

Environmental Sustainability Committee

Minutes

Monday, December 07, 2020

Electronic participation at 4pm

Attendance:

Councillor Bruce Williamson, Chair
Dick Thomas, Chair Green Advisory Committee
Jonathan Belgrave, Chair Clean City Advisory Committee
Heather Salter, Director Legal and Clerks Services

Regrets:

Darrell Smith, Director of Municipal Works, Vice Chair
Councillor Matt Harris
Councillor Joe Kushner

Staff Liaisons:

Julie Hughes, Staff Liaison, Pillar Committee

Regrets:

Dan Cooper, Staff Liaison, Green Advisory Committee
Not appointed, Staff Liaison, Clean City Advisory Committee

Guest staff:

Ilyse Norton, Developmental Horticulture Technician, PRCS
Eric LaMothe, Manager of Business Planning, PRCS

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1. **Called the meeting to order @ 4:00pm:** Councillor Williamson, Chair
 2. **Recognition of Traditional Territories**
 3. **Additions/Deletions to the agenda**
n/a
 4. **Motion to approve the agenda:**

That the ESC agenda be approved

Moved by: Jonathan Belgrave
Carried

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

That the ESC minutes from Jan 8 be approved

Moved by: Dick Thomas

Carried

6. Presentation

n/a

7. Business arising from the minutes

None

8. Business

8.1 Green Advisory Committee~ Chair Dick Thomas

i) 2021 Draft Work Plan

- See appendix, *GAC 2021 Work Plan*

Motion to approve the GAC 2021 Work Plan

That the GAC 2021 Work Plan be approved

Moved by: Heather Salter

Carried

ii) Appointment of new member to GAC

Motion to go in camera

That the Environmental Sustainability Pillar Committee go in camera to discuss identifiable individuals

Moved by: Jonathan Belgrave

Carried

In camera session

Motion to recommend applicant to the Green Advisory Committee

That the applicant is recommended for membership to the Green Advisory Committee

Moved by: Jonathan Belgrave
Carried

8.2 Clean City Advisory Committee ~ Chair Jonathan Belgrave

- No staff liaison has been appointed to fill the vacancy
- Therefore, no meetings have taken place since early 2020

9. Other business

10. Dates of next meeting ~ February 25, 2021

11. Motion to Adjourn

That the Environmental Sustainability Committee adjourn at 4:27pm

Moved by: Dick Thomas
Carried

Appendices:8.1i *GAC draft 2021 Work Plan*

8.1 i) GAC DRAFT 2021 Work Plan

Item 1

Item:	Community Gardens Capital Cost Program
Description:	Continue the Community Gardens Capital Cost Program that provides matching funding for capital costs of improving existing or starting new community gardens on City-owned and privately-owned land on an application basis.
Estimated Start:	Q1 2021
Estimated Finish:	Q4 2021
Relationship to Strategic Plan:	<p>Environmental Sustainability goal: “Lead in the protection of our environment for future generations”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support partnerships to expand the community gardens network across the city.
Involvement with other Advisory Committee(s):	All advisory committees will be considered.
Risks:	Budget demands and implications

Steps	Tentative Schedule	Required Resources
1. Promotion of program and applications to open in early February.	Q1 2021	Staff liaison/staff
2. Review of applications at March meeting.	Q1 2021	Staff liaison

Item 2

Item:	Community Gardens Enhancements Program
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Description:	<p>GAC to provide funding and support for community gardens already existing on City-owned land that wish to expand or improve their site. Groups may wish to build additional plots, improve accessibility, build fencing, etc.</p> <p>Matching funding not required for this program.</p>
Estimated Start:	Q2 2021
Estimated Finish:	Q4 2021
Relationship to Strategic Plan:	<p>Environmental Sustainability goal: “Lead in the protection of our environment for future generations”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support partnerships to expand the community gardens network across the city.
Involvement with other Advisory Committee(s):	All advisory committees will be considered.
Risks:	<p>Budget demands and implications.</p> <p>Community gardens and coordinators may be “status quo” and there may not be a need for additional funding/expansion.</p>

Steps	Tentative Schedule	Required Resources
1. Reach out community garden coordinators from existing gardens on City-owned land to inquire about needs.	Q1 2021	Staff liaison
2. Provide funding where needed for community gardens enhancements.	Q1 2021	Staff
3. Follow-up – ensure funds were appropriately spent and invite funding recipients	Q4 2021	Staff liaison

to report on community garden growing season challenges and successes.		
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Item 3

Item:	Community Gardens Incubator Program
Description:	<p>GAC to help establish new community gardens on City-owned land.</p> <p>Explore partnership opportunities with interested community group (Fitz Neighbours for 2021).</p> <p>Involvement could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalizing the Community Gardens plans • Opportunity for active participation in the construction and management of plots • Opportunity to lead community education and outreach • Provide funding for water source • Provide funding for storage shed and/or shade structures
Estimated Start:	Q1 2021
Estimated Finish:	Q4 2021
Relationship to Strategic Plan:	<p>Environmental Sustainability goal: “Lead in the protection of our environment for future generations”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support partnerships to expand the community gardens network across the city.
Involvement with other Advisory Committee:	All advisory committees will be considered.
Risks:	Budget demands and implications.

Steps	Tentative Schedule	Required Resources
1. Invite Fitz Neighbours to January meeting to discuss potential for partnership.	Q1 2021	Staff liaison

2. Determine community garden budget, other sources of funding from Fitz Neighbours, etc. and issue funding.	Q2 2021	Staff liaison/staff
3. Assist on construction day.	Q2 2021	N/A
4. Provide ongoing programming, tend to GAC plots.	Q2 and ongoing.	N/A
5. Assist with harvest day.	Q4 2021	N/A
6. Follow-up – Invite Fitz Neighbours to report on community garden growing season challenges and successes.	Q4 2021	Staff liaison

Item 4

Item:	Community Gardens Grow at Home Program
Description:	<p>The community Gardens Grow at Home Program would be a new initiative started by the GAC which would reach out to partner with Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) to delivery individual at home garden starter kits to those in need.</p> <p>50 Grow at Home kits would be delivered to NRH residents around St. Catharines.</p> <p>The Grow at Home kits will help residents grow fruit/vegetables which may be cost prohibitive for families.</p> <p>The Grow at Home kits will help promote food security for participants by increasing physical and economic access to healthy food.</p> <p>The Grow at Home kits will provide health, economic, educational, social, and environmental benefits to some of the most vulnerable in the community.</p>
Estimated Start:	Q1 2021
Estimated Finish:	Q2 2021
Relationship to Strategic Plan:	Environmental Sustainability goal: “Lead in the protection of our environment for future generations”

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support partnerships to expand the community gardens network across the city.
Involvement with other Advisory Committee:	All advisory committees will be considered.
Risks:	Budget demands and implications.

Steps	Tentative Schedule	Required Resources
1. Reach out to Niagara Regional Housing to offer program and see if there's interest in the program.	Q1 2021	Staff liaison Niagara Regional Housing
2. Purchase garden kits	Q2 2021	Staff liaison
3. Deliver to NRH for disbursements to families. GAC/staff to hold planting workshops for families.	Q2 2021	Staff liaison Niagara Regional Housing
4. Follow up – review pilot project challenges and successes to consider offering program in future years.	Q4 2021	Staff liaison Niagara Regional Housing

Item 5

Item:	Flower Pot Program
Description:	<p>Each year the GAC offers a flower pot program to local businesses to help beautify store fronts.</p> <p>50/50 cost sharing partnerships are offered to BIA's and other beautification committees like Port Dalhousie for example.</p> <p>City staff deliver pots in early spring and pick up at end of season in late September.</p> <p>Essentially a "zero cost" program as business are invoiced based on the current year's Rates and Fees.</p>

Estimated Start:	Q1 2021
Estimated Finish:	Q4 2021
Relationship to Strategic Plan:	Economic Sustainability goal: "Develop partnerships to enhance the economic vitality of the community."
Involvement with other Advisory Committee:	All advisory committees will be considered.
Risks:	Budget demands and implications. Little to no interest in program for 2021.

Steps	Tentative Schedule	Required Resources
1. Place order for flower pots in early 2021.	Q1 2021	Staff liaison
2. Promote program and reach out to past participants in late winter for spring uptake.	Q1 2021	Staff liaison/Staff
3. City staff to deliver pots in spring.	Q2 2021	Staff
4. City staff to pick up pots in late September.	Q4 2021	Staff

Prepared and Submitted by:

Dan Cooper, Supervisor of Forestry on behalf of the Green Advisory Committee

Ilyse Norton, Development Horticultural Technician on behalf of the Green Advisory Committee

