

# Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee

## Report

9th meeting of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee  
September 4, 2024

Attendance B. Samuels (Chair), L. Bushan-Jazey, A. Butnari, I. ElGhamrawy, A. Ford, A. Hames, M.A. Hodge, N. Karsch, A. Pert and N. Serour and H. Lysynski (Clerk)

ABSENT: B. Amendola, R. Duvernoy and M. Griffith

ALSO PRESENT: M Fabro, J. Skimming and J. Stanford

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 PM; it being noted that L. Bushan-Jazey, A. Butnari, I. ElGhamrawy, A. Ford, A. Hames, N. Karsch, A. Pert and N. Serour were in remote attendance.

### 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 2023 Climate Emergency Action Plan Progress Report

That the following actions be taken with respect to the 2023 Climate Emergency Action Plan Progress Report from J. Stanford, Director, Climate Change, Environment and Waste Management:

a) the 2023 Climate Emergency Action Plan Progress Report presentation, appended to the Environmental Services and Action Community Advisory Committee, from J. Stanford, Director, Climate Change, Environment and Waste Management, BE RECEIVED; and,

b) a communication dated September 2, 2024, from M.A. Hodge, with respect to these matters BE RECEIVED.

#### 2.2 Climate Change Adaption Discussion Primer Climate Emergency Action Plan | Get Involved London

That the following actions be taken with respect to the Climate Change Adaptation Discussion Primer Climate Emergency Action Plan / Get Involved London presentation:

a) the presentation from M. Fabro, Manager, Climate Change Planning, BE RECEIVED; and,

b) the Climate Emergency Action Plan Working Group BE REQUESTED to review and report back at a future Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee meeting.

### **3. Consent**

#### **3.1 8th Report of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee**

That it BE NOTED that the 8th Report of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on July 3, 2024, was received.

#### **3.2 Municipal Council Resolution – 8th Report of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee**

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council resolution adopted at its meeting held on July 23, 2024, with respect to the 8th Report of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee, was received.

#### **3.3 Mid-Year Update: Green Bin and Collection Program Implementation**

That it BE NOTED that the report from K. Scherr, Deputy City Manager, Environment & Infrastructure, with respect to the mid-year update on the green bin and collection program implementation, was received.

#### **3.4 Notice of Planning Application and Public Meeting – 3640 Dingman Drive**

That it BE NOTED that the Notice of Planning Application and Public Meeting relating to the Official Plan Amendment for the property located at 3640 Dingman Drive, dated August 16, 2024, from I. de Ceuster, Planner, was received.

#### **3.5 L. Vuong Resignation**

That it BE NOTED that the resignation of L. Vuong from the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee was received with regret.

### **4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups**

#### **4.1 National Urban Park Working Group**

That it BE NOTED that the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee held a discussion and received the attached Working Group report with respect to National Urban Parks.

### **5. Items for Discussion**

#### **5.1 2025 Mayor's New Year's Honour List - Request for Nominations**

That it BE NOTED that the communication, dated June 27, 2024, from the City Clerk and Deputy City Clerks, with respect to the 2025 Mayor's New Year's Honour List Call for Nominations, was received.

#### **5.2 (ADDED) Design Specifications and Requirements Manual**

That a Working Group consisting of B. Samuels (lead), M.A. Hodge, A. Hames and N. Karsch BE ESTABLISHED to review and provide comments on the Design Specifications and Requirements Manual and to report back to the October 2, 2024 Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee meeting.

**6. (ADDED) Confidential**

6.1 (ADDED) Personal Matter / Identifiable Individual

That the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee convened In Closed Session for the purpose of undertaking the following:

6.1 Personal Matter/Identifiable Individual

A personal matter pertaining to identifiable individuals, including municipal employees, with respect to the 2025 Mayor's New Year's Honour List.

The Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee convened In Closed Session from 6:16 PM to 6:23 PM.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:24 PM.

## Status Update Report: National Urban Park Working Group of ESACAC

September 4, 2024

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on preliminary research into the feasibility of establishing a National Urban Park in the City of London.

Canada has established a National Urban Parks program that began with the Rouge National Urban Park near the City of Toronto, and has since expanded into other parts of Ontario and other provinces. Efforts are underway in communities like Windsor and Guelph to establish a National Urban Park. This is an effective way for municipalities to access federal resources to support management of parkland, including opportunities for ecological restoration and ecotourism. A number of parkland sites in London have been considered by the working group for a National Urban Park, such as the Coves and the River Road Golf Course.

ESACAC members have held discussions with City of London Parks staff about the potential to apply for a National Urban Park. The staff are tentatively supportive, but expressed a preference to have the process of applying for a National Urban Park be delayed until the Parks and Recreation Master Plan update is underway and completed later this year and possibly extending into 2025.

At this time, ESACAC wishes to make City Council aware of the National Urban Park concept sooner, recognizing that staff's work on this may not commence until a future date. It may be important for the City to express interest and intent to apply to the National Urban Park program, being that there is an upcoming federal election that may lead to interruptions and delays to the preparation of an application. Some amount of research by staff may be required to provide Council with current information about the program. Furthermore, the application process itself may be lengthy and require background studies, consultations and dialogue with the federal government.

ESACAC will stand by and await staff's direction on next steps coinciding with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan update. In the meantime, Council may wish to engage with staff to inquire about the National Urban Parks program and any steps that should be taken leading up to an application being prepared.