

## Minutes

**Wednesday, July 18, 2018**

**Burgoyne Woods Room, City Hall at 5:00 pm**

**Attendance:** Stephen Holmes, Robin McDonald, John Stevens, Dick Thomas, Peter Thompsonstone

**Staff Liaison:** Ilyse Norton

**Regrets:** Mary Jane Clark, Peter Howes, James McWilliam, Scott Ritchie, Ray Vachon

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1. **Call meeting to order** (Peter Thompsonstone) 5:00 pm
2. **Additions / Deletions to the Agenda:** Nil
3. **Motion to approve the Agenda:** John Stevens
4. **Presentations:** Darren Platakis, Geospatial Niagara, provided an in depth Tree-O-Code Niagara update. The presentation generated a comprehensive discussion and the Tree-O-Code benefits were corroborated. Darren advised that he may make a presentation to Council this fall. The GAC thanked Darren for his presentation and for his dedication to the Tree-O-Code Niagara initiative.
5. **Motion to adopt minutes from the previous meeting:** Stephen Holmes
6. **Business arising from the minutes:**

- **Updates on Projects and Budgets.** Only projects with changes were discussed.

**# 15-2: Merritton Bill Wiley Memorial Parkette:** Ilyse Norton circulated a draft of the proposed Parkette sign and advised that there would only be one sign for the Parkette. She further advised that the GAC contribution, if approved by the GAC, would be in the neighbourhood of \$750 (vs the original \$2,000 allocation). The GAC agreed with this amendment. Peter Thompsonstone noted the draft 'donor line' included neither the GAC logo nor that of the St Catharines Horticultural Society, both of whom had contributed significantly to the GAC project. Peter Thompsonstone offered to contact Amy Tomaino, PRCS, to have these organizations and possibly others acknowledged on the sign.

**# 16-4: James / Lake / Welland:** Peter Thompsonstone, as GAC Chair, had approached the Environmental Sustainability Committee, to confirm that 2018 funding allocation of \$15,000 will be carried-over to 2019, since the project cannot proceed because of a City Environmental Assessment. Peter Thompsonstone and Ilyse Norton will confirm.

**16-6: Eastchester at Bunting:** John Stevens advised the contracted trees have been planted and the contractor acknowledges responsibility for watering. John Stevens will continue to follow up with the watering. Two “**Another GAC Project**” signs have been installed.

**# 16-12: Walker’s Creek:** Peter Thompstone advised the “Friends of Walkers Creek”, together with a couple GAC members have planted the second bed. Peter Thompstone also noted O’Hara had installed the donated armour stone and that he had forwarded a ‘Thank You’ note to O’Hara on behalf of the GAC.

**# 16-14: 360 Niagara Arboretum:** John Stevens reported that twenty-one trees had been planted as contracted. Although there is still a sizable amount left in the budget, the GAC decided to wait until a decision is made on the future of the park. To that end, John Stevens had circulated a report on his and Mary Jane Clark’s participation in the ‘Visioning Exercise’. The comprehensive report detailed the deliberations of the two sessions. The next step for Parks is to draft a plan for the future of the park. John Stevens postulated that it would be unlikely a decision would be made in 2018. The GAC thanked both John Stevens and Mary Jane Clark for representing the GAC at the Visioning Exercises and John Stevens for the report.

**# 16-15: Lake Street Armoury:** Peter Thompstone has received the 3-D representations. Dick Thomas is preparing a letter to DND proposing our project. Once the letter is delivered to DND, we will have to wait their decision before any further action.

**# 18-6: 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Trees:** *Peter Thompstone and Ilyse Norton are trying to set-up a meeting with the Region to discuss the 4th Avenue tree planting initiative and also the Region’s plan for tree planting throughout the city.*

**# 18-9: Michigan Avenue Parkette:** Dick Thomas advised he had been approached by the Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee (BWC) to request we reopen our offer for some trees in the Michigan Avenue Parkette. While investigating another project, Peter Thompstone had visited the site and had determined a planting of 5 understory trees would really add to the site. The BWC confirmed they were prepared to water and ‘look after’ any trees planted. The GAC agreed to reinstate the project and to allot a budget of \$1,500.00 to complete the planting. Peter Thompstone and Dick Thomas will follow-up with Ilyse Norton to steward the project.

**# 18-10: Lock 14 Greening:** John Stevens had contacted the Historical Advisory Committee for their input. He also reported that he has not received any ‘ball park’ cost estimates from Parks to unearth the upper walls of the lock.

**# 18-11: Tree / Street Tree Flyer:** In the May GAC Minutes, the GAC documented a request to the Communications Department for assistance to design the Water Bill flyer to meet the targeted Jan-Mar insert period. Stephen Holmes offered to work on a ‘first draft’ of the information the GAC would provide to Communications to assist with preparing the flyer.

**# 18-13: Maywood and Meadowvale Tree Planting:** Stephen Holmes noted that a previous GAC initiative to ‘green’ certain QEW ‘sound barriers’ had not been successful. He wondered if a grove of trees, with good salt tolerance, might be a suitable alternative. The GAC agreed this could be a positive step toward increasing our tree canopy as well as

greening a somewhat desolate space. Peter Thompstone agreed to meet with his MTO contact to explore this possibility.

7. **Business.** There were 5 subjects on the agenda for this item. Two of them had been proposed for the GAC June Meeting (which had been cancelled) and were to be addressed by our Planning Staff Liaison member. Unfortunately, Scott Ritchie was not able to attend the meeting, so he had sent an email to Peter Thompstone addressing the issues. Peter Thompstone read the email responses to the GAC.

- **Street Trees in Urban Areas for Pedestrian Protection:** This was the first item for Scott Ritchie as noted above. Scott Ritchie's response was:

*"When the City constructs new sidewalks, the preferred solution is to separate the sidewalk from the street with a boulevard that includes tree plantings. We try to do this wherever space permits. Unfortunately many existing rights-of-way are too narrow to accommodate a boulevard with sufficient enough width to accommodate tree plantings and we often have to go with curb-faced sidewalks in those instances. The GAC should also be aware that the City recently began undertaking a new Transportation Master Plan and a component of this Plan will be updated street design policies. I anticipate that there will be further discussion on these matters as the Master Plan progresses."*

- **GAC Display Banner:** After much discussion, it was decided to investigate the cost of any such banner, after which the GAC could decide if a banner was necessary. Ilyse Norton offered to investigate prices.

- **Club Roma – Forest Removal Site Plan Application:** This was the second item for Scott Ritchie as noted above. Scott Ritchie's response was:  
*"Significant tree removal has taken place at this property in advance of a proposed new apartment building. As the GAC will know, St. Catharines does not presently have a private tree removal by-law. Generally speaking, the only real instance where we can force the protection of trees is where those trees form part of a significant natural feature – typically a designated significant woodland or significant valley land. In this case, that treed area was not identified as being part of a significant woodland on any City, Regional or NPCA mapping. Through early discussion with Regional and NPCA staff, we did identify that the treed area might still be subject to the Region's Tree and Forest Conservation By-law (By-law No. 30-2008) and that further investigation was needed. The owner of the property then coordinated with Niagara Region forestry staff, who inspected the site and determined that it did not have the tree density to be considered a woodland as per the Region's By-law definition and that it was in fact more of a treed lawn than a forest. While the tree removal is unfortunate, it does not appear that they contravened any by-laws. Some new tree planting will be required as part of the landscape design for the future apartment building, but 2 for 1 replacement is not required."*

- **Review of Pillar Committee Structure:** Peter Thompstone advised that all Advisory Committees had been tasked to comment on the Pillar Committee Structure as it presently exists. He had been required to provide input at the previous Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting which he shared with

the GAC. He then asked if the GAC had any further suggestions. The GAC agreed with his initial suggestions, and added a couple more points:

- **Planning Member:** The previous Green Committee had a Planning Staff member, the GAC had requested a Planning member be added to the GAC 'Terms of Reference'. This had been agreed by Councillor Dave Haywood who offered to effect the change.
  - **Direct Contact with Councillors:** Again, in the Green Committee a Councillor was appointed to assist the Committee. While the workload of Councillors probably precludes this for the GAC, the GAC would welcome an occasional informal meeting to discuss the greening direction the GAC should pursue.
  - Peter Thompstone indicated he would include these comments in his reply (which was required by 20 July).
- **2019 Work Plan – for 2019 Budget Planning:** Due to time limitations, the GAC agreed to review possible future projects and to discuss at the August Meeting.
  - **Mobile Watering Tank:** After discussing the present near drought conditions and the difficulty watering certain new trees and plantings, the GAC decided that several mobile watering tanks would help with this problem.

**Motion:** Moved by Stephen Holmes that the GAC allocate up to \$3,000.00 for the purchase of 3 mobile watering tanks to combat the present near drought conditions.

**CARRIED**

8. **Correspondence:** Nil
9. **Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 15 August, 2018.
10. **Motion to Adjourn:** Stephen Holmes 7:50 pm.

**Attachment:**

**Green Advisory Committee 2018 Project List** (updated to 18 July 2018).