

Minutes

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Burgoyne Woods Room, City Hall at 5:00 pm

Attendance: Mary Jane Clark, Stephen Holmes, Peter Howes, Robin McDonald, John Stevens, Dick Thomas,

Staff Liaison: Ilyse Norton, Ray Vachon

Regrets: James McWilliam, Peter Thompstone

1. **Call meeting to order** 5:05 pm
2. **Additions / Deletions to the Agenda:** Nil
3. **Motion to approve the Agenda:** Robin McDonald
4. **Presentations:** There were presentations for two items included under agenda item **7. Business**, which were tabled earlier in the meeting to allow presenting groups to leave following their presentations, should they so wish. They are recorded under item **7. Business**.
5. **Motion to adopt minutes from the previous meeting:** Robin McDonald
6. **Business arising from the minutes:**

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

16-14: 360 Niagara Arboretum: Ilyse Norton brought a sample of the tag and connector apparatus for the 51 tree tags. John Stevens and Peter Howes offered to assist Ilyse Norton affixing the tags.

#18-9: Michigan Avenue: Dick Thomas expressed concern that the adjacent construction project could have a negative impact on the newly planted grove of 5 *Cercis canadensis* understory trees. Ilyse Norton indicated she would visit the site.

19-2 Flower Pot Program: Ilyse Norton advised that 80 pots had been sold so far which is already a higher number than last year.

7. **Business:**
 - a. **Yaneth Londono - Links for Greener Learning (LFGL).** Yaneth gave a presentation concerning a 'Sensory Garden' which LFGL is installing at 360 Niagara Street. The proposed project is a follow-on project from the Community Garden

LFGL installed last year (with the help of a \$5,000.00 GAC grant). After fielding several GAC questions, the GAC thanked Yaneth for her presentation after which Yaneth left the meeting. Following the second presentation, the LFGL proposal was discussed in detail:

- i. Ilyse Norton advised that LFGL, as requested at the March GAC meeting, had submitted a report on the finalization their 2018 project.
- ii. While supporting the concept, the GAC again questioned whether or not the proposal fell within the scope of GAC partnership projects.
- iii. Ilyse Norton indicated that the LFGL project was already receiving considerable funding from several other sources. Further, the request did not specify what the requested \$5,000.00 would provide for the project.
- iv. The GAC requested Yaneth be again approached to provide a detailed breakdown of how the requested \$5,000.00 would be spent. In particular, the GAC wanted specific information on the 'greening aspects' of the project which could be supported by GAC funding.
- v. Ilyse Norton offered to contact Yaneth Londono advising her of the GAC request.

b. Niagara College/Walkers Creek overland flooding partnership proposal.

Andrea Sinclair, a Niagara College (NC) Professor, provided background information and introduced Della Trojan, the 'Friends of Walkers Creek' (FWC) project partner and the team of NC post-graduate students who, for their field study, had researched and prepared an overland flooding wetland proposal. The NC team provided a detailed description of their proposal and answered questions about the project. The team also advised that implementation of the 3-phase proposal was beyond the scope of their study, The GAC thanked the group for their presentation and wished the students well in their future endeavours following which the group left the meeting.

- i. The GAC supported the project and indicated they would be interested in following the progress of the project, if implemented. Further, the GAC could consider partnering with the 'FWC' with the planting materials at the end of the project.
- ii. Ilyse Norton offered to maintain contact with the FWC.

c. Review of 2019 Community Gardens Funding Applications. Ilyse Norton advised she had updates on three applications. For each item, she provided detail on the projects which included:

- i. **Links for Greener Learning (LFGL)** - 360 Niagara Street. Project cost \$10,000.00, funding requested \$5,000.00.

Discussion: As noted above (para 7.a above) the GAC again discussed the proposal in detail. The GAC did not approve the funding request in its present format. LFGL will be requested to provide additional information and justification for possible GAC funding. Ilyse Norton offered to contact Yaneth Londono.

- ii. **Cornerstone Co-op.** This project was discussed at the March GAC meeting and sponsors were to be requested to complete their application. The application was completed and the \$500.00 funding request validated.

Motion: Moved by Robin McDonald that the GAC approve the Cornerstone Co-op application and allocate funds for the requested \$500.00.

CARRIED

- iii. **Grantham Mennonite Brethren Church.** Project cost \$1,750.00, funding request \$175.00.

Motion: Moved by John Stevens that the GAC approve the Grantham Mennonite Brethren Church application and allocate funds for the requested \$175.00.

CARRIED

- d. **Private Tree By-Law Update.** Ilyse Norton gave an update on the Private Tree By-Law. She mentioned that shortly after the process including three 'Open Houses' was announced, they were flooded with calls. The 'Open Houses' (May 1, 6 and 7) are posted on the City website. Ilyse Norton indicated that she would be one of the city staff at the 'Open Houses' to field questions. Robin McDonald requested the following words be added:

"We strongly encourage those who present at the Open House make the case for the appropriate conservation and preservation of trees as a vital tool for us confronting 'Global Warming' and preserving a livable environment for our children and grandchildren."

- e. **2019 Projects.** The GAC decided not to review or propose any additional 2019 projects pending appointment and installation of new GAC members.
- f. **Earth Day Expo - April 26.** Ilyse Norton advised she had made arrangements with 'Niagara Nurseries' to provide the 'handout planting materials' (GAC to pick-up at nursery). She also would make the banner and other display or handout items available for pick-up.
- g. **Appointment of 2019-2023 GAC.** Ilyse Norton advised that:
 - i. The city review group had vetted applications for all Advisory Committees and had passed their recommendations for consideration and approval by City Council at their 29 April 2019 meeting.
 - ii. Applicants would be advised on 30 April.
 - iii. Appointed committee members, whether new or returning, would be required to take a training course prior to assuming their advisory committee roles.
 - iv. The present GAC could meet in May at their regular date and time. Newly announced GAC members would also be able to attend as observers: they would not be able to vote on any motions the GAC might make.
 - v. The newly created 2019-2023 GAC would have their first meeting in June 2019.

8. **Correspondence:** Nil

9. **Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 15 May, 2019.

10. **Motion to Adjourn:** Mary Jane Clark at 7:00 pm.