



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2015 9:30 A.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBER

SECOND FLOOR, CIVIC CENTRE

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

www.mississauga.ca

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Matt Mahoney, Ward 8 (CHAIR)
Councillor George Carlson, Ward 11 (VICE-CHAIR)
Councillor Jim Tovey, Ward 1
Brad Bass, Citizen Member
Charles Cooper, Citizen Member
Chelsea Dalton, Citizen Member
Lea Ann Mallett, Citizen Member
Nishila Mehta, Peel Environmental Youth Alliance

STAFF PRESENT:

Brenda Osborne, Director, Environment Division
Mary Bracken, Environmental Specialist
Diana Suzuki, Environmental Outreach Coordinator
Jessica McEachren, Acting Manager, Forestry
Patricia Runzer, Supervisor Community Outreach, MiWay
Erica Warsh, Transportation Demand Management Coordinator
Karen Morden, Legislative Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT:

Carolyn Bailey, Acting Executive Director, Ecosource

CONTACT PERSON: Karen Morden, Legislative Coordinator
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CALL TO ORDER – 9:30 a.m.APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councillor Mahoney noted an addition to the agenda, an update on the Provincial EAC Symposium from Chelsea Dalton, Citizen Member, under Other Business.

Approved (C. Cooper)

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST – Nil.DEPUTATIONS

- A. Mary Bracken, Environmental Specialist, Environment Division, with respect to an overview of the Strategic Plan, Living Green Master Plan, and Environmental Priorities.

Ms. Bracken provided an overview of the City of Mississauga's Strategic Pillars for Change that includes Move, Belong, Connect, Prosper, and Green. Expanding on the Green Strategic Pillar for Change, Ms. Bracken noted the direction, principle, and strategic goals, most notably to transform Mississauga into a net-zero carbon city.

Ms. Bracken provided background on the Living Green Master Plan developed in 2012, the vision to make Mississauga a world-class green city where people choose to work and play, and the mission to drive environmental excellence by providing leadership that empowers and engages internal and external partners in environmental action. Ms. Bracken spoke with respect to the forty-nine (49) actions in the Plan that were categorized into three (3) sections – Set an Example, Encourage Others, and Compel Others.

Ms. Bracken noted the Environmental Priorities – Transportation, Education and Outreach, Natural Heritage and Urban Forest, Urban Form, Energy and Stormwater – and explained that the number one environmental priority is Transportation. Ms. Bracken provided an overview of education outreach programs and explained that the Environment Division will be working with the Environmental Action Committee to meet these goals.

Charles Cooper, Citizen Member, suggested outreach to various Health and Safety Committees.

RECOMMENDATION

That the PowerPoint presentation by Mary Bracken, Environmental Specialist entitled, "Environment – Strategic Direction and Priorities" to the Environmental Action Committee on May 5, 2015 be received.

Received (Councillor Tovey)

Recommendation EAC-0012-2015

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- B. Patricia Runzer, Supervisor, Community Outreach, Transit, with respect to an overview of MiWay.

Ms. Runzer provided an overview of MiWay noting that environmentally, one MiWay bus is able to eliminate forty (40) vehicles from the road. Ms. Runzer listed five (5) ways that the Environmental Action Committee could help MiWay:

1. Try MiWay
2. Attend and promote the MiWay 5 Public Information Centres to “Have your Say”
3. Join in and learn more about the Mississauga Transitway at the June 7 Dixie Open House
4. Promote the MiWay Student Ambassador Program to high school students (Grades 9-12) and the Freedom Pass Summer Program (for 12-14 year olds)
5. Sign up for MiWay eNews to stay informed

Ms. Runzer spoke to MiWay 5, a five (5) year plan with public information centres, high level project schedules, and public meetings. Ms. Runzer provided details on MiWay community outreach including community events, MiWay-specific events, connecting with the Peel Environmental Youth Alliance (PEYA), Eco-Buzz events, and the Dixie Open House on June 7, 2015 that will include tours of the station and free bus tours.

Committee Members asked several questions with respect to the Student Ambassador Program, hybrid busses, the Freedom Pass Program, the ability to make MiWay trip planners mobile-device-friendly, connections to local university and college students, and accessibility of MiWay busses. Ms. Runzer encouraged Members to try “Trip Linx”, a user-friendly trip planning application, visit the MiWay web site, and to attend MiWay events and information sessions to learn more.

RECOMMENDATION

That the presentation by Patricia Runzer, Supervisor, Community Outreach, Transit entitled, “MiWay – 2015 Outreach” to the Environmental Action Committee on May 5, 2015 be received.

Received (Councillor Tovey)

Recommendation EAC-0013-2015

- C. Erica Warsh, Transportation Demand Management Coordinator, Transportation and Works, with respect to an overview of Active Transportation.

Ms. Warsh provided an overview of the Active Transportation Office responsibilities, mandates and goals. Ms. Warsh commented that Active Transportation focuses on walking and cycling in the City of Mississauga and encouraging people to take anything other than their vehicle to travel in the City. Ms. Warsh summarized the Active Transportation Office’s responsibilities into four categories: Develop, Advise, Educate, and Promote.

With respect to the Develop category, Ms. Warsh noted that they developed policies, such

as the Cycling Master Plan, Bicycling Parking Design Guidelines, the Parking Utilization Study TOR, and developed infrastructure such as the Sidewalk Program, Boulevard Multi-Use Trails, On-Street Cycling Facilities, and the Count Program.

With respect to the Advise category, Ms. Warsh noted that they review development applications and participate in environmental assessments.

With respect to the Educate category, Ms. Warsh noted that they lead safety campaigns for pedestrians and cyclists, created a safety handbook and teach people about safe school travel and the benefits of Active Transportation.

With respect to the Promote category, Ms. Warsh noted external promotions such as community events, information on the City's web site and sharing information on social media and that they promote internal programs such as Smart Commute, Bike Share and the Autosshare Program.

Ms. Warsh commented on Active Transportation's involvement with the Mississauga Cycling Advisory Committee with Community Rides, Tour de Mississauga and other cycling-related events and encouraged EAC Members to get involved with education campaigns, events and sharing messaging.

Discussion amongst the Committee Members ensued with respect to safety, promotional awareness, and key timing for messaging. Councillor Tovey commented on the necessity for safety messaging around cycling and pedestrian safety on sidewalks. Additionally, questions with respect to sidewalk infill and bike lane sweeping/maintenance were asked by Charles Cooper and Chelsea Dalton, Citizen Members. Ms. Warsh advised the Committee that she would investigate and follow up to provide answers. Brad Bass, Citizen Member suggested closing a busy section of road for four (4) to five (5) hours a few times per year to encourage residents to walk and cycle instead of driving, to become more accustomed to walking and cycling on city streets, and noted it could be part of a planned Active Transportation Community Event.

RECOMMENDATION

That the presentation by Erica Warsh, Transportation Demand Management Coordinator, Transportation and Works entitled, "Active Transportation Office" to the Environmental Action Committee on May 5, 2015 be received.

Received (Councillor Tovey)

Recommendation EAC-0014-2015

- D. Jessica McEachren, Acting Manager, Forestry, with respect to an overview of Urban Forestry and Canopy Update.

Ms. McEachren provided statistical information about the City, noting that the City of Mississauga is 29,214 ha in size with approximately 720,000 residents and many ecosystem types. Ms. McEachren described Mississauga's urban forest as having approximately 2.1 million trees providing 15% canopy cover and consisting of 234 species of trees with a replacement value of \$1.4 billion. Ms. McEachren noted that the canopy

cover has increased to 19% as seen in 2014.

Ms. McEachren described the project scope which included collecting and documenting data such as satellite imagery, land cover, and GIS on existing urban forest canopy, ecosystem services such as the analysis of the urban forest canopy, and the dollar-benefit values. Ms. McEachren detailed the existing urban forest canopy, potential planting areas and non-plantable areas, and discussed the benefits of tree planting. Comments from the Committee included questions about tree loss, private property trees, and whether the Provincial Carbon Tax could be of benefit to the City.

RECOMMENDATION

That the presentation by Jessica McEachren, Acting Manager, Forestry entitled, “Urban Forest Canopy Assessment Mississauga” to the Environmental Action Committee on May 5, 2015 be received.

Received (Councillor Tovey)

Recommendation EAC-0015-2015

- E. Carolyn Bailey, Acting Executive Director, Ecosource, with respect to Ecosource Community Gardens and Urban Agriculture Program.

Ms. Bailey provided an overview of Ecosource, describing their role as an environmental organization bringing green living to the community through fun, hands-on programs focused on creating environmental citizens. Ms. Bailey noted that Ecosource is over thirty (30) years old and was created by City Council. Ms. Bailey outlined their focus areas consisting of waste reduction, teacher education, the sustainability education centre, local food in schools, community gardens and urban agriculture, and youth leadership opportunities through programs such as Peel Environmental Youth Alliance (PEYA).

Ms. Bailey noted Ecosource’s partnership with the City’s Parks department and described the six (6) community growing spaces they facilitate in Mississauga consisting of four (4) community gardens and two (2) urban agriculture teaching spaces noting the importance of gardens and the many benefits they provide. Ms. Bailey provided a visual layout map of a typical community garden and demonstrated the different focuses of the different sections of the garden.

Ms. Bailey described the impacts on the community, noting that the six (6) community growing spaces engaged over 4,200 volunteers who participated in ninety-three (93) workshops and events and many volunteer hours working in the community gardens, that an estimated six thousand (6,000) pounds of organic produce was harvested, feeding families and providing donations to local food banks. Ms. Bailey shared photos and testimonials from volunteers and residents.

Councillor Tovey commended Ecosource for their successes and community goals and expressed thanks for their contributions.

RECOMMENDATION

That the presentation by Carolyn Bailey, Acting Executive Director, Ecosource entitled,

“Ecosource – Growing a Green Community” to the Environmental Action Committee on May 5, 2015 be received.

Received (Councillor Tovey)
Recommendation EAC-0016-2015

MATTERS CONSIDERED

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

1.1 Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee held on April 7, 2015.

Approved (C. Dalton)

2. Update on Community Environmental Appreciation Event

Memorandum dated April 27, 2015 from Diana Suzuki, Environmental Outreach Coordinator, Environment Division with respect to an Update on Community Environmental Appreciation Event.

Charles Cooper, Citizen Member inquired about the location of the event and Ms. Suzuki noted that it would take place in the C Banquet facility at the Civic Centre and that invitations to the event would be sent out shortly.

RECOMMENDATION

That the memorandum dated April 27, 2015 from Diana Suzuki, Environmental Outreach Coordinator, Environment Division with respect to a Community Environmental Appreciation Event be received for information.

Received (L. Mallett)
Recommendation EAC-0017-2015

INFORMATION ITEMS – Nil

OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Chelsea Dalton, Citizen Member provided a brief verbal update with respect to the Provincial EAC Symposium that she attended on May 2, 2015 noting that she found the

symposium very informative, the large number of EAC Members in attendance from other Ontario cities, and noted the differences in various cities' EACs.

- b) Charles Cooper, Citizen Member requested an update on the status of the Climate Change deputation to the Committee and subsequent recommendation to General Committee and was advised by Brenda Osborne, Director, Environment Division that the recommendation had been adopted by Council. Mr. Cooper also requested an update with respect to the Community Group appointments and was advised that the letters of invitation had been sent and that the Committee is awaiting responses.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, June 9, 2015 – 9:30 a.m., Committee Room A

ADJOURNMENT – 11:25 a.m.