



Minutes

Environment Advisory Committee

The Corporation of the City of Brampton

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Members Present:

Akeem Gardner (Co-Chair)
Harripaul Bridgemohan
Rajbalinder Ghatoura
Jafir Jaferi
David Laing
Davika Misir
Stacey Wilson
City Councillor D. Whillans

Members Absent:

Tamsen Metcalfe
Sherry-Ann Ram
Vipul Shah

Staff Present:

Michael Hoy, Supervisor, Environmental Planning, Public Works and Engineering
Pam Cooper, Environmental Planner, Public Works and Engineering
Stavroula Kassaris, Environmental Planner, Public Works and Engineering
Zoe Milligan, Environmental Project Specialist, Public Works and Engineering
Kristina Dokoska, Policy Planner, Environment, Public Works and Engineering
Sonya Pacheco, Legislative Coordinator, Legislative Services

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. and adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

The following motion was considered.

EAC034-2021

That the agenda for the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting of November 2, 2021, be approved, as amended to add the following item:

- 6.6. Verbal Update from Stacey Wilson, Committee Member, re: Environment Advisory Committee Delegation to the September 8, 2021 Committee of Council Meeting regarding Tree Planting and Maintenance.

Carried

Note: Later in the meeting on a two-thirds majority vote, the Approval of Agenda was re-opened and Item 6.6 was added to agenda.

3. **Declarations of Interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act**

Nil

4. **Previous Minutes**

4.1 Minutes - Environment Advisory Committee - August 10, 2021

The minutes were considered by Committee of Council on September 8, 2021 and approved by Council on September 15, 2021. The minutes were provided for Committee's information.

5. **Presentations\Delegations**

5.1 Presentation by Pam Cooper, Environmental Planner, Public Works and Engineering, and Shannon Malloy, Specialist, Integrated Water Management, Credit Valley Conservation, re: Fletchers Creek SNAP: Glendale Rain Garden and Haggert Avenue Bioswale

Pam Cooper, Environmental Planner, Public Works and Engineering, and Shannon Malloy, Specialist, Integrated Water Management, Credit Valley Conservation, provided a presentation regarding the Fletchers Creek SNAP: Glendale Rain Garden and Haggert Avenue Bioswale.

Committee discussion on this matter included the following:

- Questions regarding the bioswales and water that enters the underdrain pipe
- Litter along the Fletchers Creek trail system and the need to organize a clean up of this area
- Questions regarding the impact of the bioswale on improving habitat for fish and plants
- Information on the type of monitoring taking place for this system and clarification on why there is no in-stream monitoring
- Indication from staff that there is extensive data available that demonstrates bioswales are effective

The following motion was considered.

EAC035-2021

That the presentation from Pam Cooper, Environmental Planner, Public Works and Engineering, and Shannon Malloy, Specialist, Integrated Water Management, Credit Valley Conservation, to the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of November 2, 2021, re: **Fletchers Creek SNAP: Glendale Rain Garden and Haggert Avenue Bioswale**, be received.

Carried

5.2 Presentation by Michael Hoy, Supervisor, Environmental Planning, Public Works and Engineering, re: Centre for Community Energy Transformation

Michael Hoy, Supervisor, Environmental Planning, Public Works and Engineering, provided a presentation regarding the Centre for Community Energy Transformation, and sought Committee's support for its formation.

Committee discussion on this matter included the following:

- Expression of thanks to staff for their efforts in relation to this program and in helping the City achieve its targets
- Clarification from staff regarding the focus of the CCET, which includes home energy efficiency (retrofits) and district energy nodes

- The importance of a comprehensive home retrofit program to meet environmental targets
- Information from staff regarding retrofit programs available for industrial and commercial sectors, to reduce energy and emissions
- Impact of natural gas on CO2 emissions, the need to encourage gas providers to move towards a more renewable or cleaner form of natural gas, and the positive impact of the CCET in this regard
 - It was noted that over 80 per cent of homes are heated by natural gas
- Encouraging developers to consider alternative energy options for new residential developments
- Information from staff regarding sustainable thresholds for residential development applications
 - Staff advised the sustainable thresholds are being updated and incentives for achieving targets are being considered
- Indication that the new Heritage Heights Secondary Plan is aiming to be a near-net-zero community

Committee expressed support for staff's request to have representatives from the Environment Advisory Committee delegate Council in support of the CCET when the staff report is presented.

The following motion was considered.

EAC036-2021

1. That the presentation from Michael Hoy, Supervisor, Environmental Planning, Public Works & Engineering, to the Environment Advisory Committee meeting of November 2, 2021, re: **Centre for Community Energy Transformation**, be received; and
2. That the Environment Advisory Committee supports the formation of the Centre for Community Energy Transformation.

Carried

6. Reports/Updates

- 6.1 Verbal Update from David Laing, Chair, Grow Green Network Sub-committee, re: Brampton Environmental Alliance

David Laing, Chair, Grow Green Network Sub-committee, provided an update on the Brampton Environmental Alliance (BEA), which included the following:

- BEA meeting attendance and virtual meeting platform
- BEA strategic plan and vision for Brampton to be a sustainable community that is healthy and resilient economically, environmentally and socially
- The strategy is based on one planet living with four focus areas: networking, advocacy, events, and education and resources
- Partnership with the City of Brampton on Earth Day events and activities
- Advocacy work with the City of Brampton to support and expand initiatives to combat global warming (e.g. greening of the City's fleet and facilities)
- BEA membership, including how to apply and the term of membership

The following motion was considered.

EAC037-2021

That the verbal update from David Laing, Chair, Green Grow Network Sub-committee, to the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting of November 2, 2021, re: **Brampton Environmental Alliance**, be received.

Carried

6.2 Verbal Update from Kristina Dokoska, Policy Planner, Environment, Public Works and Engineering, re: Grow Green Awards

Kristina Dokoska, Policy Planner, Environment, Public Works and Engineering, provided an update on the Grow Green Awards, which will take place on Earth Day. Ms. Dokoska provided information on the following:

- Various types of awards
- Establishment of a selection panel and events team
- Role of the Award Coordinators, and a request for volunteers from this committee to fill these roles
- Timelines for nomination forms

Ms. Dokoska indicated she would follow up directly with Committee members that expressed an interest in participating as Award Coordinators for the Grow Green Awards.

The following motion was considered.

EAC038-2021

That the verbal update from Kristina Dokoska, Policy Planner, Environment, Public Works and Engineering, to the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting of November 2, 2021, re: **Grow Green Awards**, be received.

Carried

6.3 Verbal Update from Zoe Milligan, Environment Project Specialist, Public Works and Engineering, re: September Tree Month Recap

Zoe Milligan, Environment Project Specialist, Public Works and Engineering, provided an update regarding September Tree Month, which included the following:

- Highlights on the social media campaign, resource materials, and activities
 - It was noted that in-person activities were restricted due to COVID-19
- Information regarding the Residential Tree Planting Program (e.g. number of registrations, public engagement and education), and possible modifications to the program

Committee discussion took place with respect to the New York City tree mapping program and the implementation of a similar program in Brampton, through the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

The following motion was considered.

EAC039-2021

That the verbal update from Zoe Milligan, environment Project Specialist, Public Works and Engineering, to the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting of November 2, 2021, re: **September Tree Month Recap**, be received.

Carried

6.4 Verbal Update from Zoe Milligan, Environment Project Specialist, Public Works and Engineering, re: Natural Heritage System (NHS) Survey

Zoe Milligan, Environment Project Specialist, Public Works and Engineering, provided an update regarding the Natural Heritage System (NHS) Survey. She advised that the purpose of this survey is to collect information from residents to gauge the level of understanding on the natural heritage system and to learn how the public uses these spaces. Ms. Milligan provided information on the number and distribution of participants to date, noting that additional focus will be placed on reaching youth and residents in other key areas with low engagement. In

addition, Ms. Milligan thanked Committee members for their efforts in promoting this survey, and requested that members continue these efforts and send the survey link to their networks.

The following motion was considered.

EAC040-2021

That the verbal update from Zoe Milligan, environment Project Specialist, Public Works and Engineering, to the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting of November 2, 2021, re: **Natural Heritage System (NHS) Survey**, be received.

Carried

- 6.5 Verbal Update from Stavroula Kassaris, Policy Planner, Environment, Public Works and Engineering, re: Sustainable Fleet Strategy

Stavroula Kassaris, Policy Planner, Environment, Public Works and Engineering, provided an update on the City's Sustainable Fleet Strategy. She advised that the majority of the corporation's GHG emissions is due to the City's fleet, and indicated that the focus of this strategy is to reduce corporate emissions by right-sizing and reducing the existing fleet without impacting service. Ms. Kassaris provided additional information regarding life-cycle assessments and electrification of vehicles, and advised that the strategy is near completion and is expected to be presented to Council before year-end. Ms. Kassaris added that the City of Brampton is considered a leader in fleet sustainability.

The following motion was considered.

EAC041-2021

That the verbal update from Stavroula Kassaris, Policy Planner, Environment, Public Works and Engineering, to the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting of October 12, 2021, re: **Sustainable Fleet Strategy**, be received.

Carried

- 6.6 Verbal Update from Stacey Wilson, Committee Member, re: Environment Advisory Committee Delegation to the September 8, 2021 Committee of Council Meeting regarding Tree Planting and Maintenance.

Note: On a two-thirds majority vote the Approval of Agenda was reopened and this item was added.

Stacey Wilson, Committee Member, provided information to Committee on the concerns raised during the Environment Advisory Committee delegation to the

Committee of Council on September 8, 2021, regarding tree planting and maintenance. She advised that the City's Forestry Division has a significantly smaller staff complement than the cities of Mississauga and Toronto, which impacts staff's ability to maintain, monitor and inspect the City's trees. In addition, Ms. Wilson provided information on contractor responsibilities to replace new trees that do not survive, and highlighted the need for additional staff to inspect these trees and ensure they are replaced in a timely manner.

In response to a question from Committee, Michael Hoy, Supervisor, Environmental Planning, Public Works and Engineering, advised that Forestry staff will provide a presentation regarding this issue at the next Committee meeting on December 7, 2021.

Discussion on this matter included a suggestion for Committee to explore options to educate the public about the importance of maintaining trees on the boulevard adjacent to their homes.

The following motion was considered.

EAC042-2021

That the Verbal Update from Stacey Wilson, Committee Member, to the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting of November 2, 2021, re:

Environment Advisory Committee Delegation to the September 8, 2021 Committee of Council Meeting regarding Tree Planting and Maintenance, be received.

Carried

7. Sub-Committees

Nil

8. Other New/Business

8.1 Election of Co-Chairs for the Environment Advisory Committee

Charlotte Gravlev, Deputy City Clerk, thanked Akeem Gardner for his contributions as Co-Chair of the Environment Advisory Committee. She then called for nominations for the two positions of Co-Chair for the remainder of this term of Council.

Jafir Jaferi, Committee Member, nominated David Laing for the position of Co-Chair. Mr. Laing indicated he would accept the nomination if there are no other interested members.

David Laing, Committee Member, nominated Rajbalinder Ghatoura for the position of Co-Chair. Mr. Ghatoura accepted the nomination.

Ms. Gravlev called for any further nominations. As no further nominations were received, she declared the nominations closed.

The following motion was considered

EAC043-2021

That Rajbalinder Ghatoura and David Laing be appointed to the two positions of Co-Chair of the Environment Advisory Committee, for the remainder of this term of Council, or until a successor is appointed.

Carried

Committee Members congratulated Rajbalinder Ghatoura and David Laing on their appointments and thanked Akeem Gardner for his contributions as Co-Chair.

9. Correspondence

Nil

10. Question Period

In response to a question from David Laing, Committee Member, as to whether a presentation regarding the Sustainable Fleet Strategy could be provided at a future Environment Advisory Committee meeting, Stavroula Kassaris, Environmental Planner, Public Works and Engineering, advised that she would forward this request to the appropriate staff for consideration.

11. Public Question Period

Nil

12. Adjournment

The following motion was considered.

EAC044-2021

That the Environment Advisory Committee do now adjourn to meet again on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. or at the call of the Chair.

Carried

Akeem Gardner, Co-Chair