

Social Sustainability Pillar Committee

Minutes

Thursday, July 22, 2021

Electronic Meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Attendance:

Councillor Bill Phillips, Chair
Councillor Sal Sorrento
Phil Cristi, Director of Community, Recreation and Cultural Services
Jeanette Pillitteri, Director of Corporate Support Services
Gail Riihimaki, Vice-Chair, Older Adults Advisory Committee
Haley Bateman, Chair, Equity & Inclusion Advisory Committee
Jim Richardson, Chair, Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee
Rick Kennedy, Vice-Chair, LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee
Michelle Sanders, Co-Chair Accessibility Advisory Committee
Saleh Waziruddin, Chair, Anti-Racism Advisory Committee

Absent:

Councillor Greg Miller
Brody Longmuir, Chair, Town & Gown Advisory Committee
Karen Doyle, Town and Gown (staff liaison)

Guests:

Lori Mambella, Manager Programs and Culture Services
Shannon McHugh, Manager of Equity and Inclusion

Staff Liaison:

Chantal Switzer, LGBTQ2+ Advisory and Anti-Racism Advisory
Eric Lamothe, Recreation Master Plan Advisory
Koby Vanyo, Older Adults Advisory
Melissa Wenzler, Equity and Inclusion Advisory
Megan Detlor, Accessibility Advisory ~ arrived at 4:50 p.m.
Leanne Kurek, Social Pillar

-
1. **Call meeting to order (Chair, Bill Phillips)**
4:30 p.m.

2. Recognition of Traditional Territories

Councillor Phillips acknowledged that the land on which the Social Sustainability Committee meets today is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples. Acknowledging this is a reminder that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

3. Amendments to the Agenda

Moved by: Saleh W

That the following amendments be made to the agenda:

- Add discussion item Employment equity proposal (suggestions for employment equity practices)
- Add discussion item resolution on calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People

Lost

4. Motion to approve the agenda

That the Social Sustainability Committee adopt the agenda as presented.

Moved by: M. Sanders

Carried

5. Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting

Motion to adopt the SSC minutes, Apr 22, 2021.

Moved by: S. Sorrento

Carried

6. Declarations of Interest

NA

7. Presentations (invited guests)

NA

8. Business arising from the minutes

NA

9. Business

- a. 9.1 Review of applications for vacancies on the Older Adults, Anti-Racism, Equity and Inclusion and the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committees and recommendations for the vacancies.**

Motion to go In Camera at 4:36 p.m.

That the Social Sustainability Committee go In Camera for personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees

Moved by: J. Richardson

Carried

In Camera ~ Review applications for the Older Adults, Anti-Racism, Equity and Inclusion and the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committees

Motion to move to Open Session at 4:54 p.m.

That the Social Sustainability Committee move to Open Session

Moved by: H. Bateman

Carried

That the Social Sustainability Committee approve the recommended names for the Older Adults, Anti-Racism, Equity and Inclusion and the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committees as discussed in the In Camera Session and for the recommendations to be referred to council.

Moved by: J. Richardson

Carried

- b. 9.2 Older Adults Advisory Committee 2021 work plan**

- i. 2021 Work Plan attached

That the Social Sustainability Committee approve the 2021 Older Adults Advisory Committee work plan.

Moved by: S. Sorrento

Carried

- c. 9.3 Recommendation from the Older Adults Advisory Committee: Walker YMCA**

- i. Recommendation attached

“That the item of correspondence from the Advisory Committee on Older Adults regarding the Repurposing of the Walker YMCA into a Community Centre for All Ages be referred to staff for staff’s review and consideration as part of staff’s report to Council on the matter.”

Moved by: J. Richardson

Carried

d. 9.4 Recommendation from the Older Adults Committee: James Street Civic Square Space

- i. Recommendation attached

“That the item of correspondence from the Advisory Committee on Older Adults regarding the James Street Civic Space be referred to staff for staff’s review and consideration.”

Moved by: J. Richardson

Carried

e. 9.5 Accessibility Advisory Committee 2021 work plan

- i. 2021 work plan attached

That the Social Sustainability Committee approve the 2021 Accessibility Advisory Committee work plan.

Moved by: H. Bateman

Carried

f. 9.6 Equity and Inclusion 2021 Work plan

- i. 2021 work plan attached

That the Social Sustainability Committee approve the 2021 Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee work plan.

Moved by: S. Sorrento

Carried

g. 9.7 Review of Leadership Accord for Gender Diversity

- i. Motion from the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (Feb 9, 2021)

Motion that the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee would like City Council to reaffirm its commitment to the necessary staffing and resources as it relates to training, capacity, policy building and implementation of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Moved by H. Bateman, Seconded by T. McLennon

ii. Motion by the Social Sustainable Committee

That the Social Sustainability Committee supports the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee motion and sends to City Council to review the Leadership Accord on Gender Diversity.

Moved by: H. Bateman

Carried

h. 9.8 Resolution in Support of Calls for Action In the Wake of the Islamophobic Attack in London, ON

i. Resolution attached

“That the item of correspondence from the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee regarding the resolution in support of calls for action in the wake of the Islamophobic attack in London, ON be referred to staff for staff’s review and consideration.”

Moved by: S. Sorrento

Carried

i. 9.9 Anti-Racism Advisory Committee motion for Anti-Street Harassment By-law

i. Motion attached

That the Social Sustainability Committee recommend the proposal from the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee to amend the current public nuisance by-law be sent to City Council to request a report back from City staff on the following:

Amend By-law 2007-295 (A By-law to address Public Nuisances) under Section “Prohibitions” to add: “No person shall, in a public place, unnecessarily interfere with another person’s use and enjoyment of the Public Place by using abusive or insulting language as a personal invective.”

Moved by: S. Waziruddin

Carried

j. 9.10 Anti-Racism Advisory Committee motion for racist and hate incident response protocol

i. Deferred to November 4, 2021 meeting

10. Date of next meeting

Thursday, November 04, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

11. Motion to Adjourn

That the Social Sustainability Committee be adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Moved by: J. Richardson

Carried

Attachments:

- Older Adults Advisory Committee 2021 work plan
- Older Adults Advisory Committee recommendation for the Walker Family YMCA
- Older Adults Advisory Committee recommendation for James Street civic space
- Accessibility Advisory Committee 2021 work plan
- Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee 2021 work plan
- Anti-Racism Advisory Committee resolution in support of calls of action in the wake of the Islamophobic attack in London, ON
- Anti-Racism Advisory Committee motion for anti-street harassment by-law

Report from: Advisory Committee on Older Adults

Report to: Social Sustainability Committee

Date of Report: July 2021

2021 Work Plan

Priority Items

Complete Needs Assessment

Description:

To better understand the strengths, areas of concern and priorities for older adults in the City of St. Catharines through the completion of a needs assessment.

Strategic Alignment:

Overall, this work plan item supports building and supporting strong, inclusive neighbourhoods that provide high quality of life for residents of all ages.

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:

Accessibility Advisory Committee

Project Risks:

- The committee may be unable to access resources for completion of a survey.

Schedule and Resources:

1. Step: Review existing information/reports already available to identify key themes and priorities that are relevant to older adults in St. Catharines (e.g. Niagara Age Friendly Community, Living in Niagara Report 2021, previous Older Adults Work Plan, etc)
Tentative Schedule: April 2020 to June 2020 (completed)
Resources Required: Committee member time only
2. Step: Submit application Seniors Community Grant Program
Tentative Schedule: July 15, 2021
Resources Required: Staff resources to assist with the grant application.
Committee member time to work with the staff member.
3. Step: Identify key areas of inquiry and methodology for Needs Assessment.
Tentative Schedule: July to August 2021

Resources Required: Will depend on status of grant application. Staff support for development, survey design, technical components and process issues (e.g. partnerships for survey completion, response to feedback collected, collation of data, etc.)

4. Step: Complete needs assessment

Tentative Schedule: September to October 2021

Resources Required: Staff and committee time, costs of postage and printing for mailed surveys, refreshments for focus groups.

5. Step: Analysis and theming of the needs assessment

Tentative Schedule: November to December 2021

Resources Required: Staff and committee time

Improve Communications with All Residents

Description:

Communication with all residents, particularly older adults is so important, but it can be challenging, given the complexity of some subjects and the wide range of information available and needed by residents on City services and programs. Improved communications will achieve higher consumer satisfaction levels.

Strategic Alignment:

Social Sustainability. This item aligns with the goals of striving for the highest quality of life for all citizens and connecting people, places and neighbourhoods.

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:

Likely alignment with Accessibility and possible alignment with all advisory committees and City departments on communications strategies and implementation with the public

Project Risks:

- Application of existing human resources through awareness-raising education on best practices for effective communications
- Possible budget implications if any operational or capital improvements are required

Schedule and Resources:

1. Step: Understand current City of St. Catharines Communication Plan and age friendly principles currently in place as well as potential gaps, and establish a linkage with a key Communications staff member.

Tentative Schedule: July to September 2021

Resources Required: Committee member time, time from Communication team staff

2. Step: Conduct a scan of the state of City-generated communications to St. Catharines residents by applying an “age-friendly lens” and applying accepted guidelines for effective communications (e.g. Public Health Agency of Canada communications guidelines) in order to determine strengths and possible areas of improvement

Tentative Schedule: tbd based on Needs Assessment

Resources Required: Committee member time

3. Step: Identify other orders of government that are renowned for effective communication with residents to determine best practices for potential replication by the City of St Catharines in all departments

Tentative Schedule: tbd based on Needs Assessment

Resources Required: Committee member time

4. Step: Identify City programs and other services of interest to older adults (cultural, recreational, social, transportation, housing and related services) and assess the relative effectiveness of the communication processes (e.g. electronic, traditional advertising, print and social media, radio etc.) and the availability and ease of access to such information (e.g. size of font in print material, accessibility based on sensory challenges, option for phone contact for inquiries with City staff etc.)

Tentative Schedule: tbd based on Needs Assessment

Resources Required: Committee member time

5. Step: Collaborate with Accessibility Advisory Committee on “wayfinding” initiative and related public signage (e.g. larger font size on street signs etc.)

Tentative Schedule: August - September 2021

Resources Required: Committee members of Accessibility and Older Adults

6. Step: Summarize findings and, as needed, make recommendations for potential improvements in both content and processes of communication to more effectively reach residents

Tentative Schedule: September – February 2022

Resources: Committee member and staff time

Promote Age-Friendly Principles and Practices across all City Functions

Description:

Understanding and acting on the needs of various age groups is a challenge for complex organizations with multiple services and programs. Applying an “age-friendly lens” can help make the City more responsive to meeting the needs of residents and achieve higher consumer satisfaction levels.

Strategic Alignment:

Social Sustainability and Compassionate City objectives

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:

Likely alignment with Accessibility and Youth Task Force and possible alignment with all advisory committees and City departments with strategies and implementation of interactions with the public

Project Risks:

- Application of existing human resources through awareness-raising education on best practices for age-friendly organizations
- Possible budget implications if any operational or capital improvements are required

Schedule and Resources:

1. Step: Identify well-recognized sources of age-friendly principles (e.g. World Health Organizations, Ontario Age-Friendly Community Outreach Project) to establish consensus on the aspirational goal of an Age-Friendly St Catharines

Tentative Schedule: July to September 2021

Resources Required: Committee member time

2. Step: Identify other municipalities that are renowned for being age-friendly to determine best practices for potential replication by the City of St Catharines in all departments

Tentative Schedule: June to November 2021

Resources Required: Committee member time, staff time to support the process

3. Step: Conduct a scan of the state of the targeted City practices relative to identified age-friendly best practices for potential replication by the City of St Catharines in all departments

Tentative Schedule: James Street – July 2021, repurposing of the YMCA – July to August 2021, participation on Equitable Recovery subcommittee – June to September 2021, review of Special Events Policy and Manual to July to August 2021, other areas September 2021 – September 2022

Resources Required: Committee member time, staff time to support process

4. Step: Collaborate with the Youth task force to determine areas of common interest in promoting age-friendly principles and practices, including opportunities for intergenerational interaction and aligning objectives toward the goal of becoming a “compassionate city” for all ages

Tentative Schedule: July to September 2021

Resources Required: Committee member time, staff member time to establish linkage

5. Summarize findings and, as needed, make recommendations for raising awareness about age-friendly principles and practices among City staff, potential improvements in City practices to more effectively serve residents of all ages and community education to enable improvements in St Catharines becoming a “community for all ages”

Tentative Schedule: current to end of term

Resources Required: Committee member time, staff member time to support the process

Timelines TBD or Defer

Award for Older Adults – Best Business

Description:

To create and launch an award that recognizes excellence in business specific to the needs of older adults. This will increase awareness of the specific needs of older adults amongst businesses and the community at large. It will also demonstrate how being age friendly makes good business sense.

Strategic Alignment:

This item supports the City’s commitment to building and growing a diverse and resilient economy through fiscal responsibility, urban regeneration and collaborative partnerships. With older adults representing a large percentage of consumers in St. Catharines, it more specifically supports the strategic goal of continuing to implement the Economic Development Strategy (2017-2022) with particular focus on investments, employment and partnerships to attract, retain and grow the economy of the City.

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:

Accessibility Committee, other potential community partners such as the Chamber of Commerce for example.

Project Risks:

- This project will require dedicated attention to ensure it is well executed. If human resources are not adequate, it could create reputational risk for the City if it is poorly organized.

Schedule and Resources:

1. Step: Gather information from other municipalities that have a similar award
Tentative Schedule:
Resources Required: Committee member time only
2. Step: Liaise with the Accessibility Advisory Committee re: the proposed Accessibility Recognition Program to identify areas of strategic and process alignment.
Tentative Schedule:
Resources Required: Committee member time only
3. Step: Identify criteria, process for selection, venue for award, award structure, award branding/visual identity.
Tentative Schedule:
Resources Required: Staff resources to assist with award branding, venue, funds potentially for award itself and any other support materials, potentially advertising
4. Step: Identify key partners in the community
Tentative Schedule:
Resources Required: Staff resources to establish linkages with potential partners
5. Step: Establish Communication Plan which promotes the benefits of the award (e.g. such as data on the purchasing power of older adults in the City of St. Catharines)
Tentative Schedule:
Resources Required: Staff resources to support communication plan
6. Step: Launch award
Tentative Schedule: TBD – to tie in with an event that provides strategic alignment
Resources Required: TBD dependent upon venue, structure, etc
7. Step: Establish an evaluation process to determine the effectiveness of the award in achieving its objectives
Tentative Schedule: Post event

Resources required: Primarily Committee member time

Improve access to public transit

Description:

To better understand the barriers to transportation within St. Catharines and from St. Catharines for older adults and identify solutions that are realistic and achievable.

Strategic Alignment:

This item aligns with the Strategic Goal of building and supporting strong, inclusive neighbourhoods that provide high quality of life for residents of all ages. More specifically, it supports the goal of improving transportation and overall connectedness.

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:

Accessibility Advisory Committee

Project Risks:

- There are no significant risks

Schedule and Resources:

1. Step: Gather information internally within City of St. Catharines related to transit use by older adults e.g. utilization, time of use, etc.
Tentative Schedule: [Estimated timeline for this step.]
Resources Required: Staff time to gather and share information
2. Step: Liaise with other municipalities to identify creative, innovative and actionable solutions others have implemented that have been demonstrated to improve access to transit by older adults and are fiscally responsible (e.g. City of Niagara Falls, Burlington)
Tentative Schedule: [Estimated timeline for this step.]
Resources Required: Staff to establish linkages with other municipalities
3. Step: Analysis of information from steps 1 and 2, with data already gathered from Action Item 1 (Environmental Scan) related specifically to transportation
Tentative Schedule: [Estimated timeline for this step.]
Resources Required: Primarily committee member time
4. Step: Identify and recommend at least one potential solution for implementation.
Tentative Schedule: [Estimated timeline for this step.]
Resources Required: Primarily committee member time. Solution/s would likely require additional resources.

Housing

Description:

Adequate housing is essential to one's sense of dignity, inclusion and ability to contribute to the fabric of our neighbourhoods and societies. Adequate housing is essential to the reduction of poverty and social inclusion as noted *Synthesis Report: Housing Policy and Practice in the context of Poverty Reduction and Exclusion (August 2005)*.

Develop an environmental scan of the housing concerns of older adults in the City of St Catharines, by collecting resident's feedback, analyze responses and data in order to determine;

- Opportunities of partnerships with community organizations, developers, and builders
- Opportunities of partnerships with Niagara Regional Housing A HOME FOR ALL, this is a four goal 10-year Community Action Plan by Niagara Region to help everyone in Niagara have a home
- Opportunities of partnerships with other municipalities in Niagara
- Opportunities to build on existing community assets
- Gaps in resources to enable recommendations to the City.

Strategic Alignment:

This item enables information gathering to determine the resources, supports and services available and identify gaps. This connects to the social well-being goal to build and support, strong inclusive neighbourhoods that provide high quality of life of

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:

- Opportunities to partner with builders, developers and municipalities.
- Opportunities to liaise with LGBTQ2+ advisory committee

Project Risks:

City accountability to ensure compliance standard of businesses

Schedule and Resources:

1. Step: Members conduct scan/research of services/resources of housing, available in the City of St Catharines. Identify point person to reach out to organizations, builders and developers to gather and clarify information.

Tentative Schedule:

Resources Required: Use of City IT department to collect data from community organizations

2. Step: Review information gathered, identify gaps, research housing models to address these gaps. Research action undertaken at other municipalities/community organizations to address these gaps, for inclusion in dialog with builders and developers to bridge these gaps

Tentative Schedule:

Resources Required: Identify point person to reach out to organizations, builders and developers to gather and clarify information.

3. Step: Recommendation of Housing needs, short falls and report to Council

Tentative Schedule: [Estimated timeline for this step.]

Resources Required: [Estimated resources required for this step.]

Recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Older Adults: Repurposing of the Walker YMCA into a Community Centre for All Ages

The Advisory Committee on Older Adults would like to provide some input into the City's exploration of options regarding the Walker YMCA site and specifically how there appears to be an opportunity for the City or St Catharines to potentially gain a valuable municipal community centre.

We recognize the complexity of the issue and likely challenges, given the sudden emergence of this development and the City having existing strategic plans, approved capital budgets etc.; however, applying a visionary lens to this scenario, while combining realistic funding strategies, could potentially enable the City to capitalize on this opportunity.

A multi-purpose community centre for all ages could accommodate several viable components including:

- the existing childcare and other related programs suitably collocated in a community centre
- programs for older adults, as well as for youth and younger adults
- fitness and aquatic programs for the public
- multi use space for varied community use

A multi-purpose community centre would:

- meet a need for a progressive intergenerational space reflective of a modern community
- align social, recreational, fitness and cultural needs of people of all ages with age-friendly community principles that are espoused globally by such entities as the World Health Organization and the Public Health Agency of Canada
- enable St Catharines to catch up with and exceed what other local municipalities have recently done in the development of successful all-ages community centres. (Niagara-on-the-Lake, Pelham and West Lincoln are excellent examples. Welland has repurposed a former seniors centre into a multipurpose wellness centre for people of all ages, without losing the programming for older adults.)

To assist with addressing challenging funding issues, possibilities could include:

- consolidating programming at this site, enabling the potential sale of other City of St. Catharines assets e.g. Dunlop Drive Older Adult Centre, Russell Avenue Community Centre with proceeds going to the acquisition of the YMCA site or future operating costs.

- fitness memberships
- older adult centre fees
- public admission fees for specific features/events/programs
- user fees or rent for programs located at the site
- partnerships with other aligned programs

This is a potentially transformational opportunity for meeting the need for a community centre now and into the future. We urge staff and Council to be visionaries in this regard, as they were in taking bold steps in downtown revitalization with the support of projects such as the Meridian Centre and the First Ontario Performing Arts Centre.

The Advisory Committee on Older Adults would be pleased to elaborate on any of the points made herein, and to contribute further to the consideration of a community centre for all ages.

Recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Older Adults: James Street Civic Space

The ***Older Adults Advisory Committee*** is fully supportive of an age friendly, enhanced outdoor, pedestrian place on James Street, from Church to King. The entire area from the western perimeter of market square formed by the federal building and the retail buildings to the south, the entire area between Church and King including James St to the library entrance should be one integrated Town Square prioritizing daily pedestrian access to the amenities throughout the year.

Paving stones, grassy area, all-season gardens and shade trees, other piazza-like design features with permanent attractive outdoor furniture for sitting and eating, a focal point such as a fountain or stage (for live performances and movies), and an open area for a skating rink should all combine to eliminate any trace of existing streets with curbs and existing parking lot and replaced by a purposeful people-oriented space that serves as the vibrant heart of the city. Other important amenities should include the existing market/outdoor vendor area, bike racks and fully accessible, clean washrooms. Access to ample parking will also be important.

Springer Square next to the Kingston City Hall and Byward Market in Ottawa serve as modest Canadian examples. The piazzas in most towns in Italy serve as excellent examples of multi-purpose people spaces to which St Catharines can aspire. This opportunity allows for a generational transformation that can define community life in our city for generations to come. It will supplement the transformation of our downtown that includes Meridian Centre, First Ontario Performing Arts Centre and Marilyn I. Walker School for Fine and Performing Arts and an increase in housing in the downtown core. Further, we are currently seeing the vibrancy of the downtown core simply with the closure of James and St. Paul Streets on the weekend. A year-round civic square will make our downtown more appealing to live, work and play with accompanying economic benefits now and in the future.

We look forward to seeing the development of this transformational project.

Report from: Accessibility Advisory Committee

Report to: Social Sustainability Committee

Date of Report: June 23, 2021 – Endorsed by AAC

2021 Work Plan

Work with Equity and Inclusion Committee on a Recognition Program

Description:

Provide research and samples of similar programs from other municipalities and organizations (i.e. Rick Hansen Foundation, City of Burlington, etc.) to Pillar committee/Council (to the E&I committee). Our goal is to collaborate with equity seeking advisory committees to shape our own program that honours significant contributions from individuals, organizations and businesses in the area of inclusive service/accomplishments. Creating a program like this will inform and educate residents about the benefits of an inclusive community and demonstrate our commitment to being a compassionate city.

Strategic Alignment:

This work plan item supports the strategic plan in that it embraces diversity, equity and inclusion and enables people to achieve success.

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:

Equity and Inclusion Committee

Project Risks:

- Risks of this item are the workload, as it will need a well planned project schedule if approved and will also have budget implications. Will also need to engage other stakeholders, so participation is another variable.

Schedule and Resources:

1. Step: Have accepted invitation to collaborate with Equity and Inclusion committee, waiting on response to move forward in 2021
Tentative Schedule: September 2021
Resources Required: time and place (committee members home offices, etc), computer programs to produce documents.

2. Step: committee members to research and produce a checklist or report with recommendations for the Accessibility Advisory Committee and Equity and Inclusion Committee.

Tentative Schedule: June 2021

Resources Required: time to research and create checklist. Then form recommendations.

3. Step: ongoing collaboration with Equity and Inclusion committee for project
Tentative Schedule: TBD

St. Catharines digital wayfinding – website accessible experiences

Description:

Made recommendations to showcase accessible experiences in a digital format on the city's existing digital platform www.lovestc.ca mapping accessible features, routes and amenities across city locations and providing helpful navigation and planning information to residents and visitors seeking accessible experiences.

Strategic Alignment:

Supports Strategic plan's goal in social well-being area. High quality of life for residents of all ages

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:

Engaged members of the public in areas of representation not currently represented in the working group or AAC. The wayfinding work group has been working closely with staff from the Economic Development Department on this initiative.

Project Risks:

- Risks of this item are the workload, as it will need a well planned project schedule if approved and will also have budget implications. Will also need to engage other stakeholders, so participation is another variable.

Schedule and Resources:

1. Step: provide guidance resources based on experiences to Economic Development as required for site development.
Tentative Schedule: ongoing in 2021, timeline dependent on departments progress
Resources Required: volunteer and staff time and computer/software resources

Review feasibility of making carousel more accessible

Description:

A recommendation was made to the Social Pillar committee to request that staff produce a report on the feasibility of improving the accessibility of the carousel. The recommendation was passed by the Social Pillar and the AAC is waiting on the report from staff.

Strategic Alignment:

Supports Strategic plan's goal in social well-being area. High quality of life for residents of all ages and abilities

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:

Rec Master Plan Advisory Committee, Social Sustainability Committee, Friends of the Carousel, TSSA approval/consultation.

Project Risks:

- Risks of this item are the costs, feasibility, and potential barriers with heritage aspects of the asset. Will also need to engage other stakeholders, including the TSSA, so participation is another variable.

Schedule and Resources:

1. Step: Request report for committee review. Assist with recommendations if another review is warranted or feasibility is established.
Tentative Schedule: Q4 or early 2022
Resources Required: Time and computer/software resources
2. Step: assist with recommendation and review development plans with assigned staff if going forward
Tentative Schedule: will be through 2022
Resources Required: staff resources, time and computer software

Ongoing Plans review

Description:

Should capture the ongoing responsibility of AAC for plan review – buildings, roads, playgrounds, trails and other areas of public use

Strategic Alignment:

Supports legislative requirements and service delivery

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:

Different staff groups, Rec Master Plan Advisory Committee, members of public

Project Risks:

- Fairly low risk, should be mentioned there is a risk to the Corporation of the City of St. Catharines if feedback/recommendations to adhere to legislative requirements is not implemented per timelines.

Schedule and Resources:

1. Step: Work to identify family oriented areas that may need improvements
Tentative Schedule: ongoing
Resources Required: Time and computer/software resources

Collaborate with Transportation Advisory Committee

Description:

A member from the AAC would sit on the Transportation advisory committee, pending approval of amending their terms of reference. This person will represent the AAC on matters discussed at the Transportation advisory committee.

Strategic Alignment:

Promotes service excellence in the area of social well-being, accountability, inclusive for people of all abilities.

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:

Transportation Advisory Committee

Project Risks:

- Time commitment, approval of updated TOR.

Schedule and Resources:

1. Step: waiting on confirmation from Staff Liaison from Transportation Advisory committee
Tentative Schedule: TBD
Resources Required: [Estimated resources required for this step.]
2. Step: [Description of the work required to achieve this step of the project.]
Tentative Schedule: [Estimated timeline for this step.]

Resources Required: [Estimated resources required for this step.]

3. Step: [Description of the work required to achieve this step of the project.]
Tentative Schedule: [Estimated timeline for this step.]
Resources Required: [Estimated resources required for this step.]
4. Step: [Description of the work required to achieve this step of the project.]
Tentative Schedule: [Estimated timeline for this step.]
Resources Required: [Estimated resources required for this step.]

Work with Recreation Master plan committee – increase awareness for valuable partnerships needed to improve accessible recreation spaces

Description:

Planning to approach and foster relationship with recreation master plan committee. As identified by committee members, residents or staff.

Strategic Alignment:

Supports Strategic plan's goal in social well-being area. High quality of life for residents of all ages and abilities.

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:

Collaborating with rec master plan committee, Green committee, Community, Recreation and Culture Services department.

Project Risks:

- Time, budget, volume of collaboration required, community participation,

Schedule and Resources:

1. Step: Reach out to committee and initiate a discussion.
Tentative Schedule: July-Sept 2021
Resources Required: time
2. Step: continue discussions on going as plans and projects arise.
Tentative Schedule: ongoing
Resources Required: time

Work with Municipal Works department on improved snow removal services

Description:

Perform research and provide recommendations based on the City's existing snow removal plan, seeking out accessibility improvements in snow removal procedures to reduce barriers presented by inclement weather. Identify areas that present barriers to mobility in the current plan and make recommendations for improvement of procedures within operational realities.

Strategic Alignment:

Supports goal of social wellbeing – high quality of life for residents of all ages and abilities. Continual excellence in service delivery.

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:

Involvement with Transportation department and Transportation Advisory Committee.

Project Risks:

Operational realities, Budget, snow removal plan update timeline.

Schedule and Resources:

1. Step: Establish a working group to review current snow removal plan to identify areas of need or needing alteration.
Tentative Schedule: 2021
Resources Required: volunteer time outside AAC.
2. Step: Working group to perform research on other municipalities snow removal practices and report initial findings to the AAC.
Tentative Schedule: 2021
Resources Required: Volunteer time outside AAC.
3. Step: AAC to Engage Transportation Department on initial findings and potential solutions.
Tentative Schedule: Q4 2021
Resources Required: Staff and Committee time.
4. Step: Working group to produce document or report with findings and recommendations for improvement and present to AAC.
Tentative Schedule: Q1 2022
Resources Required: Time
5. Step: AAC Make recommendation for plan update based on produced report.
Tentative Schedule: Q1 2022
Resources Required: Time

Recommendations for updating Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Description:

Make recommendations for an update to the Terms of Reference for all advisory committees to include representation of persons with disabilities on each of the advisory committees to council.

Strategic Alignment:

Embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion in City practices, and continued service excellence.

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:

Social Pillar Committee

Project Risks:

Timeline for next Terms of Reference update.

Schedule and Resources:

1. Step: Have discussion amongst AAC on the particulars of the recommendation (how much representation to recommend and on what committees).
Tentative Schedule: Fall 2021
Resources Required: Committee time
2. Step: Make Recommendation to Social Pillar Committee for an Advisory Terms of Reference update.
Tentative schedule: Recommendations to the Pillar 2022
Resources Required: staff and committee time.

Equitable Recovery Sub Committee Involvement

Description:

A member of the AAC will join as a member of the Equitable Recovery Sub Committee alongside other members from equity seeking committees. Sub Committee involvement will focus on representing the disability community's needs in the City's Covid-19 recovery plan to ensure equitable recovery.

Strategic Alignment:

Supports diversity, equity, and inclusion enabling success in all community areas.
Supports social well being.

Involvement with other Advisory Committees/Public:

Involvement with all participating committees in the Equitable Recovery Sub Committee including the Equity and Inclusion Committee among others.

Project Risks:

Creation of the subcommittee, Volunteer time and involvement, staff resources.

Schedule and Resources:

1. Step: Identified member of the AAC to represent the committee on the sub committee.
Tentative Schedule: completed April 2021

- Required Resources: Volunteer time
2. Step: Creation of the Equitable Recovery Sub Committee
Tentative Schedule: spring 2021
Resources Required: staff time and resources.
 3. Step: Involvement and participation with the sub committees scheduled meetings.
Tentative Schedule: summer 2021
Required Resources: volunteer time.
 4. Step: AAC Sub committee member to report back to AAC with updates and/or for feedback where appropriate until the completion of the sub committee's goal.
Tentative schedule: summer-fall 2021
Resources Required: Time

[Year] Accomplishments

[Insert title for work plan item.]

Description:

[Provide a brief description of the work item.]

Outcome:

[Provide a brief description of the outcomes of the work item.]

Strategic Alignment:

[Explain the relationship between the work plan item and the Strategic Plan, Guiding Document, or strategic priority.]

Start and End Date:

[Insert start and end date for item.]

Resources Used:

[Provide information on the resources used.]

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:

[Provide an overview of input / involvement of other advisory committees or the public.]

[Insert title for work plan item.]

Description:

[Provide a brief description of the work item.]

Outcome:

[Provide a brief description of the outcomes of the work item.]

Strategic Alignment:

[Explain the relationship between the work plan item and the Strategic Plan, Guiding Document, or strategic priority.]

Start and End Date:

[Insert start and end date for item.]

Resources Used:

[Provide information on the resources used.]

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:

[Provide an overview of input / involvement of other advisory committees or the public.]

[Insert title for work plan item.]**Description:**

[Provide a brief description of the work item.]

Outcome:

[Provide a brief description of the outcomes of the work item.]

Strategic Alignment:

[Explain the relationship between the work plan item and the Strategic Plan, Guiding Document, or strategic priority.]

Start and End Date:

[Insert start and end date for item.]

Resources Used:

[Provide information on the resources used.]

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:

[Provide an overview of input / involvement of other advisory committees or the public.]

[Insert title for work plan item.]**Description:**

[Provide a brief description of the work item.]

Outcome:

[Provide a brief description of the outcomes of the work item.]

Strategic Alignment:

[Explain the relationship between the work plan item and the Strategic Plan, Guiding Document, or strategic priority.]

Start and End Date:

[Insert start and end date for item.]

Resources Used:

[Provide information on the resources used.]

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:

[Provide an overview of input / involvement of other advisory committees or the public.]

Report from: Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee

Report to: Social Sustainability Committee

Date of Report: April 14th, 2021

2021 Workplan

The Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (EIAC) is a volunteer committee established to provide leadership and advice to City Council on matters related to equity, inclusion, and the elimination of discrimination using an intersectional equity lens and community driven approach.

In April 2020, all citizen advisory committee meetings were postponed until further notice. This is not only because facilities were closed, but also because staff were refocused and redeployed to emergency and essential services. In May, Council approved [Report LCS-073-2020](#), to permit advisory committees and task forces to hold meetings using electronic participation during the COVID-19 pandemic, at the discretion of the Chief Administrative Officer or Deputy Chief Administrative Office.

A new Staff Liaison took over the role and Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee has continued with online participation for monthly meetings since July 2020.

Due to the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee's workplan was affected: new items came to the committee for consideration, as many equity-seeking groups were disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Several items from the 2020 workplan will continue as part of the 2021 workplan.

Despite the challenges, the committee did accomplish meaningful work that will contribute to the betterment of the city.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Haley Bateman on behalf of the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee

Outstanding 2020 Workplan Items (Continuing in 2021)

Once electronic meetings resumed, the committee divided the remaining workplan items amongst committee members. The work on these items is ongoing.

Equity and Inclusion Training

Description:

Committee provides expert resources, lived experience to advise on the development and improvement of equity and inclusion training resources for Council, staff, advisory committees.

Committee supports Council, staff and advisory committees to receive training to become leaders in equity and inclusion, to support the city's strategic goals, service to the public, customer service.

Strategic Alignment:

Social sustainability goal: "Build and support strong, inclusive neighbourhoods that provide high quality of life for residents of all ages."

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:

Seek input from other committees, volunteers on training needs, missing information. Training is rolled out to all city volunteers and advisory committees, community, city staff.

Project Risks:

- Adequate resources for training program development / implementation.
- Duplication and overlap with other advisory committees' research and mandate.

Schedule and Resources:

1. Diversity, Inclusion and Gender Equity Staff Role at the City of St. Catharines

The committee supported the role of an Equity and Inclusion Officer to be included in the 2020 budget, and after being deferred a November 2020 update to the Budget Standing committee included a plan to bring this position on board in the fourth quarter of 2021. Due to the volume of work associated with the equity seeking committees and the present demand for this skill set, staff have recommended to council that the hiring be advanced to the second quarter of 2021 for a full-time permanent position.

At its meeting of March 8th, 2021, council voted in favour of staff proceeding with the recruitment of a full-time permanent diversity, equity and inclusion staff person.

Tentative Schedule: Q2, 2021

Resources Required: Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee members will continue to work with staff on equity and inclusion training policies.

2. Equity training for members of City Council

At its meeting on February 9th, 2021, the committee passed the following motions:

Motion that the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee recommend that City Council, for the term 2018-2022, take mandatory equity and inclusion training and anti-racism training by the end of 2021, and that going forward, this training be part of new council term orientation.

Motion to send the request for mandatory equity and inclusion training and anti-racism training for the members of Council to the Anti-Racism Committee and LGBTQ2+ Committee for feedback before going to council.

Step: The Staff Liaison has sent notification to the Staff Liaison for the other two equity-seeking committees for feedback, and the Chair has been advised by staff to take the motion to the Social Pillar Committee's next meeting (April 2021).

Tentative Schedule: Training to occur before the end of Q4 2021.

Resources Required: The Deputy Clerk has informed the Chair that the Niagara Region has initiated equity training recently for their Council and based on their experience, the Deputy Clerk has been in discussions with Brock University to arrange similar training for city Council.

Friendly and Accessible Community Signage

Description:

Develop signs to promote St. Catharines as friendly, accessible community to international students, newcomers, promote accessibility, Indigenous language.

All signage for the City created by the Corporate Communications team is developed under current communications standards - using plain language, inclusive imagery, and accessible as we have taken accessibility training through Accessible Services Canada and are certified.

Strategic Alignment:

Social sustainability goal: "Build and support strong, inclusive neighbourhoods that provide high quality of life for residents of all ages."

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:

Other applicable advisory committees as appropriate.

Project Risks:

- Budget for implementation

Schedule and Resources:

1. **Step:** Review the City's communication strategy using an intersectional equity lens and community driven approach.

Tentative Schedule: Q3 2020, ongoing.

Resources Required: City of St. Catharine's communication staff are working on a friendly and accessible communication Strategic Plan. This work has been slowed-down due to COVID-19, thus the committee is expecting an update from the City's communication staff when appropriate.

The Communications division has a five-year Communications plan, an integrated Communications policy, a social media strategy, and started to work on a public engagement best practices guide that has been put on hold. All Corporate Communications (graphics, social media posts, signage) are in accessible formats.

2. **Step:** Review the City's website using an intersectional equity lens and community driven approach.

Tentative Schedule: Ongoing 2021

Resources Required: Staff informed committee members that the City of St. Catharine's website is in the process of an update to make it more accessible. Committee members expect an update when appropriate.

Corporate Communications had a public survey and will again have a public survey relating to the website on EngageSTC as we move forward with the website. The Accessibility Advisory Committee will be involved with Navigation (depends on the disability as this is online with Tree Jack and guided session) Testing, once the site is in the staging (content is in and we are in the process of QA) we will give them access to provide feedback (this is great for people that use Jaws/ZoomText) what works, what we may have to change – could be minor updates at this stage, usually wording for example or calls to action).

3. **Step:** Recommend ways to promote events, ceremonies, heritage to multicultural groups.

Tentative Schedule: Q4 2021

Resources Required: Tourism STC Staff

Recognizing the Improvement of Equity and Inclusivity in the Community

Description:

Develop program to recognize individuals, businesses, community groups for inclusion and equity actions and leadership.

Strategic Alignment:

Social sustainability goal: "Build and support strong, inclusive neighbourhoods that provide high quality of life for residents of all ages."

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:

- Other equity-seeking committees to provide feedback.
- Potential connection to other committees for nominations.
- Work with Volunteer Recognition night for award presentation (as noted in committee terms of reference)

Project Risks:

- Potential conflict with existing awards and recognition programs.
- Budget

Schedule and Resources:

1. **Step:** Develop criteria for recognition
Tentative Schedule: Q1 2021
Resources Required:
2. **Step:** Review literature and other municipalities' existing programs for recognition.
Tentative Schedule: Q1 2021
Resources Required: Research by committee members compiled and presented
3. **Step:** Present draft plan to the Committee, distribute to other equity-seeking committees for feedback
Tentative Schedule: Q1 2021
Resources Required: Feedback from other equity seeking committees
4. **Step:** Work with corporate communications, other advisory committees to promote nominations
Tentative Schedule: Ongoing 2021
Resources Required: Corporate communications support, CRCS staff support, possibly the Mayor's office.
Budget for award TBD

Review the Leadership Accord for Gender Diversity

Description:

The City of St. Catharines has signed on to the [Leadership Accord for Gender Diversity](#). City Council referred the program to the Equity and Advisory Committee to review, make recommendations. The committee will review the program, meet with city staff, make recommendations as needed.

It is our opinion that the Leadership Accord on Gender Diversity should roll into the 2021 Work Plan. In December 2020, our motion was approved by the Social Pillar Committee to review harassment and any supports that are in place for Councillors. Although this item is not specific to gender, it is our opinion that harassment in politics is a barrier to equity-seeking groups and examining the environment for supports is the first step in creating a solution that would encourage more women and non-binary people to participate as members of council.

Strategic Alignment:

Social sustainability goal: "Build and support strong, inclusive neighbourhoods that provide high quality of life for residents of all ages."

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:

Scan other advisory committees for issues, concerns, opportunities for improvement under the Leadership Accord program, evaluation.

Project Risks:

- City may not have resources to support implementation

Schedule and Resources:

1. **Step:** February 9th, 2021 meeting requested a City Staff member provide an update of the program and a review of the Plan for the Accord. Through this work plan item, we are supporting the exploration of harassment of politicians and the resources available to them. Make recommendations on policies, procedures, improvements identified for Council, staff to support the leadership accord.

Tentative Schedule: Ongoing

Resources Required: Information as needed from staff

Environmental Scan of Niagara agencies

Description:

Research Niagara-based organizations in equity and inclusion for opportunities to partner, work together.

Strategic Alignment:

Social sustainability goal: "Build and support strong, inclusive neighbourhoods that provide high quality of life for residents of all ages."

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:

Scan other committees / community agencies as part of environmental scan.

Project Risks:

- Duplication of work.

Schedule and Resources:

1. **Step:** Review Niagara resources and agencies
Tentative Schedule: Ongoing
Resources Required: Committee member's research

Cassie Ogunniyi, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Program Manager at the Region has compiled a Community Organization List and a list of Cultural and Diversity Related Organization. She has agreed to share the lists with the committee.

2021 New Workplan Items

Equitable Recovery Plan

Description:

The pandemic has disproportionately affected equity-seeking groups. Review ongoing City Recovery Plans using an intersectional equity lens and community driven approach and provide advice for a more equitable recovery from affects of COVID-19.

The Committee feels that this work should be undertaken by a subcommittee made up of members of all the city's equity-seeking advisory committees and have begun the process of forming a subcommittee.

Strategic Alignment:

Social sustainability goal: "Build and support strong, inclusive neighbourhoods that provide high quality of life for residents of all ages."

Involvement with other Advisory Committees / Public:

Submit recommendations to other equity seeking committees for review and feedback before advising Council.

Project Risks:

City budget limitations, scope/jurisdictions of policy and responsibilities of different levels of government

Schedule and Resources:

1. **Step:** Research and draft policy proposals
Tentative Schedule: Q1 2021

Resources Required: Committee member's research

2. **Step:** Send to other equity seeking committees for review and feedback

Tentative Schedule: Q1-Q2 2021

Resources Required: Other committees' input and consideration

3. **Step:** Advise Council, continue to look for ways to ensure an ongoing, equitable recovery

Tentative Schedule: Ongoing

Resources Required: Equity seeking committees

Supports for Newcomers

Description:

Conduct research and gather demographics, including but not limited to statistics and an environmental scan of the skilled newcomer labour market (Niagara region), outlining those individuals who were not granted the opportunity to work within their skill set due to being newcomers.

Strategic Alignment:

Social sustainability goal: "Build and support strong, inclusive neighbourhoods that provide high quality of life for residents of all ages."

Project Risks:

- Duplicated work of local agencies
- Policies outside of the scope of municipal responsibilities
- Budget

Schedule and Resources:

1. **Step:** Research and evaluate current municipal supports, scan other municipalities for innovative policies, make recommendations

Tentative Schedule: Q2 2021

Resources Required: Committee member's research

2020 Accomplishments

Expense Policy for Advisory Committee and Task Force Members

Description:

Implement an expense policy for childcare/dependent care and travel-related expenses for volunteers on city committees to eliminate barriers to participation.

Outcome:

In January 2021, the City implemented an expense policy for volunteers to access, removing financial barriers for participation as it relates to travel, childcare and dependent care.

Strategic Alignment:

Social sustainability goal: "Build and support strong, inclusive neighbourhoods that provide high quality of life for residents of all ages."

Start and End Date:

Work began November 2019 and the policy was implemented January 2021.

Resources Used:

Committee research and staff time.

Resolution to Support Calls to Action in Wake of London Islamophobic Attack

updated: July 21, 2021

Background

The National Council of Canadian Muslims has called for a national summit on Islamophobia in the wake of the London attacks. This summit will be held on July 22, 2021.

The City of Toronto passed a motion in support of this summit as well as several other actions, the motion with the two amendments strengthening it can be found here <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.MM34.43>

I had circulated earlier reports from the Niagara Regional Police of hate-crimes in St. Catharines and how none were prosecuted as hate crimes, in one case the police had even asked for it to be prosecuted as a hate crimes.

Many politicians are expressing regret for having supported Islamophobic politics before, see for example from MP Michelle Rempel <https://mprempel.ca/news/f/on-islamophobia-and-the-london-attack>

Section 13 of the Canada Human Rights Act prohibited online hate but was removed/repealed under the Harper government.

The proposal here is for St. Catharines to support the same calls for actions

Resolution in Support of Calls for Action In the Wake of the Islamophobic Attack in London, Ontario

WHEREAS on June 6, 2021, members of a Muslim family were killed in a racist terrorist attack which targeted the family because of they were Muslim; and

WHEREAS Islamophobia is a form of racism and needs to be addressed systemically, and

WHEREAS the National Council of Canadian Muslims has called for a national summit on Islamophobia and the Federal Minister of Diversity, Inclusion, and Youth has committed to holding this summit, and

WHEREAS none of the police-reported hate crimes in Niagara in the last two years have been prosecuted as hate crimes, per the reports of the Niagara Regional Police Service; and

WHEREAS the attack suspect has been charged with terrorism

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee recommends the City of St. Catharines condemn the London attack of June 6, 2021 as an act of Islamophobia and terrorism; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee recommends the City of St. Catharines support the call for a national summit on Islamophobia, endorse the demands for

federal, provincial, and municipal actions from the National Council of Canadian Muslims submitted to the submit, and consider endorsing the calls to action from the summit;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee recommends the City of St. Catharines urges provincial crown prosecution attorneys to aggressively prosecute hate crimes as hate crimes; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee recommends the City of St. Catharines asks the province of Ontario to re-instate funding for the Anti-Racism Directorate; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee recommends the City of St. Catharines condemn politicians and governments of all political backgrounds who promote hate, including but not limited to xenophobia and Islamophobia, for political gain; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee recommends the City of St. Catharines call upon the Government of Canada to immediately introduce and strengthen laws to address online hate speech, including white supremacy and the distribution of hateful materials targeting minority groups, including Muslims, and including considering re-introducing Section 13 of the Canada Human Rights Act which targeted online hate; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee recommends the City of St. Catharines denounce the Quebec Charter of Values and Bill 21 as they are inherently biased toward people of faith and in this context in particular Muslim women for its ban on the hijab and other head coverings; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee recommends the City of St. Catharines support and invite public discussions on how to prevent online hate in coordination with the efforts of other levels of government

Motion to Recommend City Council Amend Nuisance By-Law to Ban Street Harassment

St. Catharines Anti-Racism Advisory Committee, April 20, 2021

Background

This issue first came to my attention because the National Council of Canadian Muslims has a campaign to get the City of Edmonton to pass an anti-street harassment bylaw because of Muslim women being publicly harassed there <https://www.nccm.ca/edmonton/>.

Then I found that right here in Ontario we have a city that already has such a bylaw – the City of London: <https://london.ca/by-laws/public-nuisance-law-ph-18>

“4.1 UNNECESSARY INTERFERENCE WITH USE AND ENJOYMENT OF PUBLIC PLACE

(1) In section 4.1 only, “Public Place” is defined as: “Public Place” includes a Highway, public park, or other lands to which the public has access as of right or by invitation and includes private property that is exposed to public view.

(2) No person shall, in a Public Place, unnecessarily interfere with another person’s use and enjoyment of the Public Place by using abusive or insulting language as a personal invective.”

And you will never guess where the court case was that was the legal basis for this by-law – right here in Niagara! You can see the staff recommendation here <https://pub-london.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=44975> they refer to the Ontario Court of Appeals case of the late Fred Bracken vs Niagara Parks (<https://www.ontariocourts.ca/decisions/2018/2018ONCA0261.pdf> Bracken v. Niagara Parks Police, 2018 ONCA 261) which found that it doesn't violate charter rights to ban:

“ (1) disturbing other persons and (2) using abusive or insulting language.”

This by-law has been successfully used to prosecute two men, street preachers, who were yelling personal insults at women (see among other stories <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/london-street-preachers-charged-1.5067761>).

NOTE this is actually another spin-off of the anti-hate speech by-law we contemplated earlier. It turns out not only is it possible to have a by-law against hate speech that is unconnected to property, it's already being done in Ontario by another city, using a legal precedent from our very own Niagara!

In fact St. Catharines already has a by-law making it illegal to not identify yourself to a municipal by-law officer on their request (<https://stcatharines.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/?preview=57509> refusal to ID to bylaw enforcement 2007-295, I've attached the by-law separately). This only makes sense for how existing by-laws about access to beaches, anti-graffiti, etc. would be enforced by municipal by-law officers.

The existing St. Catharines public nuisance by-law is at

<https://stcatharines.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/?preview=2624> 2007-295 regulate public nuisances. The City of London by-law lifted language from the Ontario Court of Appeals decision and we can lift the same language to amend the St. Catharines public nuisance by-law.

Motion

WHEREAS hate and personal abuse directed at individuals is contrary to the values of the City of St. Catharines; and

WHEREAS there is a legal precedent when in 2018 the Ontario Court of Appeals decided in Bracken v. Niagara Parks Police, 2018 ONCA 261, that a regulatory body can make it an offense to use insulting and abusive language against an individual; and

WHEREAS the City of London passed a by-law PH-18 on public nuisances which states that “No person shall, in a Public Place, unnecessarily interfere with another person’s use and enjoyment of the Public Place by using abusive or insulting language as a personal invective,” and has successfully prosecuted violators in court

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee recommends to city council to amend By-law 2007-295 (A By-law to address Public Nuisances) under Section 2 “Prohibitions” to add:

“No person shall, in a public place, unnecessarily interfere with another person’s use and enjoyment of the Public Place by using abusive or insulting language as a personal invective.”