



## **City of St. Catharines**

### **Citizens' Advisory Committee on Community Sustainability**

#### **Notes of the September 26, 2012 Meeting**

#### **Atrium, St. Catharines City Hall**

##### *Present:*

Marty Mako (Chair)  
Vanessa Aykroyd  
Daniel Romanko  
Bernie Slepko  
Phil Baranoski  
Erin Britnell  
Erin O'Hoski (staff)

##### *Regrets:*

Councillor Mathew Siscoe  
Councillor Greg Washuta  
Sam Mahboob

#### **Approval of the Minutes of the August 29 Meeting**

The minutes of the August 29, 2012 meeting were approved.

#### **Centres of Expertise**

Committee members reviewed the list of preliminary assignments to Centres of Expertise (COEs). These COEs are based on the municipal priority areas identified in the Sustainability Strategy.

Over the next few months representatives from each COE will be introduced to relevant corporate resources associated with their priority area. Going forward each representative will be responsible for representing the Committee, gathering knowledge and forging strategic partnerships in their area of expertise.

#### **Information Sharing**

Staff provided information on a resolution passed by City Council on September 24 respecting applications for rooftop solar PV panels under the Ontario Power Authority's Feed In Tariff (FIT) program. This resolution will allow applicants in St. Catharines to receive points during the October 1 to November 30 application window.

Members who attended the public forum regarding Niagara Region's Complete Street policy reported on thoughts and reactions to the proposed policy. The deadline to provide input in this phase is October 14.

Erin Britnell reported on proposed directions under the work of the Niagara Climate Change Network. The first of three meetings was held on September 25. Interested stakeholders from the community are invited to participate. The next meeting is on October 23 at 6:00 pm in the United Way offices in downtown St. Catharines. Erin Britnell may be contacted for details and materials.

Erin Britnell provided explanation on Heart Niagara's SustaiNiagara event on September 22. This was a unique event emphasizing community engagement. It is anticipated this event will move forward on a twice per year basis.

Marty Mako provided a synopsis on Brock University's September 25 Conversation Café, where he was a guest speaker. The theme was "how can Niagara change but retain its strengths?" Participants were engaged in ground level solutions around the six challenges in the Sustainability Strategy. Erin Britnell will be speaking at the Conversation Café on October 30.

### **Other Business**

Staff reported on the fall term partnership with the TREN 2P14 class at Brock University. Students have been asked to consider innovative approaches to community engagement under the Sustainability Strategy as their class project this term. In groups of five, students will prepare proposals for presentations on November 29. Committee members have been invited to join staff during the final presentations on November 29.

Information on the October 13 TEDx event was circulated to members. The event will take place at the Holiday Inn. Tickets are \$25 and registration has opened. Only 100 tickets are available.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, November 1 at City Hall. The room location will be indicated when the agenda is circulated in late October.

Phil Baranoski reported on the difficulties with intercity travel that currently exist at the downtown bus terminal. Parking is limited there is inadequate space for luggage and interior space while waiting for intercity buses is at a premium. Integration of the automobile was cited as a concern.