



MINUTES
CITY OF WELLAND
GREEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING
February 12, 2024 – 3:30pm - 4:30 pm

| No: | Topic | Initials |
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| | Committee Members | |
| | James Takeo - Chair | JT |
| | Carolyn Fast – Vice Chair | CF |
| | Therese DeAgazio | TD |
| | Sydney Tomaino | ST |
| | Councillor Bonnie Fokkens | BF |
| | Councillor David McLeod (via auto) | DM |
| | Dave Steven – Forestry | DS |
| | Ryan Nolan - Forestry | RN |
| | Nicolas Aiello - Staff Liaison | NA |
| | Vickie Lafleur - Customer Service Clerk (minutes) | VL |
| 1 | Call meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. | JT |
| 2 | Land Acknowledgement | JT |
| | Welland is situated on treaty land. This land is steeped in the rich history of the First Nations such as the Hatiwendaronk (Hat-i-wen-DA-ronk), the Haudenosaunee (Hoe-den-no-SHOW-nee), and the Anishinaabe (Ah-nish-ihNAH-bey), including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. There are many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people from across Turtle Island that live and work in Welland today. Welland stands with all Indigenous people, past and present, in promoting the wise stewardship of the lands on which we live. | |
| 3 | Introductions | ALL |
| | Introductions made by Committee members with Dave Steven - Manager and Ryan Nolan - Supervisor with Forestry Dept. Phill Gladman resigned. | |
| 4 | Approval of February 12, 2024 Agenda | ALL |
| | Motion to approve: BF asked to move items 9 and 10 around | |
| | All in favour | |
| 5 | Conflict of interest | ALL |
| | “Having reviewed the agenda, does any committee member have a need to disclose a direct or indirect pecuniary interest with respect to today’s agenda” | |
| | None | |

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| 6 | Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes | ALL |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - December 11, 2023 <p>Motion to approve: BF All in favour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - January 8, 2024 <p>Motion to approve: BF All in favour</p> | |
| 7 | Presentations | ALL |
| | None | |
| 8 | <p>Green Committee Strategic Priorities and Terms of Reference https://www.welland.ca/Committees/pdf/GreenAdvisory-TOR.pdf</p> <p>ST drafted an email to send to NA from herself and CF regarding social media for GAC to have own platform if allowed and have answer by end of March CF would like to see before. BF asked for piggyback with City communications or stand-alone ST replied both. GM stated we have a communications department and can use that Dept. can discuss further with them with GAC priorities to get out there. Talks continued how to promote GAC through Engage Welland (and use own social media). GM will comeback to Committee about Communications Dept. Discussion continued GAC being a working committee, unofficial google doc on priorities (TD would like to remove herself from some activities), clear a pathway on ideas, open channel for discussions, contacting Forestry on tree related items (City/Private trees), Engage Welland is a place to start for Community concerns and forward them to GAC. TD is happy to have DS sit with Committee who can answer some of these questions and forward if need be to GAC. NA will look further into Engage Welland with GAC communications. DM stated Committee wants a way to understand what the Community wants and to ensure its part of the GAC decision making working with Engage Welland. Talks continued priorities GAC Timeline Rollout ST would like to see one priority per quarter discussion on deadlines and timelines, education, policy, and green infrastructure and where they fall, partnerships, activity themes. CF gave quick talk on document. BF spoke on moving any of these items i.e. Mother Earth need more details to get up and running, who is responsible for co-ordinating, cost, gloves, bags, location of meeting place before next GAC meeting. DS has approval for Tree Planting and move forward. Conversation on Council recommendations, Mother Earth in conjunction with Street Clean Campaign (Adopt a Road), dates and timeline, staffing (union/non-union), NA will prepare recommendation for Council. BF will speak at Council to promote/approval of event. DS stated previously were provided bags and gloves to assist, once clean email Parks Dept for location of garbage bag pick up. DM, JT, TD and ST all agree concentrate on specific areas (list) for clean up. DS states Woodlawn bridge area is a good target. Below promoted through Engage Welland for location(s), gloves, bags and sign up.</p> | JT |

MOTION: THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND approves a Mother Earth Day Clean-up Event to be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024, with a rain date of Sunday, April 21, 2024 for different locations within the City.

FURTHER THAT the Event be promoted through the City of Welland website and Engage Welland.

Motion to approve: BF

All in favour

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| 9 | Tree By-law (Oakville) | BF s/b CF |
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CF investigated Tree Policies found the best was Town of Oakville and shared with members on how it works and have in our area along with stake holders, planners, etc. and this is the best practice findings, talks continued. TD asked DS if looked at document he states it's all private and don't have authority over private trees. NA stated a Staff Report for Citywide by-laws includes City and private properties. DM spoke about GAC mandate to advise on activities, improve planting, conservation and community engagement alike, not look like a liability, drainage and feels the GAC Policy feels should start with "more trees not tree protection program". Conversation continued on policies for trees, climate change, protect what trees we have, development, stewardship, planting correctly, clear cutting, destruction or injury of private trees. Work on Town of Oakville sample for Welland and talks continued.

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| 10 | Merritt Island Tree Removal | JT |
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BF shared power point of Merritt Island trails and how they look after the removal of bore ash trees and ivy, would like to see an inventory of tree count and have Committee more involved in this type of removal. CF says she gets calls from Community on items like this, and she was not aware which needs accountability. TD talked about more open communication for GAC to be included. BF would like to have GAC support regarding concerns with soil, wildlife, tree canopy. Committee agrees to support.

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| 11 | Business/Actions Arising from past Minutes | JT |
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Update covered under item #12

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| 12 | New business/discussion Update for Urban Tree Canopy Data – GIS | ALL |
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NA gave update GIS remote census for urban tree canopy with a baseline canopy. We know where we are and where we need to go. Discussion on Tree and Forest Canopy Project and would like to see

Citywide results. JT liked seeing the numbers as data and something good to work with.

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| 13 | White Space | ALL |
| | DS spoke on grant applications: TD Friends of the Environment, Trees Canada Grant, Environmental Grant, working 6-12 months on 2 billion trees with NPCA and would like to do a presentation to GAC in June for support DS and NA to discuss. | |
| 14 | Correspondence | JT |
| | NA stated a Committee Member resigned and opening will be posted through Clerk's Dept. GM will send email that he received. | |
| 15 | Adjourn at 5:01 p.m. | ALL |
| | Motion to adjourn CF All in favour | |

**Next Meeting Date:
Monday March 11, 2024
Council Ante Room**