



Minutes

Environment Advisory Committee

The Corporation of the City of Brampton

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

Members Present:

Rajbalinder Ghatoura (Co-Chair)
David Laing (Co-Chair)
Alexandra Belen
Harripaul Bridgemohan
Akeem Gardner
Jafir Jaferi
Tamsen Metcalfe
Davika Misir
Charry Rakhara
Sherry-Ann Ram
City Councillor D. Whillans

Members Absent:

Stacey Wilson

Staff Present:

Michael Hoy, Supervisor, Environmental Planning, Public Works and Engineering
Kristina Dokoska, Policy Planner, Environment, Public Works and Engineering
Peter Fay, City Clerk, Legislative Services
Charlotte Gravlev, Deputy Clerk, Legislative Services
Sonya Pacheco, Legislative Coordinator, Legislative Services

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. and recessed at 7:11 p.m. At 7:23 p.m. Committee reconvened in Closed Session, recessed at 7:35 p.m., reconvened in Open Session at 7:39 p.m. and adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Committee discussion took place with respect to proposed amendments to the agenda.

The following motion was considered.

EAC009-2022

That the agenda for the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting of April 5, 2022, be approved, as amended to add the following item:

8.3. Discussion Item at the request of David Laing, Co-Chair, re: City of Brampton Flexible Work Policy - Environmental Impacts

Carried

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

Nil

4. **Previous Minutes**

4.1 Minutes - Environment Advisory Committee - February 22, 2022

The minutes were considered by Committee of Council on March 9, 2022, and approved by Council on March 9, 2022. The minutes were provided for Committee's information.

5. **Presentations\Delegations**

Nil

6. Reports/Updates

- 6.1 Verbal Update from Michael Hoy, Supervisor, Environmental Planning, Public Works and Engineering, re: Centre for Community Energy Transformation (CCET) Transitional Board

Michael Hoy, Supervisor, Environmental Planning, Public Works and Engineering, provided an update on the Centre for Community Energy Transformation (CCET) Transitional Board, and advised that staff have been working with the advisory task force and its nominating committee to establish the transitional board, and provided information regarding the five individuals selected, the first meeting of the board, and their work plan.

Committee thanked staff for their efforts in this regard.

The following motion was considered.

EAC010-2022

That the verbal update from Michael Hoy, Supervisor, Environmental Planning, Public Works and Engineering, to the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting of April 5, 2022, re: **Centre for Community Energy Transformation (CCET) Transitional Board**, be received.

Carried

- 6.2 Verbal Update from Kristina Dokoska, Policy Planner - Environment, Public Works and Engineering, re: Earth Day Event Update and Call for Volunteers

Kristina Dokoska, Policy Planner, Environment, Public Works and Engineering, provided an update regarding the Earth Day celebrations taking place on Saturday, April 23, 2022, and highlighted various activities planned for this event. Kristina outlined the need for volunteers from the Committee to assist with this event, and provided details on the roles to be filled.

David Laing, Co-Chair, provided additional information regarding the importance of this event, and encouraged Committee members to volunteer.

In response to a question from Committee, Kristina advised that she would send additional information to Committee members regarding the volunteer opportunities.

The following motion was considered.

EAC011-2022

That the verbal update from Kristina Dokoska, Policy Planner - Environment, Public Works and Engineering, to the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting of April 5, 2022, re: **Earth Day Event Update and Call for Volunteers**, be received.

Carried

7. Sub-Committees

Nil

8. Other New/Business

8.1 Discussion Item at the request of Rajbalinder Ghatoura, Co-Chair, re: Environment Advisory Committee Workplan

Rajbalinder Ghatoura, Co-Chair, outlined the following summary of responses from Committee members for the Environment Advisory Committee's 2022 work plan:

- Participate in person events (if allowed) and activities like tree planting, post COVID litter clean-up event, etc.
- Produce a digital marketing campaign and or bring awareness to some of the big environmental impact items. For example:
 - transportation choices (cycling, walking, public transportation)
 - eating less meat in our diet
 - our energy consumption
 - buying new instead of used
- Support the Brampton Environmental Alliance in its programs, events, and advocacy including membership and reach
- Support the City's "green vision" plans, by encouraging tangible actions and maintaining accountability with Council and staff
- Enlist Council support for Provincial environmental matters, (Example highway 413 and use of MZOs).
- Recruit and vet new BEAC members for the next Council term.

Committee discussion on this matter included the following:

- The need to establish a social media presence
- In-person event participation (e.g. tree planting, litter clean-ups)
- Producing a weekly newsletter to include information/articles on various environmental issues
- Indication that the proposed work plan is aggressive given the limited number of Committee meetings remaining in 2022, and the role of the EAC sub-committees in this regard
 - It was suggested that the EAC sub-committee meetings resume in order to achieve the objectives outlined in the proposed work plan
- Indication that the Terms of Reference for this Committee are action-oriented, and includes community outreach, raising environmental awareness in the community, and educating residents on the importance of the environment to our health and well-being

Clarification was sought regarding the intent of the last bullet point in the work plan to "Recruit and vet new BEAC members for the next Council term".

Sonya Pacheco, Legislative Coordinator, advised that the re-establishment of all citizen advisory committees are subject to Council approval in the new term, and provided a brief overview of the citizen appointments process.

Rajbalinder Ghatoura clarified that the intent is for the Committee to promote and encourage potential new EAC members for the next Council term.

The item was amended accordingly to read as follows:

"Promote and encourage potential new BEAC members for the next Council term"

The following motion was considered.

EAC012-2022

That the following work plan be endorsed as the 2022 set of Committee objectives:

- Participate in person events (if allowed) and activities like tree planting, post COVID litter clean-up event, et cetera;
- Produce a digital marketing campaign and or bring awareness to some of the big environmental impact items, for example:

- transportation choices (cycling, walking, public transportation),
- eating less meat in our diet,
- our energy consumption,
- buying new instead of used;
- Support the Brampton Environmental Alliance in its programs, events, and advocacy including membership and reach;
- Support the City’s “green vision” plans, by encouraging tangible actions and maintaining accountability with Council and staff;
- Enlist Council support for Provincial environmental matters, (Example Highway 413 and use of MZO’s); and
- Promote and encourage potential new BEAC members for the next Council term.

Carried

8.2 Discussion Item at the request of Stacey Wilson, Committee Member, re: Urban Forest Management Plan Update

David Laing, Co-Chair, on behalf of Stacey Wilson, Committee Member, addressed Committee with respect to the Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP), and outlined the following:

- A draft UFMP is posted on the City's website
- Clarification from staff is needed regarding the resources required to implement the UFMP, and it was noted that this information should be included in the plan
 - Michael Hoy, Supervisor, Environmental Planning, advised that a recommended structure and framework for the Urban Forest Management Section will be included in the plan
- Support from the Environment Advisory Committee for approval of the UFMP by Council
 - Michael Hoy, Supervisor, Environmental Planning, suggested that the Committee can demonstrate its support for the UFMP by way of a delegation at the time the report is presented to Council for approval
- Challenges in maintaining the existing tree stock, and concerns that without appropriate resources in place to support the UFMP, the tree canopy will not

thrive and the City will not achieve the objectives of the One Million Trees Program

- The need to educate residents and raise awareness on the importance of trees and the urban canopy
- Opportunity for residents to support the One Million Trees Programs by planting trees on their properties
- Indication that the maintenance of new trees is very labour intensive, and the UFMP should include further details on the resources required to ensure its success
- Indication that Brampton is behind other GTA municipalities in regard to forest coverage

City Councillor Whillans advised that a meeting with Forestry staff could be arranged to discuss the concerns raised.

8.3 Discussion Item at the request of David Laing, Co-Chair, re: City of Brampton Flexible Work Policy - Environmental Impacts

David Laing, Co-Chair, addressed Committee with respect to the environmental impacts of the City's Flexible Work administrative policy, which includes a gradual return to in-person work. David's remarks included the following:

- Indication that this policy does not align with the City's Climate Emergency declaration or the Community Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan (CEERP)
- Concern that this policy delivers the wrong message to the community that the Climate Emergency is not a priority
- Concern regarding the impact of this policy on the carbon footprint of employees daily commute to work
- Dire climate predictions in the most recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the need to take action to reduce carbon emissions
- Questions regarding the justification of this policy, and a suggestion that this policy be reviewed by Council and overturned

In addition, David Laing outlined the following questions for the City's senior administrators:

- a. What is the justification for implementing this policy change?
- b. Has this policy been reviewed and approved by Council?
- c. How does the Administration square the increased carbon emissions resulting from this change with the City's Community Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan?

Committee discussion on this matter included the following:

- Questions regarding the availability of this policy on the City's website for public review
- Request for clarification from senior staff on the necessity of this policy
- Concern that this policy fails to communicate the seriousness of the Climate Emergency
- The opportunity provided by the COVID-19 pandemic to change employment habits
- Concerns from taxpayers regarding staff working remotely
- Management philosophies and tools relating to remote work, which can be used to demonstrate its effectiveness

Peter Fay, City Clerk, provided information to Committee regarding the implementation of remote work at the City of Brampton due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the phased-in approach for employees returning to work in-person. Mr. Fay added that the City has modernized its flexible work program to include remote work as an option for employees, if it can be accommodated based on the nature of work.

The following motion was considered.

EAC013-2022

It is the position of the Environment Advisory Committee:

1. That the policy requiring staff to return to on-site work be reviewed by Council with regard to the potential negative environmental impacts it may incur; and
2. That the City's senior administrators be requested to report on the following questions:
 - a. What is the justification for implementing this policy change?
 - b. Has this policy been reviewed and approved by Council?

- c. How does the Administration square the increased carbon emissions resulting from this change with the City's Community Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan?

Carried

9. Correspondence

Nil

10. Question Period

Nil

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, confirmed that no questions were submitted.

12. Closed Session

The following motion was considered.

EAC014-2022

That Committee proceed into Closed Session to discuss matters pertaining to the following:

12.1. Open Session meeting exception under Section 239 (2) (b) of the Municipal Act, 2001:

- (b) Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees

Carried

In Open Session, the Chair reported on the status of matters considered in Closed Session, as follows:

12.1 – This item was considered by Committee in Closed Session, information was received, and direction was given to staff.

13. **Adjournment**

The following motion was considered.

EAC015-2022

That the Environment Advisory Committee do now adjourn to meet again on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. or at the call of the Chair.

Carried

Rajbalinder Ghatoura – Co-Chair

David Laing – Co-Chair