

TFAC - 23Oct2013

November-26-12
9:52 AM

Under the VMP item:

1. Very successful planting ... doubled our plantings over previous years
2. Other than some conifers in our first year, we have not lost a tree yet ... so our methods are working so far ... we plan for a 5% loss over 5 years.
3. This year's numbers:
 - a. 40 professional volunteers
 - b. 14 pieces of heavy equipment (volunteered)
 - c. 400 60mm caliper trees planted in 7 projects
 - i. Girl Power - Guides and Women of Rotary
 - ii. Parkwood Penny drive
 - iii. 4 new partners; GDLS, Talbot Marketing, StarTech.com, and TDFEF
 - d. 500 volunteer planters supported 100 other volunteers
4. Next year's plan:
 - a. At least 600 60mm caliper trees
 - b. 5 year celebration of our founding partners; Trojan, Starlim, 3M Canada, and Scouts Canada

Under the Terms of Reference Item:

1. We should be taking a more activist approach and to that end, we need to review our Terms of Reference and lobby for changes if necessary.
2. We should be advocating on behalf of Forestry ... especially with regards to the Urban Forest Strategy ... more funding if necessary ... but we need the plan and we need it now. We should also be registering an opinion with regards to the cutting of Forestry budgets.
3. Next year is an election year ... this is bad in that budgets and taxes will be a central issue again ... but it is also an opportunity to grab the public's attention with regards to where the candidates stand on tree related matters ... including budgets ... Everyone around this table knows that the correct solution is a tree surcharge on property taxes ... people will vote for it, if they can trust that the city will use the money wisely on tree projects (which they don't).
4. We need a serious discussion with the Development community ... what are their issues and what can we do collaboratively to resolve those issues to get more trees in the ground? Let's ask for representations from the various associations ... give them an opportunity to state their case directly.
5. We should be asked to comment on new development plans early in the process. EPACC seems to have that ability in their terms of reference, so perhaps we need to change ours. In the alternative, we should work through our EPACC representative to bring our attention to new development plans, and to comment on them, and to take our written opinion back to EPACC. So we should be pushing EPACC to appoint a representative to our committee.
6. We should be more strongly working with community planting groups ... this is within our term of reference ... we should have each of the major community planting groups appear before us, talk about their goals, objectives, methodologies, successes and failures, and plans for the current year ... 15 min presentations followed by a question period. We should be advocating for them to City Council.

- a. VMP
 - b. ReForest London
 - c. Friends of the Cove
 - d. Green Streets
 - e. UTRCA
 - f. Kettle Creek
 - g. City of London Infill Program
7. Education ... we need to develop an active plan ...
 - a. we can start with a TFAC web-page on the City Web Site ... work with Rob Paynter.
 - b. Host a TFAC awards night for great community planting projects.
 - c. Create a Volunteer Urban Forester Program ... with mascots, pins, and tools ... some one on each street that can advise their neighbours how to water street trees during a drought ... look for signs of ALHB, etc.
 8. Work with Industrial Realty to locate sites where we can plant trees ... then help to find a community group to take the site on ... or advocate for the creation of a community group to do the work.
 - a. Diane Coffin ... suggested at a recent meeting that there are a number of "waste" sites that could be used for planting
 - b. Working on a plan for Neptune Crescent - a Carolinian Arboretum is one suggestion
 - c. Space within clover leaves ... example ... Bradley
 9. Explore Councillor Bud Polhill's idea re: exemptions to Landscape Plans in return for more trees
 - a. 2:1 or 3:1 or better ratio
 - b. Need the Urban Forestry Strategy to evaluate the proposals
 - c. Temporary program for 5 years or so to see if it worked
 - d. Trees need to be in the same neighbourhood
 - e. Example Car Dealers ... leaf litter
 10. Need to get the manager of SWM ponds in front of the committee to explain why they are opposed to planting trees around SWM ponds ... what exactly is the problem! Then advocate to change the policy if we think it is wrong ... they are worried about litter in their filters (i.e. budget) ... but more trees would lower the amount of run-off to deal with in the first place. Different approach is taken in many cities around the world. Is this a case of the tail wagging the dog?
 11. Next meeting ask for formal representations (presentation & written summary) from ReForest London, VMP, Million Tree, etc. ... ask for Diane Coffin to attend with a selection of potential planting sites endorsed by industrial realty.

Under ALHB Item

1. How big is the risk and when? If the ALHB kills maples, birches, popular, aspens, and willows, then we have a potential problem which will dwarf the EAB.
2. What can be done to mitigate?
3. We will need to advocate for the budget and will to attempt a solution
4. We might start will asking the Mayor to write a strongly worded note to the Provincial Government asking them what is their plan, budget, approach, etc.
5. An election year is a good time to do this.