

Minutes

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

Burgoyne Woods Room, City Hall at 5:00 pm

Attendance:

Peter Howes, Robin McDonald, John Stevens, Dick Thomas, Peter Thompson

Staff Liaison:

Ilyse Norton, Ray Vachon

Regrets:

Mary Jane Clark, Stephen Holmes, James McWilliam

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1. **Call meeting to order** (Peter Thompson) 5:07 pm
 2. **Additions / Deletions to the Agenda:** Nil
 3. **Motion to approve the Agenda:** Peter Howes
 4. **Presentations:** Nil
 5. **Motion to adopt minutes from the previous meeting:** Peter Thompson
 6. **Business arising from the minutes:**
 - a. **Updates on 2016/2017 Projects and Budgets.** Only projects with changes from the last report are included in the updates below.

#2: 327 Glendale Parkette: Peter Thompson advised there would soon be a meeting to discuss the wording for the interpretative signage. He would report progress as it occurs.

#4: James / Lake Welland: Peter Thompson informed that the "Y" had tentatively approved use of the "Y Arch" for the project. PRCS is now looking into the cost of moving the artifact to a city owned site.

6: Eastchester at Bunting: As a result of questions raised at the last meeting, guidance from Dan Cooper, Supervisor of Forestry, advised that while building a berm would work, penetrating the substrate would also be required for successful tree growth. It was decided that larger test pits would be necessary prior to continuing with the project. Ray Vachon and Ilyse Norton would attempt to get the work done "in house". Peter Howes, John Stevens and Dan Cooper would accompany the crew when the test-pits were to be dug. The GAC will decide next steps depending on the results of the test-pits.

#11: Flower Pot Program: Although the 2017 Flower Pot Program was deemed a success, members wondered if additional advertising and perhaps GAC member 'foot-work' would make it an even bigger success. To be discussed again in the Feb-Mar timeframe.

#13: Green Roof: Peter Thompstone informed that Councillor Mike Britton had expressed interest in a city sponsored 'green roof'. Peter indicated that he had referred Councillor Britton to Mary Jane Clark, the GAC lead on this initiative.

12: Walker's Creek - Planting Beds: Dick Thomas advised that the city had installed the concrete pad for a memorial bench and had also prepared the bed for a spring planting. Peter Thompstone indicated he would be working with Della Trojan, Friends of Walker's Creek, to prepare a planting plan. Peter Thompstone and Ilyse Norton will also investigate installation of the Armor Stone.

14: 360 Niagara Arboretum: The GAC Sub-Committee met with Jessica Button, City Project and Development Planner. She affirmed that the GAC should continue to prepare for the 'visioning exercise' which will determine the future use of the area. The sub-committee agreed to continue working on the information package to present at the 'visioning exercise'.

17: Gator Bags: Ilyse Norton advised that indeed filling Gator Bags was a problem. For those trees planted in 2017, Gator-Bag filling had been included in the contract and it was working well. Filling other bags, however, was not within the present capability of PRCS staff. She suggested an alternative solution would have to be sought for future years.

18: Vimy Oaks: Ilyse Norton had previously advised members that the remaining 3 Vimy oaks had been planted and the signs which Robin McDonald had arranged had been installed as well. Robin advised that additional Vimy Oaks were available should they be required for GAC proposals such as the Armoury Project.

19: Canada 150 - 150 Trees: Ilyse Norton advised the tree identifier plates had been installed. Peter Howes will work with Ilyse to recommend for approval, the larger signs.

21: Trillium Awards: Peter Thompstone indicated that he and Peter Howes had attended the Trillium Award presentations held in the Atrium just prior to the 16 Oct City Council Meeting. Both organizers and award recipients agreed the venue and program was much preferable to that of past ceremonies. Peter Thompstone expressed the GAC (and City's) thanks to Ilyse Norton for a job well done!

22: Pollinator Water Bill Flyer: Peter Thompstone reviewed the final list of pollinator candidates to be included on the flyer. Ilyse Norton will marry this list (with one substitution) with the previously approved text she had prepared and would then have the graphic section prepare an outline of the flyer.

b. **Community Gardens Policy Update.** Despite being transferred to another City department, Kristen Sullivan will still present the Community Gardens Policy update to Council. Peter Thompstone further advised that Council was considering adding an additional amount to the 2018 GAC budget to be earmarked for Community Gardens. He went on to say that while the Environmental Sustainability Committee had been accorded approval authority for Community Gardens that they would be seeking GAC input to assist with their decision process.

c. **Tree-O-Code.** The relative merits of the Tree-O-Code proposal were discussed at length. The GAC agreed the intrinsic worth of the proposal made it a worthwhile partnership.

Motion: Moved by Dick Thomas. Seconded by Peter Thompson:

That the GAC, having reviewed the Tree-O-Code proposal, provides its support for the proposal and recommends the city invest in Tree-O-Code.

CARRIED

7. **Business.**

- **Tree Planting.** Stephen Holmes had proposed the GAC review current tree planting criteria and discuss, perhaps at a future GAC meeting. Ilyse Norton advised that she and Dan Cooper, Supervisor of Forestry, were presently investigating current tree planting practices with a view to preparing city guidelines for 'best tree planting practices'. The GAC agreed to discuss at the November meeting. Prior to that time, Ilyse will circulate the city's present tree planting practices.

8. **Correspondence:** Nil.

9. **Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, November 29, 2017 (amended from the normal November 15, 2017 meeting date).

10. **Motion to Adjourn:** Peter Howes at 6:58 pm.