

Minutes

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

Burgoyne Woods Room, City Hall at 5:00 pm

Attendance:, Peter Howes, Robin McDonald , John Stevens, Dick Thomas, Peter Thompstone

Staff Liaison: Ilyse Norton, Ray Vachon, John Bellehumeur

Regrets: Mary Jane Clark, Stephen Holmes, James McWilliam

Absent: Scott Ritchie

1. **Call meeting to order** (Peter Thompstone) 5:05 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:** John Stevens
6. **Business arising from the minutes:**
 - **Updates on GAC Projects and Budgets.** Only existing projects with changes from the last report are included in the updates below. .

#16-4: James / Lake / Welland: John Bellehumeur advised the City was planning an Environmental Assessment (EA) and that no work would occur prior to completion of the EA. Having said that, he and Peter Thompstone had discussed the project with potential partners including the Region, Downtown Association and other potential partners.

16-6: Eastchester at Bunting: Peter Howes advised that he and John Stevens had again visited the site and had questions about the site and the number of trees. John Bellehumeur advised that the City would be happy with more trees but had reservations about any additional plant materials. After lengthy discussion, it was decided that the sub-committee would investigate the possibility of planting trees in the area between the swale and water main and would seek quotes for planting trees in this area only. The idea is to get some trees planted this spring and to determine if additional plant materials (shrubs) should be added later.

16-12: Walker's Creek - Planting Beds: Peter Thompstone advised he will contact the Friends of Walkers Creek to coordinate a planting plan for the proposed spring planting.

16-14: 360 Niagara Arboretum: John Bellehumeur advised that PRCS would be pruning and removing deleterious material at the site. Further, he recommended the GAC continue with their plan to plant additional trees since such plantings would not interfere with the proposed fall 'Visioning Exercise'. Additionally, he suggested the GAC consider deep-root fertilization of selected trees which are under stress. The GAC agreed that the allocated \$10,000 budget for the project should be split: \$8,000 for new trees and \$2,000 for fertilization of trees in distress. It was further agreed that both the fertilization and planting of new trees should be done this spring / early summer. The sub-committee will work with John Bellehumeur to determine appropriate tree species and to organize PRCS planting of the trees.

16-15: Lake Street Armoury: After discussion, the GAC agreed that expenditure of up to \$400 for a 3-D visualization of our proposal would be advisable. Peter Thompsonstone will follow-up.

18-2: Flower Pot Program: The GAC agreed to again order 100 pots and discussed possible ways to attract new customers. Ilyse Norton will look into using Facebook for this purpose. The GAC agreed to continue to sponsor the 50/50 'deal' for BIA's.

18-3: Trillium Awards: The GAC agreed to provide the same \$500 funding as last year.

18-5: Wildflower mini-pot Project: Peter Thompsonstone will continue to investigate having mini-pots at the spring 'Tree Give-away' and possibly other events.

18-6: 4th Avenue Trees: Peter Thompsonstone advised that he and Ilyse Norton met with Jeff Hill, Niagara Region Supervisor Forestry Operations, to discuss planting trees on 4th Avenue. Jeff Hill advised he thought the Region would be in agreement with the proposal and that they could fund the tree planting. The meeting was also seen as an opportunity for possible future partnering. John Bellehumeur was in agreement with the plan as long as the Region funded the planting. Peter Thompsonstone and Ilyse Norton will meet again with Jeff Hill in March to further discuss.

18-9: Michigan Avenue: Dick Thomas reported, after discussion with the Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee (BWC) that the proposed Michigan Avenue tree planting was not on their 'want list'. In lieu, the BWC proposed planting trees on Rennie Island; however, John Bellehumeur advised that a previous plan to plant trees there met with resistance from the Rowing Association and the City had agreed that no trees would be planted on Rennie Island. Dick Thomas will discuss further with the BWC, possibly adding Boulevard Trees into the discussion.

18-10: Possible New Project: Lock 14: John Stevens suggested the GAC consider reopening the proposal to expose Lock 14 which was covered when the Sobey's project was completed. The GAC would be involved only with the greening aspects of the project. John Stevens offered to investigate.

7. **Business.** There were several items to discuss under 'Business'. It was noted that some of the items had already been discussed under the Projects Updates.

- **Private Tree By-Law:** John Bellehumeur and Ilyse Norton briefed the GAC on the proposed new Private Tree By-Law. They would circulate a draft copy of the proposed By-Law for GAC members to review. GAC members were invited to discuss the By-Law at a meeting with PRCS on Tues, Feb 27 (11:00 am at the Geneva Street

office). John Bellehumeur advised that he would be presenting the proposed Private Tree By-Law to Council in April 2018.

- **Tree Planting Standards:** Ilyse Norton advised that, for the most part, the existing standards were adequate; the problem was enforcing the standards. She further advised that during a January meeting with the city's tree planting contractor, she was assured the contractor would do their best to ensure the standards were followed.
- **Tree-O-Code:** Ilyse Norton advised the City had purchased the previously discussed Tree-O-Code membership. The city tree inventory can now be updated and the public will be invited to view the site and possibly to add to the tree inventory.
- **Street Trees:** The GAC again discussed ways to increase the number of Boulevard Trees. Despite being on the City website, it appears few citizens know they can request a tree. Peter Thompson had circulated an email request prior to the meeting suggesting GAC members, during their travels around the city, note locations where street trees could be added. It was suggested that we consider another Water Bill flyer - this time about trees including how to order a Boulevard Tree. The GAC agreed to add this as a new 2018 project. (**Project 18-11: Tree Water Bill Flyer**)
- **Trillium Funding:** This was discussed under project 18-3 above.
- **Flower Pot Program:** This was discussed under project 18-2 above.
- **Trees at Discovery Park:** This was discussed under project 16-14 above.
- **Bunting and Eastchester:** This was discussed under project 16-6 above.

8. **Correspondence:**

- **St Catharines Horticultural Society Request:** Peter Howes advised the 'Hort' Society had approached us to see if the GAC would be interested in having a display at their annual spring plant sale. The GAC suggested the Pollinator Flyer and possibly the mini-pots would be good items to educate the public and also advertise the GAC. Ilyse Norton offered to try to find the Green Committee banner (which was previously stored somewhere in the Planning Department). John Bellehumeur advised that the Clean City Committee had acquired a display board that other committees could probably use as well.
9. **Date of Next Meeting:** The date of the next meeting was tentatively set for Wednesday, March 21, 2018; however. John Stevens wondered if there might be a better night since many of our members don't seem to be able to make the Wednesday night meetings in March and April 2018. He suggested Ilyse Norton send out an email requesting members provide their preferred meeting nights for those two monthly meetings.
10. **Motion to Adjourn:** John Stevens at 7:15 pm.

Attachment:

Green Advisory Committee 2018 Project List (updated to 21 Feb 2108)