

Agenda

Trees and Forests Advisory Committee

5th Meeting of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee

May 22, 2019, 12:15 PM

Committee Room #4

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Trees and Forests Advisory Committee

Report

4th Meeting of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee
April 24, 2019
Committee Room #2

Attendance PRESENT: R. Mannella (Chair), T. Khan, J. Kogelheide, C. Linton, A. Meilutis, A. Morrison, M. Szabo, S. Teichert and R. Walker and H. Lysynski (Acting Secretary)

ABSENT: C. Haindl and G. Mitchell

ALSO PRESENT: A. Beaton, K. Hodgins and J.-A. Spence

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 PM

1. Call to Order

1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

2. Scheduled Items

2.1 (ADDED) A. Valastro - Removal of Trees and Exempting Property Owners from Planting Replacement Trees

That A. Valastro BE INVITED to attend a future meeting of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee, to provide detailed information on her concerns, concurrent with the Civic Administration reporting back with respect to the following:

- a) a request to address the definition of "hazardous trees";
- b) a review of the current Tree Protection By-law;
- c) the protection of young trees;
- d) trees being used as dens by animals; and,
- e) the requirement for property owners to replace trees that are removed from their property;

it being noted that the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee heard a verbal presentation from A. Valastro, with respect to the above-noted matters.

3. Consent

3.1 1st Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 1st Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on January 23, 2019, was received.

3.2 2nd Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 2nd Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on February 27, 2019, was received.

3.3 3rd Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 3rd Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on March 27, 2019, was received.

3.4 Municipal Council Resolution - 2019 appointments to the City of London Advisory Committees

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council resolution from its meeting held on March 26, 2019, with respect to the 2019 appointments to the City of London Advisory Committees, was received.

4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

None.

5. Items for Discussion

5.1 Mitigation Banking as it Relates to Urban Forest Strategy - C. Linton

That consideration of the mitigation banking relating to the Urban Forest Strategy BE POSTPONED to the next Trees and Forests Advisory Committee meeting.

5.2 Tree Planting in Subdivision - C. Linton

That consideration of the discussion on tree planting in subdivisions BE POSTPONED to the next Trees and Forests Advisory Committee meeting.

5.3 Trees and Forests Advisory Committee 2018 Work Plan

That consideration of the 2018 Trees and Forests Advisory Committee (TFAC) Work Plan Summary BE POSTPONED to the next TFAC meeting.

5.4 Trees and Forests Advisory Committee 2019 Work Plan

That consideration of the 2019 Work Plan for the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee (TFAC) BE DEFERRED to the new term of the TFAC.

6. Deferred Matters/Additional Business

None.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:27 PM.

**Trees and Forests Advisory Committee
Advisory Committee Work Plan – 2018**

March 2018

Project/Initiative	Background	Lead/ Responsibility	Proposed Timeline	Proposed Budget	Link to Strategic Plan
Planting & Monitoring Efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to follow the progress of recommendations made in the Tree Planting Strategy and the Urban Forest Strategy • Monitor progress of the watering program 	ReForest London/Tarik	Q3	\$0	Robust Infrastructure 1A Strong and Healthy Environment 3C
Green Legacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The province has recently voted to try and take Wellington County's "Green Legacy" model (through which school children volunteer at county-owned greenhouses to grow, distribute, and plant free trees throughout the County) province wide. Rob Johnson, the program manager in Wellington, attended TFAC in Spring 2016 to share information about their program. We then recommended to PEC that the City investigate the possibility of bringing such a program to London, in partnership with local partners, and possibly Middlesex County. They supported this recommendation • ReForest London's Ontario Trillium Foundation bid proposal was accepted in June 2017 • An update will be provided to TFAC in September regarding the progress and status of the initiative 	TBD – New ReForest London Rep	Q2	\$0	Strong and Healthy Environment 3C

Project/Initiative	Background	Lead/ Responsibility	Proposed Timeline	Proposed Budget	Link to Strategic Plan
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change is expected to have enormous impacts on Canadian forests, with a minimum of 4°C of warming predicted for our country (vs. the global average of 2°C) by the end of the century, and worst case projections from the IPCC suggesting that increases as high as 10°C may be possible (for Canada) • Goal is to develop recommendations around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Acquisition and establishment of more southerly stock ○ Piloting more southern species as street trees ○ Collaborating with more southern municipalities on climate change issues ○ Revised numbers for max warming for Canada by end of century now stand at 14°C, following unexpectedly rapid warming in the past 2 years since the last IPCC report came out ○ Follow-up on recommendations that were made around these issues last year. Request an update on the progress of these recommendations and make further and determine if further recommendations concerning the use of a standardized “climate scenario” for planning are required 	Randy	Q2	\$0	Building a Sustainable City 1E: Fund innovative ways to adapt to Climate Change.
Committee Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify potential educational/outreach opportunities for members to possibly attend to help keep abreast of current developments in urban forestry (e.g., forestry conferences) and plan to have at least 3 TFAC members attend such opportunities this year. 	TFAC	Ongoing	\$500	Innovative and Supportive Organizational Practices 2B: Use innovative and best practices in all organizational and management activities

Project/Initiative	Background	Lead/ Responsibility	Proposed Timeline	Proposed Budget	Link to Strategic Plan
Fruit & Nut Tree Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a growing interest in food security issues in London. With climate change, food prices are expected to increase by 11-131% (depending on species) for staples such as corn, rice and wheat by 2050: an increase in food prices of as much as 4% is expected for 2016 alone • Feb. 2017: TFAC supported AAC's Urban Agriculture conference last year. Recommendations on this issue this year would probably be pretty short • Continue to monitor progress around this topic with respect to the Tree Planting Strategy 	Randy	Q3	\$0	Caring and Compassionate Services 3A: Eliminate barriers for individuals facing poverty, mental health and addictions and help them find pathways to be successful.
Phased Planting in Unassumed Subdivisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TFAC made a recommendation to PEC concerning the idea of doing two phases of plantings in new subdivisions to speed up planting last year; was supported by PEC • Andrew has said it should be possible to make progress on this issue in 2017 – For 2018, follow-up on status of progress 	Craig/Jill-Anne	Q2	\$0	Strong and Healthy Environment 3C
Shade Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TFAC received presentation and report from UWO environmental health promotion students in 2016, and recommend City consider adopting a shade policy that would deal with both living and manmade sources of shade on city properties; was supported by PEC. Toronto already has a municipal shade policy in place and could be a great source of inspiration • Randy (MLHU) will continue to spearhead this (Although park/recreational space-focused, Toronto's policy was driven by efforts from their local health unit) 	Randy	Q4	\$0	Strong and Healthy Environment 3C

Project/Initiative	Background	Lead/ Responsibility	Proposed Timeline	Proposed Budget	Link to Strategic Plan
Invasives Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of invasive tree species within London’s Urban Forest continues to be of great concern to TFAC: London’s two most common trees (by stem count and volume) are both invasive species • We should look to see some progress on this issue in the Tree Planting Strategy, the City’s new Invasives Strategy, and the Tree Planting Guidelines. TFAC has previously recommended a “Non-Invasive Species First” planting policy wherein an invasive species would never be planted in a given planting location first (i.e., could only be considered as a replacement after another tree had been proven to fail, whereas now, an invasive species could be used right from the start) 	Jill-Anne	Q2	\$0	<p>Strong and Healthy Environment 3E</p> <p>April presentation by City Staff</p>
Woodland Acquisition Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TFAC wishes to gain a better understanding of how the woodland acquisition policy currently works • We hope to request presentation this spring (2017) and provide comment from there 	Craig	Q2	\$0	Strong and Healthy Environment 3E
Tree Planting Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to facilitate collaboration between Lydon Hydro and City Staff to ensure Right Tree, Right Place • London Hydro would like to be consulted and kept in the loop for the change process of the guidelines • Working Group is to be established by the City and London Hydro is to be included 	Roberto	Q3	\$0	Strong and Healthy Environment 3E

Project/Initiative	Background	Lead/ Responsibility	Proposed Timeline	Proposed Budget	Link to Strategic Plan
Urban Forest Strategy: Tree Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide feedback on tree retention policy • Provide feedback on “No Net Loss” policy (draft expected December 2017; communications plan may be drafted over summer) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Feb. 2017: On tree loss topic, City Tree Protection Bylaw currently in limbo (since focus was turned to the private tree protection bylaw last year instead) – we should seek to follow-up about this item this year. Andrew notes that it will likely will be December, 2017 that that review will be ready. (May start as early as July for a communication plan) ○ Feb. 2017: Private Tree Protection Bylaw is expected to undergo a one-year review (Sept. 1 2017): City expects they’ll be taking comments, doing open houses, etc. with report back to PEC in the Fall ○ TFAC has previously expressed interest in receiving an (informal) 6 month update ○ TFAC should aim to get comments in relatively early – may be August/September 	Jill-Anne	Q2	\$0	<p>Robust Infrastructure 1A: Address and manage the infrastructure gap to maintain what we have now and reduce the tax burden on future generations.</p> <p>Strong and Healthy Environment 3C: Plant more trees and better protect them from deforestation, invasive species, and other threats.</p> <p>Strong and Healthy Environment 3E: Work together to protect all aspects of our natural environment including woodlands, wetlands, river and watercourses, and air quality as our city grows.</p>

NEW 2018					
Boulevard Tree Bylaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Staff will be looking for TFAC input on replacement bylaw 	Jill-Anne	Q2	\$0	Strong and Healthy Environment 3E
COMPLETED					
Urban Forest Strategy: General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Urban Forest Strategy is a multi-million dollar 20 year strategy to help ensure the growth and health of one of the Forest City's most important features. Providing advice on the formation and implementation of London's Urban Forest Strategy is at the core of TFAC's mandate. Monitor progress on the Urban Forest Strategy and make recommendations concerning its ongoing implementation Ensure PEC is being kept informed of progress on the UFS Receive 2 UFS Semi-Annual Updates <i>(It is noted that a template for a semi-annual updated was provided to Ivan Listar last year but not really followed in the first update: we should revisit our template and look for a more formalized structure in the reporting this year)</i> 	Amber & Roberto		\$0	<p>Robust Infrastructure 1A: Address and manage the infrastructure gap to maintain what we have now and reduce the tax burden on future generations.</p> <p>Strong and Healthy Environment 3C: Plant more trees and better protect them from deforestation, invasive species, and other threats.</p> <p>Strong and Healthy Environment 3E: Work together to protect all aspects of our natural environment including woodlands, wetlands, river and watercourses, and air quality as our city grows.</p>
Tree Planting Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist City staff in the development of a Planting Strategy for London (as a part of the UFS) Provide feedback on "Right Tree Right Place" (part of the UFS) Feb. 2017: Tree Planting Strategy is under development, and City staff have developed a number for how many new trees need to be planted each year (~45,000) for ___ years in order to reach canopy cover targets. TFAC should expect to review a draft this spring and provide comment on it. Staff would like us to specifically explore, as a part of this, how we can incent private landowners to plant trees. (Planting on city-owned land, by comparison, will be the "easy part"). <p>We should also inquire as to the status of the Community</p>			\$0	Strong and Healthy Environment 3C

	Planting Projects Report which is normally prepared in January by Parks Planning's Community Projects Coordination each year.				
Infrastructure Replacement Projects in Roadways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road work and tree cutting in Rowntree and Queenston neighbourhoods over the past two years has provided an opportunity to review the processes affecting street trees in London Our goal is to make recommendations to improve citizen understanding of decisions to make removals, and to reduce the impact of construction on trees Feb. 2017: A presentation was received in the last couple of months about the work happening on roadways and a new system the City has to "score" contractors based on the work they've done and problems encountered. This is expected to reduce the odds of Queenston-type damage happening again. However, TFAC would still like to review core road construction documents as they relate to trees and make comment. 	Working group		\$0	Robust Infrastructure 1A
Tree establishment recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore ways to reduce mortality of newly planted street and park trees, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future tree watering options report for 2017 Potted stock in lieu of caliper trees Feb. 2017: Currently appears likely that potted trees will be a greater focus in the Tree Planting Strategy in light of the cost savings they bring and the need to significantly increase planting levels to hit municipal targets. (Great progress here). We are still waiting on a report on watering options for trees and should consult with staff about when this could be prepared. 	Amber		\$0	Robust Infrastructure 1A Strong and Healthy Environment 3C
Identification of Publicly Owned Plantable Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the largest single landowner in London, the City owns an enormous amount of plantable land, not all of which is in parks. 			\$0	Strong and Healthy Environment 3C

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TFAC will work to make recommendations to help ensure that there is a regular process for identifying all plantable spaces on City-owned land and that there are systems in place to help get them planted and contributing to London’s canopy cover targets. • Invite James MacKay, Ecologist to a future meeting (2017) to speak to this. 				
Trees Protection Strategy Construction Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an opportunity for the TFAC to review and possibly make recommendations to this tree protection strategy for construction mitigation early spring 2017 (added following the Road Work Construction presentation in November 2016) 	Amber			Strong and Healthy Environment 3E
Orientation for new City Forester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TFAC will provide a presentation and briefing to the new City Forester about recent recommendations and the areas our group is hoping to focus on moving forward 				Strong and Healthy Environment 3C & 3E
Asian Longhorn Beetle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian Longhorn Beetle Report & Update on current state of affairs in North America will be given by City staff (suggested by Andrew) 				Strong and Healthy Environment 3C

April 8, 2019

City of London, Long Range Planning and Sustainability Department
ATTN: Linda McDougall

Dear Ms. McDougall,

The Invasive Species Centre commends the City of London for the excellent work completed under its London Invasive Plant Management Strategy. Not only was London the first municipality in Ontario to create, approve and implement an invasive species strategy, but your implementation can now act as a model for other Ontario municipalities to follow. Beyond the tremendous ecological benefits of this strategy, London is enabling community-led engagement around invasive species control such as the notable buckthorn removal work undertaken at the Kilally Meadows Environmentally Significant Area.

The implementation of the strategy has been thoughtful and well-advised. Use of provincial standards for invasive species management as well as investing in biological control efforts such as those targeting purple loosestrife and dog-strangling vine are but two examples of a thoughtful approach to addressing established invasive species within your municipality.

City staff have also worked to develop partnerships with organizations such as the Invasive Species Centre to work collaboratively on invasive species issues facing London and other communities alike. Recent examples include partnering to deliver a workshop on oak wilt, and invasive disease threatening native oak trees. Staff from the City of London also recently participated in the Invasive Species Centre's municipal economic survey, which helps all Ontarians better understand just how costly invasive species are at the community level. With the average Ontario municipality spending \$3.06 per person, per year on invasive species control, London is making strides towards costs saving through prevention and action. The Invasive Species Centre looks forward to working with the City and the broader London community to help prevent and reduce the spread of invasive species.

Sincerely,



Tracey Cooke
Executive Director