

Minutes

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Lake St. Service Centre at 5:00PM

Attendance:

Dick Thomas, Mike Anderson, Steve Holmes, Brenda Boonzaijer, Peter Howes, Daya Lye

Regrets:

Mark Jemison, Andrew Kretz, Andrew Ferguson (EFES)

Staff Liaison:

Ilyse Norton (CRCS)

Guests:

Councillor Joe Kushner, John Bellehumeur (MW), Brooke Opdam (CRCS)

1. Call meeting to order: 5:00 pm D. Thomas

Daya Lye arrived at 5:03 pm.

Steve Holmes arrived at 5:05 pm.

2. Recognition of Traditional Territories – Read by D. Thomas

3. Additions / Deletions to the Agenda: None

4. Motion to approve the agenda: Brenda Boonzaijer

5. Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting: Brenda Boonzaijer

6. Presentations: None

7. Business

7.1 Private Tree By-Law Sub-Committee Update

**Report from meeting on October 7 with the Private Tree By-Law sub-committee attached.*

- It was suggested to survey Council through an email survey that the sub-committee would put together to be circulated to Council by the Clerk's Office.

7.2 GAC Term Work Plan Discussion

- The committee continued to work on the work plan and ranked the six most important themes. The results of the exercise were as follows:
 - Naturalization Projects (5)
 - Environmental Policies (4)
 - Water Bill Insert (3)
 - Social Media (3)
 - Drought t Protection, Tree Conservation and Threats (3)
 - Surface and Roof Greening (3)
 - Outdoor Classrooms (2)
 - Walker's Creek (2)
 - Schools (2)
 - Wildlife Corridors (2)
 - Sponsorship to Sustainable Gardens (2)
 - Programs (ex. Flower Pots) (1)
 - Port BWC (1)
 - Pollinator Gardens (1)
 - Pathways and Trails (1)
 - New Development (1)

Councilor Joe Kushner left at 6:00 pm.

John Bellehumeur left at 6:10 pm.

Mike Anderson left at 6:13 pm.

7.3 2019 Projects (complete, in-progress, planned)

- Carryover funds were discussed for a carryover request. These were:
 - \$10,000 for the Niagara St. Arboretum
 - \$5,000 Walker's Creek/Realty Park riparian buffer
 - \$15,000 Lake/James/Welland Gateway project (Y-Arch)
 - \$5,000 Pollinator garden and signage at downtown rock pile
- A list of future projects was brainstormed:
 - Water bill insert
 - Tree protection for young trees - such as mesh around the tree and extra stakes.
 - Tree planting along Merritt Trail at 406 Westchester and Geneva St.

- Purchasing Gator Bags to assist with drought protection of newly planted trees.
- Christmas Planter Program similar to Flower Pot Program: 15-20 pots for the winter in the downtown area.

8. Date of next meeting: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 – Lake St. Service Centre

9. Motion to Adjourn: Steve Holmes at 7:00 p.m.

Green Advisory Committee

Private tree by-law subcommittee meeting #2 October 7, 2019, 2:00 to 3:30 pm

Attendees: Daya Lye, Mike Anderson, Peter Howes, Robin McDonald (former GAC member)

Regrets: Steve Holmes

We had several points concerning the draft Public Tree by-law.

1. Any future public meeting on a by-law needs a pre-amble to the proposed by-law to indicate why we need a tree by-law.
2. There should be no fee for dead, dying, or diseased trees.
3. There should only be one diameter shown for dbh for all trees.
4. To stop developers pre-cutting before applying for a building permit there could be “graded tree removal costs”. This would mean, low or no cost for the first tree removed, then a graded scale upwards, more trees cost more to remove.
5. Some type of report is required to remove a tree. It could be a downloaded form from the city's webpage with photos, put together by the owner, or an arborist's report.
6. There should be fines for cutting trees without a permit. Exceptions would apply, dead, dying, or diseased trees, emergency work, hazardous trees.
7. As written the by-law covers all trees over a certain dbh as well as trees of any size classed as “significant species” (list of 19), Significant trees designated by council, Heritage trees, and trees planted under condition of a permit or order issued under this by-law. Is this too complex?

Other items discussed.

1. We need input from council on how they feel towards the possibility of a private tree by-law.
2. Should there be a class of undesirable trees? i.e. black locust, tree of heaven, and the idea of the wrong tree in the wrong place, i.e. walnut on a lawn kills the grass under it. Is this a reason to remove it or is the canopy a precedent?

Next meeting Mon Oct. 28, 2019 at 2:00 pm.

Note: I have been informed by the Clerk's Office that all sub-committee meetings should be open and accessible to the public. As a result, our next meeting will be held at the Lawrence Room at Kiwanis Aquatics on October 28 – 2-4p.m Peter Howes