



MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2013 – 9 A.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBER

SECOND FLOOR, CIVIC CENTRE

300 CITY CENTRE DRIVE, MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO, L5B 3C1

www.mississauga.ca

MEMBERS/AGENCY LIAISONS

PRESENT:

Councillor George Carlson, Ward 11 (CHAIR)
Michael DeWit, Citizen Member (VICE-CHAIR)
Councillor Jim Tovey, Ward 1 (arrived at 9:13 a.m. due to Other
Municipal Business)
Councillor Frank Dale, Ward 4
Dr. Brad Bass, Citizen Member
Stephanie Crocker, EcoSource
Elaine Hanson, Sheridan College, Office for Sustainability (departed
at 10:48 a.m.)
Lucas Krist, Peel Environmental Youth Alliance
Lea Ann Mallett, Citizen Member
Rahul Mehta, EcoSource
Val Ohori, Citizen Member
Maureen Ricker, Citizen Member
Carl Rodgers, Citizen Member
Lucia Salvati, University of Toronto Mississauga

MEMBER ABSENT:

Diana Yoon, Peel Environmental Youth Alliance

STAFF PRESENT:

Mary Bracken, Environmental Specialist
Wendy Law, Deputy City Solicitor
Julius Lindsay, Community Energy Specialist
Andrea J. McLeod, Environmental Specialist
Brenda Osborne, Director, Environment
Annie Thuan, Legal Counsel
Lisa Urbani, Environmental Research Assistant

CONTACT PERSON: Julie Lavertu, Legislative Coordinator
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Julie.Lavertu@mississauga.ca

NOTE: The Committee changed the order of the Agenda during the meeting. These Minutes reflect the order of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER – 9:05 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair said that the order of the agenda would be changed to accommodate deputants and other attendees who are arriving late and/or leaving early due to various reasons.

Approved as Amended (F. Dale)

DECLARATIONS OF DIRECT (OR INDIRECT) PECUNIARY INTEREST – Nil

MATTERS CONSIDERED

1. Introduction of New Environmental Advisory Committee Citizen Members

The Committee's two new Citizen Members, Ms. Mallett and Mr. Rodgers, briefly introduced themselves to the Committee.

PRESENTATIONS/DEPUTATIONS

- B. Item 4 Ruwanthi (Ru) Halwala, Intern, International Holistic Tourism Education Centre, with respect to the prevention of plastics from Mississauga entering rivers and the Great Lakes.

Ms. Halwala gave a PowerPoint presentation, dated May 7, 2013 and entitled "Mississauga Plastic Litter: The Prevention of Plastics from Mississauga Entering Streams, Rivers, the Great Lakes, and the Ocean," and discussed the International Holistic Tourism Education Centre (IHTEC), Captain Charles Moore and his Plastic Ocean book, land to ocean issues, throwaway economies, the impact of plastic litter on whales and sea birds, Mississauga, Erindale as a case study for plastic litter, current litter initiatives in Mississauga and the Region of Peel and gaps and further research needed, international and IHTEC recommendations, future implications, and IHTEC's educational materials.

Councillor Tovey arrived at 9:13 a.m.

Committee members raised various issues including:

- The sources of plastic litter on Highway 403 ramps in Mississauga, Erindale and the barriers associated with cleaning up various types of litter from highways;

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- IHTEC's recommendation regarding educational programs in schools and universities and associated advantages, challenges, and logistics;
 - Sheridan College's energy and zero waste initiatives and the possibility of Ms. Halwala making a presentation to Sheridan College's operational group to explore possible linkages and to discuss IHTEC's plastic litter case study and research;
 - IHTEC's plastic litter work vis-à-vis possible initiatives in the City;
 - Current litter-related initiatives, school-based programs, and research by various organizations in the Region of Peel and whether IHTEC is aware of these various organizations and their work and intends to partner with them in the near future;
 - Research on plastic pollution within freshwater ecosystems and the Great Lakes by Dr. Sherri A. Mason, Associate Professor of Chemistry, The State University of New York Fredonia, and an upcoming meeting with Professor Mason;
 - The challenges of plastic litter and the importance of raising public awareness;
 - IHTEC's contact with the federal and provincial governments regarding this matter and the possibility of forwarding Ms. Halwala's PowerPoint presentation and recommendations to the federal and provincial governments for their review;
 - The types of plastic litter in Lake Ontario versus highways and other locations;
 - The importance of involving the plastics industry in the debate on plastic litter so that they can offer solutions and address this issue via programs, funding, etc.;
 - The possibility of Ms. Halwala connecting with, and further discussing, environmental stewardship and sustainable procurement practices with Ms. Ohori;
 - The psychological profile of "litterbugs" and whether any research has been done on the effectiveness of fines and other means to decrease littering;
 - A recent litter clean-up in Streetsville and the need for the provincial government to invest funds in highway litter clean-ups at least three or four times per year; and
 - The importance of using creativity to conceptualize a zero waste environment.

Ms. Halwala and Ms. Osborne answered the Committee's comments and questions.

The Chair thanked Ms. Halwala for her deputation and efforts in this regard.

The Committee dealt with Item 4 at this time.

4. Plastics Near Highway Exits

Email messages dated April 23, 2013 and March 27, 2013 from Julia Morton-Marr, Founding President, International Holistic Tourism Education Centre, and Ward 8 resident, with respect to plastics near highway exits.

Recommendation

EAC-0015-2013

1. That the PowerPoint presentation, dated May 7, 2013 and entitled "Mississauga Plastic Litter: The Prevention of Plastics from Mississauga Entering Streams, Rivers, The Great Lakes and The Ocean," by Ruwanthi Halwala, Intern, International Holistic Tourism Education Centre, to the Environmental Advisory Committee on May 7, 2013 be received and that the recommendations in Ms. Halwala's PowerPoint

- presentation be forwarded to the federal and provincial governments for their information and review; and
2. That the email messages dated April 23, 2013 and March 27, 2013 from Julia Morton-Marr, Founding President, International Holistic Tourism Education Centre, and Ward 8 resident, entitled “Plastics Near Highway Exits,” be received.

Received/Direction (J. Tovey)

MATTERS CONSIDERED

8. Pipeline Proposals in Mississauga

Memorandum dated April 25, 2013 from Jeff Smylie, Environmental Engineer, Environmental Services, Transportation and Works Department, with respect to pipeline proposals in Mississauga.

Ms. Law introduced Ms. Thuan, the City’s new environmental lawyer. Ms. Thuan expressed excitement about joining the City and working with the Committee. Ms. Bracken gave an overview and said that there are three proposed pipeline projects in the City and that Council will consider this matter during its meeting on May 8, 2013.

Councillor Tovey discussed the matter, the importance of knowing the proposed location and status of pipelines in the City, and a pipeline explosion in Malton in October 1969. He expressed concern about the proposed Enbridge pipeline 9b flow reversal and capacity increase and encouraged Committee members to research this matter for their reference.

Recommendation

EAC-0016-2013

That the Memorandum dated April 25, 2013 from Jeff Smylie, Environmental Engineer, Environmental Services, Transportation and Works Department, entitled “Pipeline Proposals in Mississauga,” be received.

Received (J. Tovey)

PRESENTATIONS/DEPUTATIONS

- A. Christopher LI. Morgan, PhD, Program Manager, Environment & Energy Office, City of Toronto, with respect to Toronto’s Future Weather & Climate Driver Study: Outcomes Report.

Mr. Morgan gave a PowerPoint presentation, dated May 7, 2013 and entitled “Toronto’s Future Weather & Climate,” and discussed the Study’s justification and purpose, new approach, elements, questions, methodology, results, expected changes for extreme rainfall and heat, implications and next steps (e.g., objectives, costs, responsibilities, and partnerships), various weather and climate issues and adaptations, and main conclusions.

Committee members raised various issues including:

- The Study and its data, implications, value, and status for the City of Toronto and municipalities, especially vis-à-vis infrastructure and costs, whether Study staff are tracking their monitoring, the advantages and disadvantages of the local model approach and alternative models, whether a peer review was done, whether conservation authorities were consulted, whether the Study considered the impacts on water levels in the Great Lakes from evaporation due to the extra heat, the possibility of undertaking sensitivity analyses via other models and/or scenarios, further investigations regarding the tracking of different weather systems, and the possibility of implementing a communications plan to ensure continuing changes from citizens in order to decrease greenhouse emissions and energy use;
- The Cooksville Creek flood in August 2009 and associated issues and costs;
- The value of weather-related data from the Toronto Pearson International Airport;
- Risk management and the Study's techniques, the Ontario Power Authority and provincial government's risk management approaches vis-à-vis the Study's; and
- Peak electrical demand and the importance of offering incentives to consumers to install windows with a solar heat gain coefficient to reduce peak cooling loads.

Mr. Morgan answered the Committee's comments and questions.

The Chair thanked Mr. Morgan for his deputation and work in this regard.

Recommendation

EAC-0017-2013

That the PowerPoint presentation, dated May 7, 2013 and entitled "Toronto's Future Weather & Climate," by Christopher LI. Morgan, PhD, Program Manager, Environment & Energy Office, City of Toronto, to the Environmental Advisory Committee on May 7, 2013 be received.

Received (L. A. Mallett)

MATTERS CONSIDERED

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held March 5, 2013.

Approved (F. Dale)

3. Enforcement Action Plan – Idling Control By-law 194-09

Corporate Report dated April 24, 2013 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works with respect to the Enforcement Action Plan – Idling Control By-law 194-09.

Recommendation

EAC-0018-2013

That the Environmental Advisory Committee supports the enforcement action plan outlined in the Corporate Report dated April 24, 2013 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works entitled “Enforcement Action Plan – Idling Control By-law 194-09.”

Approved (Dr. B. Bass)5. Lakeview Waterfront Connection Environmental Assessment

Memorandum dated April 26, 2013 from Kate Hayes, Project Leader, Restoration and Stewardship, Credit Valley Conservation, with respect to the Lakeview Waterfront Connection Environmental Assessment.

In response to Councillor Tovey, Ken Dion, Senior Project Manager, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, provided an update and discussed the overall project and, specifically, the second Public Information Centre for the Environmental Assessment (EA) that was held on April 3, 2013 and upcoming public engagement opportunities.

Committee members requested clarification on the timelines for the EA and construction, the project’s coordination with the overhaul of Marie Curtis Park, and the preferred alternative for an island beach. Mr. Dion and Ms. Hayes said that the EA is expected to be submitted in late July 2013, that construction is projected to begin in mid-2014, and that the project is being coordinated with the overhaul of Marie Curtis Park, Inspiration Lakeview, and other initiatives in the area. They also discussed the various types of construction materials required for the preferred alternative for an island beach.

Councillor Tovey thanked Mr. Dion and Ms. Hayes for their work on this project. He also discussed the importance of reinstating a wetland, fish spawning, and the natural environment in the area, modelling of the Ontario Power Generation site by University of Toronto students, and support for the project at the provincial level. He also spoke about the importance of the EA being promptly approved so that construction can begin in June 2014 and the fact this project will connect Etobicoke Creek with the Adamson Estate.

Recommendation

EAC-0019-2013

That the Memorandum dated April 26, 2013 from Kate Hayes, Project Leader, Restoration and Stewardship, Credit Valley Conservation, entitled “Lakeview Waterfront Connection Environmental Assessment,” be received.

Received (J. Tovey)6. Natural Areas Survey 2012 Update

Memorandum dated March 19, 2013 from John Calvert, Director, Policy Planning Division, Planning and Building Department, with respect to the Natural Areas Survey

2012 update.

The Chair said that this topic was of great interest to Peter Orphanos, a former Citizen Member on the Committee and the former Chair of the Sierra Club – Peel Region Group.

Recommendation

EAC-0020-2013

That the Memorandum dated March 19, 2013 from John Calvert, Director, Policy Planning Division, Planning and Building Department, entitled “Natural Areas Survey 2012 Update,” be received.

Received (J. Tovey)

7. Update on the Development of a Recognition Program

Memorandum dated April 25, 2013 from Andrea J. McLeod, Environmental Specialist, Environment Division, Community Services Department, with respect to an update on the development of a recognition program.

Ms. McLeod gave an update, noting that this matter was discussed at the Committee’s December 2012 meeting. She said that three existing award programs were reviewed and associated organizations were consulted regarding the Committee’s recommendation. Ms. McLeod said that modifying the current award processes or adding a new “Living Green” award is not advisable for various reasons. She noted that Streetscape Mississauga has renamed the Alternative Gardens class of their contest the “Mississauga Living Green Ecogardens” class. Ms. McLeod said that the Committee could help promote the existing award programs and, beginning in 2014, host an annual celebration and networking event in the spring to coincide with the annual reporting out of the Living Green Master Plan.

Committee members discussed the advantages, logistics, and scheduling of an annual celebration and networking event by the Committee, the importance of promoting and growing the three existing award programs, the possibility of recognizing developers and existing building owners for building and/or maintaining energy efficient buildings, the Mississauga Urban Design Awards and associated categories, and the possibility of highlighting the achievements of the winners of the three existing award programs in various locations across the City to increase awareness, recognition, and promotion.

The Chair discussed the annual celebration and networking event by the Committee and emphasized the need for the event to be non-competitive without set winners. He added that the Committee could revise and adjust its event as it sees fit throughout the years.

Recommendation

EAC-0021-2013

That the Memorandum dated April 25, 2013 from Andrea J. McLeod, Environmental Specialist, Environment Division, Community Services Department, entitled “Update on the Development of a Recognition Program,” be received.

Received (L. Salvati)

Ms. Hanson departed at 10:48 a.m.

9. Upcoming Agenda Items and Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Role

Chart from Environment staff with respect to upcoming agenda items and Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) role.

Recommendation

EAC-0022-2013

That the chart from Environment staff, with respect to upcoming agenda items and Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) role, be received.

Received (F. Dale)

10. Status of Outstanding Issues from the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC)

Chart dated May 7, 2013 from Julie Lavertu, Legislative Coordinator, Environmental Advisory Committee, with respect to the status of outstanding issues from the Environmental Advisory Committee.

Recommendation

EAC-0023-2013

That the chart dated May 7, 2013 from Julie Lavertu, Legislative Coordinator, Environmental Advisory Committee, with respect to the status of outstanding issues from the Environmental Advisory Committee, be received.

Received (L. A. Mallett)

INFORMATION ITEMS – Nil

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, June 4, 2013 at 9 a.m., Council Chamber

OTHER BUSINESS

“I Will If You Will” Challenge Campaign Video

Ms. Osborne introduced the City’s “I Will If You Will” (IWIYW) challenge campaign which is an extension of the Earth Hour event in April. She discussed the Mayor’s pledge to take the winner of the City’s IWIYW campaign for a ride in her electric vehicle if 500 people register for the Let Your Green Show campaign. Ms. Osborne showed the Mayor’s IWIYW pledge to the Committee and added that the campaign will be promoted via public service announcements, the City’s website, library screensavers, and other means.

Importance of Public and Private Natural Areas in the City of Mississauga

Mr. DeWit discussed the importance of promoting, expanding, and improving natural areas on residential and commercial properties, not only on the City's property.

Mississauga Urban Design Awards Matter in Status of Outstanding Issues Chart (Item 10)

In response to Councillor Tovey, Ms. Osborne said that Ms. Bracken is working with Planning and Building Department staff to establish a green development award complementary and linked to the existing Awards and that it may be announced this fall, but will not begin until 2014. Councillor Tovey discussed the current Awards criteria vis-à-vis green development and the recent construction of a LEED Gold building in Ward 1.

One Million Trees Mississauga Program

Ms. Ricker asked if the above-noted Program will partner with the City's horticultural societies, noting that they could be valuable ambassadors and assist with the Program's promotion. Ms. Osborne said that she would share this feedback with Jessika Corkum-Gorrill, Natural Areas and One Million Trees Project Coordinator. Councillor Tovey discussed the City's existing partnership with the Cloverleaf Garden Club.

Streetsville Litter Clean-Up Event

The Chair said that 150 Cadets, Scouts, young people, and others recently volunteered for Streetsville's litter clean-up event and did a great job cleaning up Streetsville.

City of Brampton's Natural Heritage Strategy Stakeholder Workshop

Ms. Osborne said that the City of Brampton is seeking a Committee member to attend the above-noted Workshop. Ms. Ohori responded that she would be interested in attending.

Recommendation

EAC-0024-2013

That the email message dated May 2, 2013 from Michael Hoy, Environmental Planner, City of Brampton, entitled "City of Brampton's Natural Heritage Strategy Stakeholder Workshop," be received.

Received (J. Tovey)

Toronto's Future Weather & Climate Driver Study: Outcomes Report Deputation

Committee members discussed the above-noted deputation and its value. The Chair suggested that a thank you letter be sent to Mr. Morgan. Ms. Osborne said that General Committee will consider a Corporate Report on this matter in the near future.