



Corporation of the City of St. Catharines

Governance Committee

MINUTES

Wednesday, September 26, 2012

4:30 p.m. – City Hall

Attendance: Bruce Timms, Regional Councillor
Peter Secord, Councillor, City of St. Catharines
Mathew Siscoe, Councillor, City of St. Catharines
Mike Sullivan, Community Representative
Brett Sweeney, Community Representative

Absent: Brian McMullan, Mayor
Alan Caslin, Regional Councillor
Jeff Burch, Councillor, City of St. Catharines
Dr. John McTavish, Community Representative

Staff: Bonnie Nistico-Dunk, City Clerk
Susan Dods, Clerk's Service Leader

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:47 p.m.

2. Moved by Regional Councillor Timms:

That the City of St. Catharines Governance Committee ratify the minutes of June 27, 2012, as presented.

CARRIED.

3. Question Matrix

The Committee continued to discuss the matters on the question matrix concerning the role of Councillors and a ward/at large division. Three out of five of the members present agreed with the concept of a dual role for Councillors, however, all agreed that how it works needs to be determined and will be dictated by what they want to achieve and the level of service.

Four out of five of the members agreed that the present system works but needs improvement and could be more efficient. Councillor Secord requested the Regional Councillor to make a motion at Regional Council to provide City Councillors or area Clerks with electronic agendas and minutes from the Region.

There was agreement that the ward system works for a City the size of St. Catharines. Councillor Timms likes an at large system with dual role and full-time Councillors.

Moved by Councillor Secord:

That Regional Councillors receive an e-mail with a link to City Council minutes and agendas.

CARRIED.

Direction was given to Staff to contact the Niagara Observatory for background and to gather information on the mechanics of how a dual role works and how to get there.

4. New Business

For discussion at the next meeting: "Should the Regional Chair be elected at large?"

5. The Chair asked for an adjournment.

Moved by Councillor Secord:

That the meeting hereby adjourn at 6:00 p.m.

CARRIED.

NEXT MEETING DATE: TO BE DETERMINED