



Minutes

Environment Advisory Committee The Corporation of the City of Brampton

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

Members Present:

Rajbalinder Ghatoura (Co-Chair)
David Laing (Co-Chair)
Harripaul Bridgemohan
Jafir Jaferi
Davika Misir
Sherry-Ann Ram
Stacey Wilson

Members Absent:

Akeem Gardner
Tamsen Metcalfe (regrets)
City Councillor D. Whillans (personal)

Staff Present:

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, City Clerk's Office

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. and adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

The following motion was considered.

EAC001-2022

That the agenda for the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting of February 22, 2022, be approved, as published and circulated.

Carried

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

Nil

4. Previous Minutes

4.1 Minutes - Environment Advisory Committee - December 7, 2022

The minutes were considered by Committee of Council on January 19, 2022, and were approved by Council on January 26, 2022. The minutes were provided for Committee's information.

5. Presentations\Delegations

5.1 Delegation from Laura McGrath, Pension Engagement Manager, Shift: Action for Pension Wealth and Planet Health, re: Municipal Pension Investments and the Climate Crisis

Laura McGrath, Pension Engagement Manager, Shift: Action for Pension Wealth and Planet Health, provided information to Committee regarding this organization, and the financial impact of the climate crisis on municipal pension investments. Laura's remarks included the following:

- A request that the City of Brampton call on OMERS, through the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, to align its investments with the spirit of the City's Climate Emergency Declaration

- Information regarding the significant climate-related financial risks faced by pension funds such as OMERS
- Actions by OMERS to date and the need to do more
- Precedents for action set by the City of Kingston, City of Toronto and other municipal pension funds worldwide

The following motion was introduced:

That, it is the position of the Environment Advisory Committee:

1. That City Council call on its representatives to OMERS, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and on AMO's advisors at the Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario (MEPCO), to request that OMERS safeguard its members' retirement savings from climate-related financial risks by aligning with the City of Brampton's Community Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan in its investment decisions and climate commitments, with a goal of limiting the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C, and that OMERS implement a plan to phase out investments in high-risk coal, oil, gas, and related infrastructure, and to screen out new fossil fuel investments; and

2. That City Council give consideration to passing the following resolution:

WHEREAS the City of Brampton has committed to a 30% reduction in GHG emissions from 2015 baseline by 2030, a 50% reduction in GHG emissions from 2015 baseline by 2040 and a 80% reduction in GHG emissions from 2015 baseline by 2050; and

WHEREAS the City of Brampton committed to demonstrating leadership on climate action by implementing the Community Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan and approving the Centre for Community Energy Transformation; and

WHEREAS the City of Brampton and organizations such as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario (MEPCO), and OMERS can utilize their positions to shift investment focus into climate solutions; and

WHEREAS continued investment in fossil fuels exposes the investment portfolio to a sector that, for the previous decade, has underperformed financially, and continues to expose the portfolio to climate-related financial risk; and

WHEREAS other Ontario municipalities, including Toronto and Kingston, have already called on OMERS to reduce their investment exposure to fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS OMERS has a fiduciary duty to invest in the long-term best interest of its beneficiaries (including City of Brampton employees), including managing the significant financial risks posed by the climate crisis,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Brampton City Council urge AMO to formally request that OMERS:

- a. Implement clear and measurable targets that fully align OMERS' investment strategy with the goals of the Paris Agreement to limit global heating to 1.5°C, including a measurable timeline to eliminate fossil fuel related investments from the fund and increase investments in profitable climate solutions;
- b. Publicly provide transparent and accessible information on the climate risk exposure of OMERS' investments, and updates on progress being taken to manage those risks and achieve the above goals, in line with the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosure (TCFD); and

That City Council direct the City Clerk to follow-up with AMO on this request and report back to Council on actions taken and any response from OMERS.

Committee discussion on this matter included the actions taken by other municipalities and municipal pension funds to align their investments with profitable climate solutions, and the need for OMERS to follow these examples and take further action to manage the significant financial risks posed by the climate crisis through the elimination of fossil fuel related investments from the fund and increasing investments in profitable climate solutions.

The following motions were considered.

EAC002-2022

That the delegation from Laura McGrath, Pension Engagement Manager, Shift: Action for Pension Wealth and Planet Health, to the Environment Advisory Committee meeting of February 22, 2022, re: **Municipal Pension Investments and the Climate Crisis**, be received.

Carried

EAC003-2022

That, it is the position of the Environment Advisory Committee:

1. That City Council call on its representatives to OMERS, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and on AMO's advisors at the Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario (MEPCO), to request that OMERS safeguard its members' retirement savings from climate-related financial risks by aligning with the City of Brampton's Community Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan in its investment decisions and climate commitments, with a goal of limiting the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C, and that OMERS implement a plan to phase out investments in high-risk coal, oil, gas, and related infrastructure, and to screen out new fossil fuel investments; and

2. That City Council give consideration to passing the following resolution:

WHEREAS the City of Brampton has committed to a 30% reduction in GHG emissions from 2015 baseline by 2030, a 50% reduction in GHG emissions from 2015 baseline by 2040 and a 80% reduction in GHG emissions from 2015 baseline by 2050; and

WHEREAS the City of Brampton committed to demonstrating leadership on climate action by implementing the Community Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan and approving the Centre for Community Energy Transformation; and

WHEREAS the City of Brampton and organizations such as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario (MEPCO), and OMERS can utilize their positions to shift investment focus into climate solutions; and

WHEREAS continued investment in fossil fuels exposes the investment portfolio to a sector that, for the previous decade, has underperformed financially, and continues to expose the portfolio to climate-related financial risk; and

WHEREAS other Ontario municipalities, including Toronto and Kingston, have already called on OMERS to reduce their investment exposure to fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS OMERS has a fiduciary duty to invest in the long-term best interest of its beneficiaries (including City of Brampton employees), including managing the significant financial risks posed by the climate crisis,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Brampton City Council urge AMO to formally request that OMERS:

- a. Implement clear and measurable targets that fully align OMERS' investment strategy with the goals of the Paris Agreement to limit global heating to 1.5°C, including a measurable timeline to eliminate fossil fuel related investments from the fund and increase investments in profitable climate solutions;
- b. Publicly provide transparent and accessible information on the climate risk exposure of OMERS' investments, and updates on progress being taken to manage those risks and achieve the above goals, in line with the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosure (TCFD); and

That City Council direct the City Clerk to follow-up with AMO on this request and report back to Council on actions taken and any response from OMERS.

Carried

5.2 Staff Presentation from Zoe Milligan, Environmental Project Specialist, Public Works and Engineering, re: No Mow Sites 2022 and Naturalization Programs Update

Zoe Milligan, Environmental Project Specialist, Public Works and Engineering, provided a presentation entitled "Don't Mow, Let It Grow - 2022 Sites".

Committee discussion on this matter included the following:

- Request that event dates be provided to Committee members
- Plans to monitor and manage invasive species to ensure healthy naturalization of sites
- Planting in 'No Mow' zones by the City and conservation authorities

The following motion was considered.

EAC004-2022

That the presentation by Zoe Milligan, Environmental Project Specialist, Public Works and Engineering, to the Environment Advisory Committee meeting of February 22, 2022, re: **No Mow Sites 2022 and Naturalization Programs Update**, be received.

Carried

5.3 Staff Presentation from Elise Mackie, Coordinator, Stormwater Education and Outreach, Public Works and Engineering, re: 2022 Earth Day Environmental Celebrations

Elise Mackie, Coordinator, Stormwater Education and Outreach, Public Works and Engineering, provided a presentation entitled "Earth Day Environmental Celebrations".

Committee discussion on this matter included the following:

- Indication that the celebrations will be a low impact event, and participants are encouraged to use public transit or active transportation to attend
- BikeBrampton and the Cycling Advisory Committee have offered to host "ride-ins" for this event from various areas of the City
- Committee members were encouraged to volunteer and participate in this event

The following motion was considered.

EAC005-2022

That the presentation by Elise Mackie, Coordinator, Stormwater Education and Outreach, Public Works and Engineering, to the Environment Advisory Committee meeting of February 22, 2022, re: **2022 Earth Day Environmental Celebrations**, be received.

Carried

6. Reports/Updates

6.1 Verbal Update from Stavroula Kassaris, Policy Planner - Environment, Public Works and Engineering, re: CCET Transition Board Recruitment

Stavroula Kassaris, Policy Planner - Environment, Public Works and Engineering, advised that the Committee of Council endorsed the establishment of the Centre for Community Energy Transformation (CCET) and approved seed funding in the amount of \$300,000. Ms. Kassaris advised that the related staff presentation and report, and further information regarding the CCET Transition Board Recruitment, is available on the City's website. Ms. Kassaris added that staff are working with the Region of Peel to secure additional funding for the CCET, and outlined the need for support from other municipal partners.

The following motion was considered.

EAC006-2022

That the verbal update from Stavroula Kassaris, Policy Planner - Environment, Public Works and Engineering, to the Environment Advisory Committee meeting of February 22, 2022, re: **CCET Transition Board Recruitment**, be received.

Carried

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

Kristina Dokoska, Environmental Planner, Public Works and Engineering, provided an update on the Grow Green Awards and advised that nomination forms are available on the City's website through the Grow Green webpage. Ms. Dokoska advised that nominations are open from February 2 to February 28, 2022, and encouraged Committee members to promote these awards. In addition, she outlined the timelines for the evaluation of nominations and notification to the award recipients, and requested that the next Environment Advisory Committee meeting be rescheduled to the first week of April to accommodate these timelines.

In response to the request from staff to reschedule the next meeting, Sonya Pacheco, Legislative Coordinator, City Clerk's Office, advised that she would review the Council/Committee meeting schedule and follow up with the Committee and staff with respect to a new meeting date.

The following motion was considered.

EAC007-2022

That the verbal update from Kristina Dokoska, Environmental Planner, Public Works and Engineering, to the Environment Advisory Committee meeting of February 22, 2022, re: **Grow Green Awards**, be received.

Carried

7. Sub-Committees

Nil

8. Other New/Business

Nil

9. Correspondence

Nil

10. Question Period

In response to questions from Committee, David Laing, Co-Chair, and Sonya Pacheco, Legislative Coordinator, City Clerk's Office, provided information regarding the status of the current membership, the current Committee term, and the re-establishment of this Committee, including citizen appointments, in the new term of Council.

11. Public Question Period

The public was given the opportunity to submit questions via e-mail to the City Clerk's Office regarding any decisions made under this section of the agenda. Sonya Pacheco, Legislative Coordinator, City Clerk's Office, confirmed that no questions were submitted.

12. Adjournment

The following motion was considered.

EAC008-2022

That the Environment Advisory Committee do now adjourn to meet again on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. or at the call of the Chair.

Carried

David Laing – Co-Chair

Rajbalinder Ghatoura – Co-Chair