

Report to BEAC

October 13, 2020

Members:

David Laing – Chair, Stacey Wilson, Davika Misir, Harry Bridgemohan, Rajbalinder Ghatoura, Kayla Wong (retired), Malcolm Hamilton (retired)

Sub-committee purpose:

Re-start the Grow Green Network and establish a working plan for its continuation and growth

Sub-committee meetings

The Grow Green Network Sub-committee had its first meeting in person, February 27, 2020

- David Laing was selected as sub-committee chair
- The group reviewed the history of the Grow Green Network which had met four times during the previous Council term, (2014-2018)
- The committee agreed that a resurrected GGN could benefit the City by engaging residents and organizations about environmental issues in a way that the City could not and by bringing focus to selected environmental projects.

An informal meeting was held on March 8, 2020 at the home of Malcolm Hamilton.

The third meeting was held virtually on April 21, 2020

- It was decided to engage individual residents and organizations in a way that would deliver benefit to the membership.
 - Initial focus would be on bringing organizations together for a re-launch event
 - Organizational structure, governance and format of an on-going relationship with the City would be decided by the GGN membership as opposed to the sub-committee

The fourth meeting was held virtually on May 5, 2020

- Decisions:
 - Organizational members will be recruited from the existing contact list but membership will be open to organizations operating in Brampton with an interest in environmental sustainability and in environmental issues
 - End goal is to engage as many people in Brampton as possible

- Use the GGN as a portal to create the new entity separate from the City
- Survey prospective members to understand their needs and determine what they want to get from network membership. Then position the network deliverables to meet those needs.
- Virtual re-launch event on June 17, 2020

Subsequent meetings were held on May 12, May 19, May 26, June 02, June 10 and June 16, to review survey feedback, plan details and prep for the June 17 GGN meeting.

Further meetings were held on June 23, June 30, July 7, July 14, July 21, July 28, and August 11 to debrief GGN meeting #1, plan details and prepare for the August 12 GGN meeting.

Additional meetings were held on September 1, and October 5 to debrief GGN meeting #2, set agenda and prepare for the October 7 GGN meeting.

Grow Green Network Meetings

The Grow Green Network met three times. Next meeting targeted for the first week of December.

GGN Meeting #1 June 17, 2020 Meeting summary, actions and outcomes

- 40 people, 19 organizations attended
- Keynote presentations given by Stacey Wilson, Friends of Dorchester Park, and Debbie Valentine, UNIFOR West GTA Environmental Council
- Approved the GGN Vision. "Brampton is a **sustainable community** that is healthy and resilient **environmentally, socially and economically.**"
- Approved the GGN Mission. "To **advocate** for, **develop**, and **support, collective actions** including public engagement and education programs **to make Brampton a sustainable community**"
- Discussed survey and established three main objectives for the Network
 - **Networking** for community outreach
 - **Partnering** to strengthen the network and its members
 - **Workshops** to:
 - inform and educate Network members on subjects of interest to them such as: fund-raising, advocacy, communications, etc.
 - provide public education on environmental issues and actions
- Agreed
 - That the Network should move to operational independence from the City
 - To meet every 2-3 months, more often at the beginning to establish momentum
 - To form 4 standing sub-committees as follows:
 - Networking sub-committee
 - Partnerships sub-committee
 - Workshops sub-committee
 - Executive sub-committee (Define organizational model and set a path towards independence from the City)

GGN Meeting #2 August 12, 2020

- 25 People, 15 organizations attended

- We ran a visualization word poll as an ice breaker, “In one word express how the Grow Green Network can help you realize your most important environmental goal.”
- Responses:
 - EQUITY was the word used most often followed by, Respect, Collaboration, Action
- The group then was arranged into their working groups. Main points covered for each working group were summarized:
 - **Network Group**
 - Action: Need to look at ways to communicate, develop email list and the GGN website
 - **Partnership Group**
 - Action: Perform GAP analysis to compare existing programs to member needs. Develop a template for each member and send out within the next 2 weeks.
 - **Workshop Group**
 - Action: Collect workshop ideas and topics. Develop a quarterly schedule of topics and speakers. Two workshop categories, one for GGN members and one for the general public, (liaise with Network Group on the latter). With Network Group, investigate best practices to engage citizens in environmental issues.
 - **Executive Group**
 - Action: Evaluate organizational models for the network (formal or informal, not-for-profit or partnership) and bring recommendation to the larger network. Investigate sustainable funding models, creating an executive board and creating specific volunteer and or staff positions. Define how the GGN will interact with COB as an independent body.

GGN Meeting #3 October 5 2020

- 25 people, 18 organizations attended
- COB staff presented updates on:
 - Community Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan
 - Centre for Community Energy Transformation
 - Grow Green Environment Master Plan
 - Urban Forest Management Plan
- Working Group Breakouts
 - Partnership Working Group
 - Developed Network member GAP analysis spreadsheet to be presented at the next GGN meeting
 - Workshop Working Group
 - Reviewed how other cities engage/educate the public on environmental initiatives
 - Determined need for asset map of members expertise and ability to deliver workshops
 - Action plan to determine Workshop schedule
 - Networking Working Group
 - Determine preferred team communication method
 - Discussed work plan, goals and objectives
 - Considered outreach communication strategy

- Action plan to get permission to engage the individual GGN member contacts that the City has
- Action plan to develop and distribute GGN poster
- Executive Working Group
 - Evaluated organizational structure
 - Incorporate as a not for profit vs partner with one or more existing not-for profit organizations
 - Action: Continue to investigate options and present recommendation at the next GGN meeting.