



Minutes

Environment Advisory Committee The Corporation of the City of Brampton

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

Members Present:

Sherry-Ann Ram (Co-Chair)
Raman Vasudev (Co-Chair)
Sukran Balaban
Brajgeet Bhathal
Pushproop Brar
Subhash Chander Duggal
Neil Fairhead
Hardik Mankad
Shailly Prajapati
Sandra Roppa

Members Absent:

Charles Coimbra
Regional Councillor G. Toor - Wards 9 and 10

Staff Present:

Pam Cooper, Policy Planner, Environment, Planning, Building
and Growth Management
Karley Cianchino, Environmental Project Specialist, Planning,
Building and Growth Management
Sonya Pacheco, Legislative Coordinator, City Clerk's Office

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. and adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

The following motion was considered.

EAC005-2023

That the agenda for the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting of August 1, 2023, 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 - June 27, 2023

The minutes are pending approval by the Committee of Council on September 6, 2023 and by Council on September 13, 2023. The minutes were provided for Committee's information.

5. **Presentations\Delegations**

5.1 Delegation from Elizabeth Speller, Project Manager, Watershed Planning and Reporting, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, re: Draft Etobicoke Creek Watershed Plan and Public/Stakeholder Engagement Overview

Elizabeth Speller, Project Manager, Watershed Planning and Reporting, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), provided a presentation to the Committee entitled "Draft Etobicoke Creek Watershed Plan and Engagement Overview".

Committee discussion took place, and the delegation responded to questions with respect to the following:

- Etobicoke Creek Watershed Plan (ECWP) Management Framework
 - Goals and management actions

- The need to encourage developers to implement changes
- Concerns regarding increased impervious cover in the community
- Main stressors in the watershed, including urban development, impervious cover and climate change, and efforts to mitigate and minimize the impacts (e.g. adapting to climate change, implementing green development policies/standards)
- Criteria used to identify priority areas
 - It was noted that further information on the criteria and methodology used to identify these areas is available through the TRCA website

The following motion was considered.

EAC006-2023

That the delegation from Elizabeth Speller, Project Manager, Watershed Planning and Reporting, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, to the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting of August 1, 2023, re: **Draft Etobicoke Creek Watershed Plan and Public/Stakeholder Engagement Overview**, be received.

Carried

6. Reports/Updates

- 6.1 Verbal Update from Karley Cianchino, Environmental Project Specialist, Planning, Building and Growth Management, re: Dearbourne Park Pollinator Habitat Pilot Project

Karley Cianchino, Environmental Project Specialist, Planning, Building and Growth Management, provided an update regarding the Dearbourne Park Pollinator Habitat pilot project, the first community-led pollinator habitat in the City, and included information regarding the following:

- Background on the establishment and design of this pollinator habitat
 - Design options presented to the community
- Monitoring and maintenance of pollinator habitats to ensure success
- Community engagement, and the establishment and role of the Adopt-A-Park group
- Engaging with local schools to establish programming for this pollinator habitat

- Pollinator habitat planting phases and timelines
- Opportunities for the community to learn how to create their own pollinator habitat and deal with invasive species

Karley invited Committee members to attend the first planting event at Dearbourne Park, which is taking place on Saturday, September 9, 2023, and provided details regarding this event.

Committee discussion on this matter included the following:

- The need to increase awareness and educate the public on the importance of pollinator gardens
- Information from staff regarding:
 - the use of social media to promote environmental events and activities
 - updates to the Grass and Weed Cutting By-law regarding natural groundcover options in front yards
 - community programming available through the conservation authorities
- Selected design for the Dearbourne Park Pollinator Habitat pilot project (Option #3)
 - Use of the outdoor classroom and engaging local schools
- Programs for residents to obtain free advice regarding their gardens, and information from staff regarding the Backyard Garden, Front Garden Recognition and Million Trees programs
- Consideration for building pollinator corridors
 - Staff advised this will be included in the Natural Heritage Restoration Plan update, with opportunities for community involvement and an engagement program
- Effectiveness of seed packet distribution compared to plant splitting/sharing
- Information from staff regarding the Butterflyway Project Brampton, an initiative run by volunteers to spread pollinator habitat across the City

The following motion was considered.

EAC007-2023

That the verbal update from Karley Cianchino, Environmental Project Specialist, Planning, Building and Growth Management, to the Environment Advisory

Committee Meeting of August 1, 2023, re: **Dearbourne Park Pollinator Habitat Pilot Project**, be received.

Carried

7. Sub-Committees

7.1 Establishment of the Engagement and Events Sub-Committees

Pam Cooper, Acting Manager, Environmental Planning, Planning, Building and Growth Management, advised Committee that, in accordance with the terms of reference for the Environment Advisory Committee (EAC), the following standing sub-committees are to be established with a minimum of two members appointed to each, and outlined the mandate, role and responsibilities of the sub-committees:

- Engagement Sub-Committee
- Events Sub-Committee

Committee discussion took place and staff responded to questions from Committee with respect to the following:

- Material for events (e.g. information pamphlets)
 - Staff advised that various materials are available for use, and members can also create new material. It was noted that all new material must be approved by staff prior to the event and public distribution.
- Creating a list of events organized by the City and external organizations that the EAC can participate in or attend
 - Staff advised that a list of events will be provided to the Events Sub-Committee for consideration
- EAC-organized events to promote the work of the Committee
- The importance of educating the public regarding the environment and providing educational programs in schools
 - Staff provided information regarding in-school environmental education and engagement provided by City staff and the conservation authorities
- Questions regarding environmental projects, research and funding, and a suggestion that this matter be added to a future meeting agenda for discussion

In response to an inquiry from the Chair, the following members expressed their interest in being appointed to the Engagement and Events Sub-Committees:

- Engagement Sub-Committee: Brajgeet Bhathal, Shailly Prajapati,
- Events Sub-Committee: Sukran Balaban, Neil Fairhead, Hardik Mankad, Shailly Prajapati

The following motion was considered.

EAC008-2023

That the Engagement and Events Sub-Committees be established for the term of Council ending November 14, 2026, and the following members be appointed thereto:

Engagement Sub-Committee:

1. Brajgeet Bhathal
2. Shailly Prajapati

Events Sub-Committee:

1. Sukran Balaban
2. Neil Fairhead
3. Hardik Mankad
4. Shailly Prajapati

Carried

8. Other New/Business

- 8.1 Discussion Item at the request of Raman Vasudev, Co-Chair, re: Educating Newcomers regarding the Environment.

Raman Vasudev, Co-Chair, addressed Committee regarding the need to educate newcomers regarding the environment.

Committee discussion on this matter included the following:

- Suggestions on how to educate newcomers regarding the environment and the potential role of the EAC in this regard
 - Student/newcomer engagement incentives
 - Translating information pamphlets in multiple languages, and distributing this information during events, and to agencies/

organizations that support newcomers (e.g. newcomer information centres, cultural organizations, etc.)

- Information from staff regarding City translation services, including providing communications materials in multiple languages and through 311 calls
- The need to identify the educational need in the community and programs already available through the City and other organizations
 - Information from staff regarding multicultural connection programs for newcomers available through the conservation authorities, which introduce newcomers to the natural environment
- Suggestion that the Engagement Sub-Committee review this matter further

The following motion was considered.

EAC009-2023

That the matter relating to environmental education for newcomers be **referred** to the Engagement Sub-Committee for further review and consideration.

Carried

9. Correspondence

Nil

10. Question Period

In response to questions from Committee, Pam Cooper, Acting Manager, Environmental Planning, Planning, Building and Growth Management:

- advised that the term "environment", as it relates to the mandate of the Environment Advisory Committee (EAC), refers to the natural environment (e.g. land, water, air), and clarified that noise pollution is not within the scope of this committee
- provided information regarding Brampton's Community Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan (CEERP) and advised that the EAC can support this plan, and other municipal plans/policies relating to the environment, by participating in the public meetings and open houses related to these matters

- confirmed that staff are reviewing the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs

11. Public Question Period

The public was given the opportunity to submit questions in person or via e-mail to the City Clerk's Office regarding any decisions made at this meeting. S. Pacheco, Legislative Coordinator, confirmed there were no questions from the public.

12. Adjournment

The following motion was considered.

EAC010-2023

That the Environment Advisory Committee do now adjourn to meet again for a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 or at the call of the Chair.

Carried

Raman Vasudev – Co-Chair

Sherry-Ann Ram – Co-Chair