

Minutes

Wednesday, July 31, 2019

Lake St. Service Centre at 5:00PM

Attendance:

Dick Thomas, Peter Howes, Mike Anderson, Daya Lye, Steve Holmes, Andrew Kretz

Regrets:

Councillor Joe Kushner, Mark Jemison

Staff Liaison:

Phil Cristi (PRCS), Eric Lamothe (PRCS), Andrew Ferguson (Eng.), Ilyse Norton (PRCS), John Bellehumeur (MW), Dan Cooper (MW), Darrell Smith (MW)

Members of Council:

Councillor Bruce Williamson

1. **Call meeting to order:** 5:00 pm (R. Thomas)

2. **Additions / Deletions to the Agenda:** None

3. **Motion to approve the agenda:** Peter Howes

4. **Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting:** Daya Lye

5. **Presentations:** None

6. **Business**

6.1 Introductions: All individuals in attendance introduced themselves and their affiliations.

6.2 Private Tree Management (D. Smith): Darrell Smith (Director of Municipal Works) offered a short presentation summarizing the results of the public consultation regarding the proposed Private Tree By-Law and a brief summary of the report that went to Council on July 15 regarding staff's recommendation to not approve a private tree by-law. After the presentation

Darrell invited those to ask questions and the following comments and questions arose:

- Daya Lye - Question if demographics from the survey results and open houses were collected. Darrell Smith responded that proof of St. Catharines residency was checked and nothing beyond that.
- Mike Anderson – Question regarding fines in other municipalities. Dan Cooper responded that this was depending on tree type and size. Darrell Smith responded that residents would have the right to challenge a decision through an appeals process.
- Steve Holmes – Questions surrounding how the City came to their number of 22% for canopy coverage. He mentioned that The City of Cambridge was also a comparator that now has a private tree by-law. Cambridge has broken down where their canopy coverage is into zoned maps and asked if the City could do this as well. Ilyse Norton responded that we acquire our current canopy coverage numbers through our treeOcode membership and that she believed treeOcode would have that ability to do this as well. Original canopy coverage numbers came from the Davey Tree Inventory taken in 2015.
- Peter Howes – Current proposed by-law is quite intrusive. Spoke of past committee's proposal of a less aggressive by-law. John Bellehumeur responded that this could potentially mean a by-law that is hardly ever used as opposed to the current proposed by-law that encompasses everything.
- Daya Lye – Mentioned that possible re-wording of the survey questions or using different images with a more positive light on trees could potentially make a difference in the survey results.
- Dick Thomas – Indicated that Council had referred the Private Tree bylaw to the GAC for review. To accomplish this, he suggested a sub-committee be formed to review the by-law. Peter Howes will act as sub-committee chair. Sub-committee will consist of the following members: Peter Howes, Mike Anderson, Daya Lye, Steve Holmes. Councillor Williamson asked to be an ex-officio member of the sub-committee as well.

Action Item: Peter Howes to set up initial meeting with sub-committee to review the by-law.

- Steve Holmes – Suggested that other municipalities with private tree-bylaws be looked into about their public consultation process and how their bylaws came through that process with the public. Phil Cristi suggested that the Clerks department will have to be notified that the GAC may be contacting municipalities for information on this. Phil Cristi

also advised that City staff do not currently have the capacity for this given the time something like this takes.

- Councillor Williamson – Suggested education is an important piece to this. Ilyse Norton reported that City staff are currently working on partnering with Niagara College film students to come up with a tree education video that can be shown and sent around to schools. City staff will be working on a campaign similar to that of the Niagara Region's past recycling program where staff are going into schools to talk about the importance of trees and the canopy.

6.3 Committee and Staff Roles and Responsibilities:

- Dick Thomas reviewed that staff liaisons are not to be directed by GAC members.
- Steve Holmes – Question regarding conducting business through email and wanted an explanation of these parameters. Ilyse Norton advised that decision making is not permitted via email however, the circulation of information is permitted. If members are unsure about the appropriateness, Ilyse Norton advised that members then circulate to the Chair to then circulate to the rest of the group if deemed acceptable.
- Mike Anderson – Made an official apology to Phil Cristi regarding an inappropriate comment that was made at the June meeting. Phil Cristi accepted.
- Phil Cristi- Advised that a new staff liaison will be appointed in the near future at a Manager level for the GAC. Ilyse Norton will continue on the committee. Phil suggested that the GAC should ask for an amendment to the Terms of Reference for this as well as for a staff liaison from the Planning and Building Services department at the next ESC Pillar meeting.
- Steve Holmes inquired if there was a staff member with the City who could take on a role to make the City more “green, clean, walkable, etc.”

6.4 2019 GAC Project Status Discussion:

- **Lake and James St. Y Arch:** Project was discussed and will be circulated to the GAC for discussion about continuation at the August meeting. Bruce Williamson advised that the Public Art Advisory Committee may be interested in this as well. **Action Item:** Phil Cristi to contact the Y to see how long the Y is willing to store the old Y-arch and if it is still available.
- **Niagara Street Arboretum:** Project was discussed and will be circulated to the GAC for discussion about continuation at the August meeting.
- **Lake St. Armoury:** Project was discussed and will be circulated to the GAC for discussion about continuation at the August meeting.

- **Flower Pot Program:** Ilyse Norton advised that the GAC sold 90 flower pots for the 2019 season.
Action Item: Ilyse Norton to take photos of flower pots for future marketing use.
- **Trillium Awards:** Ilyse Norton gave a brief description of what the Trillium Awards program entails to the new GAC members. Ilyse Norton requested sponsorship from the GAC for the 2019 Trillium Awards in the amount of \$1,000.

Motion: Moved by Andrew Kretz to sponsor the 2019 Trillium Awards Program in the amount of \$1,000 from the GAC budget.

CARRIED

6.5 Review of report to ESC (7 Aug 2019):

- a) End of Term Report will be given by Peter Thompstone and Peter Howes at the August 7 ESC meeting.
- b) 2019 GAC Progress to date: This report will be given by Dick Thomas at the August 7 ESC meeting.

7. **Date of next meeting:** Wednesday, August 21, 2019 – Lake St. Service Centre

8. **Motion to Adjourn:** Steve Holmes at 7:07PM

***Addendum to the July 31, 2019 Minutes:**

The following was requested to be included as an addition to the minutes at the August 21 meeting:

- There was discussion surrounding changing the GAC's terms of reference to reflect including a staff member from Municipal Works and Planning and Building Services. This request was brought forward by Chair Dick Thomas at the August 7 ESC meeting and a motion was made, *"That the Green Advisory Committee Terms of Reference be amended to include advisory City staff members from Planning and Municipal Works on the GAC."* This motion will be reviewed by the Clerk's department and discussed at a later date.
- There was also discussion regarding changing the GAC's terms of reference to include "environmental" as opposed to "greening" under the Statement of Purpose. Further discussion will be required for this amendment.