contractor to get a rough cost estimate for the 'Deep Ripping'. It was agreed that Peter Howes and Peter Thompstone would seek such an estimate.

7: Increase in natural spaces: This is a follow on from project #6 for a future year.

8: Lincoln Centennial Community Garden: Is this project complete or active? Ilyse Norton to investigate and advise

9: Relocatable Project Sign: One sign is in place (Project # 12); sufficient funds for additional signs when required.

10: Eastmont Park Community Garden: Is this project complete or active? Ilyse Norton to investigate and advise

11: Flower Pot Program: Ilyse Norton advised that 77 pots had been sold and the remaining 23 had been located around the city.

12: Walker's Creek - Planting Beds: Phase 1 is complete; Ilyse Norton will investigate obtaining Regional approval for phase 2.

13: Green Roof: Although Mary Jane Clark offered to continue work on this project, it is unlikely that we will be able to do anything this year. In its advisory role, the GAC determined they should encourage the City (and Region) to consider a 'green roof' whenever they plan a new structure. Ray Vachon offered to investigate.

14: 360 Niagara Arboretum: John Stevens advised that the sub-committee had met and with the input from the Niagara College students, were working on a plan for pathways and an entrance. Once they have a plan, they will seek PRCS (Stuart Green) approval. As for the park name, the City is considering a new policy for naming parks.

15: Lake Street Armoury: Peter Thompstone is working to prepare a 3-D plan of the Armoury so we seek DND approval for our proposal.

16: Administration: No change.

17: Gator Bags: Ilyse Norton indicated that she would process acquisition of the 200 new Gator Bags. Further, she would ensure our new 'Canada 150' 150 trees, as well as any new trees from last year, would be fitted with Gator Bags. There was some concern that PRCS staff might not have the resources to refill the Gator Bags. Ilyse Norton would look into this possible problem. Ray Vachon advised that Engineering's new policy was to plant replacement and vacant space trees when doing road projects. He advised the trees were large caliper (75mm) trees, the GAC wanted to ensure trees of this size would be protected with a Gator Bag.

18: Vimy Oaks: The GAC proposed that of the remaining 3 Vimy Oaks we had authorized, one could be planted in Montebello Park and two in Victoria Lawn Cemetery in the area reserved for veterans. Ilyse Norton would investigate the possibility of these proposals and Robin McDonald would contact the Vimy Oak Foundation.

19: Canada 150 - 150 Trees: Ilyse Norton advised that some trees had already been planted and the remainder should be planted by Sat of this week.

7. **Business.**

- **List of Pollinator Plants for Public Education.** It was suggested that the GAC prepare a list of 'pollinator plants; which could be inserted in a future water bill. Several actions were discussed, namely:
 - John Stevens will coordinate the project;
 - Peter Thompstone will discuss with Mary Jane Clark who may have such a list;
 - John Stevens will contact the NPCA; and NRC
 - Dick Thomas will contact City Hall to see what is required for a Water Bill flyer.

8. **Correspondence:** Nil.

9. **Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, July 19, 2017.

10. **Motion to Adjourn:** Stephen Holmes at 7:21 pm.

An updated GAC 2017 Project List (dated 21 June 2017) is attached to, and forms part of, these minutes.