

## Minutes

**Wednesday, August 21, 2019**

**Lake St. Service Centre at 5:00PM**

### **Attendance:**

Dick Thomas, Peter Howes, Mike Anderson, Mark Jemison

### **Regrets:**

Councillor Joe Kushner, Andrew Kretz, Steve Holmes, Daya Lye, Councillor Bruce Williamson

### **Staff Liaison:**

Andrew Ferguson (TES), Ilyse Norton (PRCS), John Bellehumeur (MW), Olivia Groff (TES)

---

1. **Call meeting to order:** 4:59 pm (D. Thomas)

2. **Motion to use Land Acknowledgement:**

That this and all future GAC meetings begin with a Land Acknowledgement.

Moved by: Dick Thomas

**NOT CARRIED**

3. **Additions / Deletions to the Agenda:**

Peter Howes: Dead trees and watering requirements.

4. **Motion to approve the agenda:** Mark Jemison

5. **Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting:** Peter Howes

*\*Note: The request to include an addition to the July meeting regarding an amendment to the GAC Terms of Reference regarding the request for staff liaisons from Planning and Building Services as well as Municipal Works.*

6. **Presentations:** None

## **7. Business**

### **7.1 Update from the Private Tree By-Law Sub-Committee**

- On August 16 the Private Tree By-Law Sub-Committee consisting of members: Mike Anderson, Peter Howes, Steve Holmes and Daya Lye met at Peter Howes' home to conduct the first meeting.
- It has been agreed by the sub-committee that there is a need for a Private Tree By-Law (PTB).
- They discussed their ideas and issues surrounding what the PTB should deal with.
- They have decided to reach out to other municipalities that have a by-law and are currently working on the list of questions to ask.
- Their next meeting is the second week of October.
- Mike Anderson inquired about the process of where the sub-committee's recommendations will go once the review is complete. John Bellehumeur noted that once complete, the recommendations will go through the GAC to the ESC. The ESC would then forward to Council and staff.
- Discussion occurred around whether an all-encompassing by-law is too intrusive to start off with or if a less intrusive one would be better or prove ineffective.
- Mike Anderson noted that it has to begin with an educational process and by starting off small with the intention to build on something. Made reference to accessibility standards twenty years ago versus now and how starting to change people's mindsets and look towards future generations and why this is important.
- Peter Howes mentioned that a major issue with the by-law is that it will mean one extra staff member. If there are no staff for the by-law it cannot be enforced.

### **7.2 GAC Term Work Plan Discussion**

- Mike Anderson went through the process of coming up with a work plan.
- Broad themes like Beautification, Trees, Education, Community Gardens were mentioned
- Mike Anderson mentioned a "Community Tool-Box" could be set in place to leave room for community partnerships that come up throughout the term.
- Dick Thomas mentioned the static programs that exist such as Community Gardens Funding, Flower Pot Program and the Trillium Awards

- Dick Thomas suggested that given budget considerations could the group possibly suggest some projects that could be viable before year-end while also continuing to develop the plan.
- Deep root fertilization was mentioned for 360 Niagara St. John Bellehumeur informed the group that this would be completed by the end of the calendar year and the \$2,000 allocated towards this would be spent.
- John Bellehumeur also suggested to the chair to bring up carry-over considerations to the next ESC meeting.
- Dick Thomas inquired about placing benches and hardscape at the Michigan Ave. parkette. John Bellehumeur recommended against this at this time due to ongoing issues with the developer.
- Mark Jemison suggested specimen/upgraded trees for City engineering projects like road and sewer renewals. The trees would have a plaque. Andrew Ferguson will look into doing this with Engineering's construction projects.
- It was requested that a departmental organizational chart be circulated to the group so that members know who is who and who to contact for specific things. Ilyse will circulate this to the committee Chair.
- Olivia Groff made note of a program in Niagara Falls called "Schools in Bloom" where through an application process schools can apply for funding for trees or gardens on the grounds.
- The Niagara St. Arboretum visioning exercise status was inquired about. Ilyse Norton suggested that Peter Howes contact Jessica Button to inquire with her. There is the possibility of installing the pathway here that the GAC could look into.
- John Bellehumeur mentioned deep root fertilization for other significant species trees in the City. Mike Anderson would need to contact Dan Cooper to find out where those trees are. The beech tree at Rex Stimers Arena was mentioned as one.
- Dick Thomas is suggesting that the group come prepared to the next meeting with a list of things to do for this year and for the term.
- Dick Thomas reported that Peter Thompstone and Peter Howes presented the GAC end of term report at the August 7 ESC meeting. The ESC accepted the report and will attach the report to the minutes of the meeting.
- Dick Thomas reported the current progress of the GAC to the ESC and made a motion to amend the GAC Terms of Reference and that it be forwarded to the Clerk's department for review.

### **7.3 Dead Trees and Watering Requirements**

- Peter Howes informed the group that the recently planted trees along Queenston St. are either dead or dying. Peter Thompstone sent a note to Councillors regarding the watering of these trees.
  - Peter Howes also noted that there are four dead trees at Bunting and Eastchester that need to be replaced. Ilyse will contact Tree Amigos regarding their warranty and replacement.
8. **Date of next meeting:** Wednesday, September 18, 2019 – Lake St. Service Centre
9. **Motion to Adjourn:** Peter Howes at 6:55 p.m.