

5TH REPORT OF THE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Meeting held on May 6, 2015, commencing at 12:15 PM, in Committee Room #4, Second Floor, London City Hall.

PRESENT: M. Bloxam (Chair), C. Baranik, K. Birchall, S. Brooks, S. Hall, M. Hodge, J. Howell, C. Kushnir, L. Langdon, S. Ratz, G. Sass, B. Schulz and D. Szoller and B. Mercier (Secretary).

ABSENT: J. Baxter.

ALSO PRESENT: P. Almost, T. Arnos and I. Kalsi.

I. CALL TO ORDER

1. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it **BE NOTED** that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2. Orientation – *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)* – Integrated Accessibility Standards

That the orientation on the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)* Integrated Accessibility Standards **BE POSTPONED** to the next meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Environment.

III. SCHEDULED ITEMS

None.

IV. CONSENT ITEMS

3. 4th Report of the Advisory Committee on the Environment

That it **BE NOTED** that the 4th Report of the Advisory Committee on the Environment from its meeting held on April 1, 2015, was received.

4. 2nd Report of the Transportation Advisory Committee

That it **BE NOTED** that the 2nd Report of the Transportation Advisory Committee from its meeting held on April 7, 2015, was received.

5. 5th Report of the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee

That it **BE NOTED** 5th Report of the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee from its meeting held on April 16, 2015, was received.

6. 4th Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee

That it **BE NOTED** that the 4th Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee from its meeting held on April 22, 2015, was received.

7. Appointment to the Advisory Committee on the Environment

That it **BE NOTED** that the Municipal Council resolution from its session held on March 31, 2015 with respect to the appointment of D. Szoller as a Member-at-Large to the Advisory Committee on the Environment, was received

8. Pollinator Health Discussion Process

That it **BE NOTED** that the Municipal Council resolution from its session held on April 14, 2015 with respect to the Province's Pollinator Health Discussion process, was received.

V. SUB-COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

9. Establishment of Working Groups

That the attached proposed Working Groups and associated priorities for the Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE) **BE ESTABLISHED**; it being noted that the ACE received a summary with respect to its previous Working Group structure.

10. Urban and Downtown Design Manuals

That the attached revised communication, with respect to the Urban and Downtown Design Manuals **BE FORWARDED** to the Civic Administration, for its consideration.

VI. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

11. List of Priority Topics

That it **BE NOTED** that a communication dated April 12, 2015, from M. Bloxam, with respect to a list of potential topics for the Advisory Committee on the Environment to review, was received; it being noted that the listed topics were incorporated into the above-noted Working Group priorities.

12. Water Restriction Issues

That it **BE NOTED** that the Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE) heard a verbal report from J. Howell, with respect to potential water restriction issues; it being noted that the ACE referred this matter to its By-laws, Policy and Planning Sub-Committee to review in detail, with attention given to commercial use.

13. Ecosystem Services Guiding Document for the City

That it **BE NOTED** that the matter of an Ecosystem Services Guiding Document for the City, from G. Sass, was incorporated into the above-noted Working Group priorities.

14. 2015 Provincial Environmental Advisory Committee Symposium

That the following actions be taken, with respect to the 2015 Provincial Environmental Advisory Committee Symposium held in Markham, Ontario on May 2, 2015:

- a) the attached report dated May 2, 2015, from D. Szoller, with respect to her attendance at the above-noted Symposium, **BE RECEIVED**; and,
- b) the expenditure of up to \$50 from the Advisory Committee on the Environment 2015 Budget, for D. Szoller's attendance **BE REIMBURSED**.

15. Representation on the Transportation Advisory Committee

That S. Brooks **BE APPOINTED** as the Advisory Committee on the Environment representative on the Transportation Advisory Committee.

VII. DEFERRED MATTERS/ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:27 PM.

NEXT MEETING DATE: June 3, 2015

Aside – staff contacts identified for each working group

ACE as a whole – Terms of reference for ACE committee

City Environmental & Sustainability Plan

- Including how do we define sustainability
- Ecosystems Services Guiding Document
- Pollinator
- Work with Eepac committee?

Ken, Susan Hall, Becki, Caitlin, Gabor, Christina

By-laws, Policy & Planning

Review by-laws as developed

Susan H, Becki, Sarah

Natural Environment

- Sale of invasive plant species
- Boulevard naturalization
- Watershed

Diane, Maureen, Christina, Gabor

Finance

- Yearly input/recommendations/comments to city capital budget

Diane, Mike, Ken

Waste Management

- Municipal Waste & Resource Materials Collection By-law
- Green bins / waste diversion including commercial / residential / institutional?
- Role of communities
- CFL Bulb Recycling
- Food waste reduction
- Community composting

Mary Ann, Ken, Mike, Janice, Caitlin

Education & Outreach

- Communication of Environmental Issues
- Yearly Open House (around Earth Day)

Susan, Mary Ann, Christina

Built Environment

- LIC Local Improvement Charges
- Living Building Challenge
- Heated Sidewalk in Retail Areas
- Green roofs?
- Parking lot layering
- TCE Contamination to homes on Brydges St
- Xeriscaping
- Water / Storm Water Management

Ken, Sarah, Lois, Becki, Janice, Mary Ann, Caitlin, Mike, Diane

Energy inc.

- District Energy Plan
- Solar Energy / Alternative Energy
- Community Energy Action Plan

Diane, Mary Ann, Ken, Lois, Mike

Food – new food policy council

- Permaculture/ / Urban Agricultures

Susan H, Gabor, Sarah, Gabor

Completed

- Working group on Urban and Downtown Design Manual

Keep an eye on....

- Transportation
- ReThink / London Plan
- Pollinator Working Group??
- London Environmental Network (provide a rep from ACE?)

Strategic Directions

- Strengthening our communities – health, safety
- Building a sustainable city with robust infrastructure
- Growing our economy
- Leading in public service – collaboration and engage leadership...

To be decided...

- Chair for each sub committee
- Decide on meeting schedule

ACE Comments on The Downtown and Urban Design Manuals

Ace recognizes that the downtown core is a fundamental reflection of the success and health of a community. The comments from members of ACE on the Urban and Downtown Design Manuals address issues of design as well as some non design issues. Overall the Downtown Design Manual is an excellent plan that promotes a community atmosphere and will attract Londoners living further from the core to visit.

1. Pollution

a. Light pollution

- i. Page 24 - Street light design should include energy use and what effect it has light pollution.
- ii. Include specific 'Outdoor Lighting' guidelines to reduce light pollution.
- iii. City of Burlington has outdoor lighting policy guidelines developed with reference to their Dark Sky policy .
<https://www.burlington.ca/uploads/92/635575154693976963.pdf>
- iv. Ottawa(like Edmonton) began a city street lamp retrofit project on Carling avenue which was projected to save millions of dollars annually. It also reduces greenhouse gas emissions and light pollution.
<http://ottawa.ca/en/residents/water-and-environment/green-living/led-streetlight-conversion-project>

b. Air Pollution

- i. There is little mention of pollution minimization within the two documents.
Pollution control can refer to any feature that gets people out of vehicles and uses less polluting modes of transport. More should be said about pollution reduction in the Connectivity section.

2. Tree Preservation

a. Policies for retaining existing trees

- i. Section 1.2 of the DDM on page 13 refers to the “placement and number” of trees, as well as areas that may receive “total streetscape renovation. What protection is in place for the existing trees?

b. Identify best places for new trees

c. Tree selection guidelines

- i. Section 1.5 page 22 Planting Guidelines, falls under “appropriate species for appropriate location”. This is an opportunity in the DDM

Guidelines for London to note that it is prepared to adopt recommendations of the Ontario Invasive Plant Council with its tree and plant selection as set out in the “Grow Me Instead” program.

http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/files/GMI_Booklet_spreads_2011_Final_web.pdf

- ii. Consider incorporating ‘edible’ tree species to help develop local and sustainable food systems. Ex. Nut trees.

3. Sustainability

a. Sustainability

- i. ENVIRONMENT/SUSTAINABILITY - These terms are rarely mentioned. “Environment” is often used as “urban/street/pedestrian/built/office environment” which does not always include linkages to the natural environment and sustainability (exception, UDM viii). “Sustain/able/ability” is **not** mentioned anywhere in the two documents. By comparison “healthy” is mentioned several times throughout the documents. Sustainable and/or environment could be mentioned alongside terms such as “healthy” as a reminder of the linkage between these ideas.
- ii. The documents could readily be edited to suggest London has a stronger vision of environmental preservation and sustainability than currently suggested by these documents. In particular the opening page of each section might improve reference to the above issues - e.g., in the WHAT IS IT? and the WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACHIEVE?, sections of the UDM.
- iii. Though the “environment” is certainly implicit throughout the two documents, specific reference to the environment and sustainability issues remain largely as subtext and could be made more explicit. For example, the goal of creating healthy places or wise transportation choices (UDM i) goes hand-in-hand with lower pollution and reduced energy demands. Yet, pollution reduction and energy efficiency are not mentioned in this opening section and there is no specific mention of the natural environment in the opening material. Likewise there is no mention of the environment, green or sustainable design anywhere in the DDM to encourage London to be a leader in environmental design.
- iv. Reference to **LEED** for Neighbourhood Development Build Projects would be useful.
- v. References to “climate change mitigation” where applicable.
- vi. In DDM, page 63, 4.8 refers to the use of green roof technologies and reducing the heat island effect. This should also include reflective roof surfaces, using material that offers a higher albedo to further reduce heat island effect and help lower building heating/cooling needs.

b. Water conservation

c. Energy conservation

- i. There is very little reference to energy efficiency throughout, though some of the design features may actually be meant to achieve just that. For example, walkable places also tend to be energy efficient places, so any reference to walkability might also reference reducing our use of energy in vehicles. In terms of building, the guidelines could do more to encourage building to high environmental standards - e.g., LEED. There is one mention of LEED, "Where possible new and retrofit buildings should look to achieve LEED's gold rating." (DDM p45), however, this could be a much more central goal in the overall architectural mandate of the city.
- ii. Permeable pavements
Page 15 - Streetscape design - "permeable pavement surfaces should be explored during reconstruction projects." This section should include examples of recommended materials with resource/contact information on permeable surfaces. For example, page 21 in reference to Street Trees, specific trees are not listed but refers to who should be consulted i.e. the City's Urban Forester.

4. Traffic

- a. Reducing road speed through field narrowing, traffic calming
 - i. Slower traffic leads to reduced traffic volume (emissions total) and speed (pedestrian safety).
 - ii. Add references to vertical deflections from pavement changes and the use of trees, street art in connection with curb extensions for visual field narrowing and traffic calming.

5. Pedestrians

- a. Snow melt sidewalks
 - i. item #3 page 15 "... Where it is not possible to alter anything but the sidewalk surfaces". Consideration should be given to heated "snow melt" sidewalks to improve winter pedestrian experience and reduce the need for salt. This should be done in an environmentally responsible manner such as a geothermal or other "Bullfrog Power" type source (See Holland, MI, Snowmelt Walks).

b. Scramble Crossings, Rapid flash

- i. Consider scramble crossing for the high volume intersections and midblock crossings. Pedestrian activated “Rapid Flash” beacon crossings and painted lines serve to increase pedestrian safety plus they encourage slower driving ultimately reducing overall tailpipe emissions.

6. Placemaking

a. Compact design

- i. Overall the Urban and Downtown Design Manuals are ambitious and well-conceived. They promote new development and growth around concepts like “placemaking” and compact design meant to increase mobility.

b. Special streets/districts

- i. In the DDM, there are special areas named such as the Market District. It would be consistent to also label neighbourhood areas we want to see more focus on. For example: SOHO and the connection of this area to the Thames River.
- ii. The ‘flexible street’ design, particularly in the Market District, promotes a central social gathering place similar to traditional European city squares.

c. Meter parking

- i. A major deterrent for many shoppers and diners from visiting the core is metered parking. Although not a design issue, some incentives or flexibility in this area would attract more visitors.

d. Attractive downtown

- i. Features in the manuals that help promote an attractive atmosphere include wider sidewalks, patios, and the preservation of heritage building features.

7. Waste

- i. *WASTE - The image on page 15 of the UDM leaves the impression that we will collect compostable waste in public spaces in the future. If this is the case this is a positive move, if not, then the image should not be included.*
- ii. Consistent with the ‘Green Our Downtown’ section, adequate waste centres including tri-bins for plastic, paper and waste could be placed at bus shelters and bus stops to reduce unattractive litter pile ups.

8. Comments

- iii. The Official Plan indicates that the Urban Design Manual is mainly a “visual” guide to development. It does seem to be quite comprehensive in that regard. Kingston’s Design Manual included many local examples

with arrows and text identifying the concepts they were outlined in the texts. This draft falls short on the "visuals" to reinforce ideas and in at least one case is highlighting an American example.

- iv. Should the Downtown Design Manual not be incorporated into the Urban Design Manual? There might be less confusion if they are integrated.
- v. "What are we trying to achieve?" dialogue boxes at the beginning of each section, and along with the Glossary of Terms give context to the report.

Provincial EAC Symposium
Markham - May 2, 2015
Diane Szoller, ACE member, notes

Website - <http://www.eacs.ca>

Attendance, Advisory committees - Oshawa, Ajax, Durham, Woodstock, Markham, Mississauga, Brampton, Waterloo, London, Halton, Whitby, Parks Canada staff and panel guests.

Markham EAC highlights - 'greenprint' plan, sustainability office, trails across city, events outreach, Council rep on committee, seed library, waste diversion, Earth Day, good with media. Oshawa EAC highlights - focus is divided between events, policy and outreach, has sustainability strategy, local food, drum circles, tree planting, film nights, gardens, workshops, seed saving.

Oshawa continues to maintain the provincial website www.eacs.ca.

Partnership learnings - shared goals/responsibilities, shared resources, extended outreach, avoids duplication, builds capacity, shared knowledge, finds solutions to complex questions.

Panel -

David Douglas, Vision Quest - <http://www.visionquestenvironmental.com/> focus is waste diversion, has worked with 400 cities to date - clear bag programs, textile collections, stewardship programs, compliance, e-waste fundraisers with sport teams, schools, boy scouts, etc. Partnerships work best when open, sharing of new ideas, avoiding biases.

Harry French, Ontario Sustainability Services - <http://ontariosustainability.ca>. OSS is OSEA's service wing to help renewable co-operatives with power projects. Observations on partnerships - you can't replicate a solution often, partners are complex relationships, contracts don't address uncertainties. Groups frequently spend 70% of the time on structure, 20% on what they want, 10% on how to work together. A better mix is 30%, 30% and 40%.

Neetika Sathe, PowerStream Inc. - <http://www.powerstream.ca>. PS is a power distributor jointly owned by the municipalities of Barrie, Markham and Vaughan. Partnerships - pilots are best way to start for them, they work with municipalities, academia, and emerging technologies.

Brent Kopperson, Windfall Ecology Center - <http://www.windfallcentre.ca> promotes public policy, education, renewable energy, electric mobility, water protection and leader training. Advises that partnerships require integrity, work ethic, vision and values in sync plus chemistry. Windfall examples- Lake Simcoe protection, native community housing retrofits.

Markham, Jennifer Wong, Sustainability office - www.markham.ca. Her involvement include greenprint, Markham's long term community sustainability plan, city's community energy plan, local food ex seed libraries, allotment gardens, renewables, efficient lighting, materials management ie net zero city priority for 2050, ex milk bag collection at all depots, schools.

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath - 3 years ago, city had 71% diversion, created road map to 80%, has cost nothing. Listened to community. 80% achieved, new goal is 86% with 10 point program.

Wrapup - presentation on Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's Bayview Glen SNAP, Adriana Gomez - <http://www.trca.on.ca/the-living-city/programs-of-the-living-city/sustainable-communities.dot> and Trees for Tomorrow Nory Takata, Markham Parks Planner. Region has 5 SNAPs. Bayview focus has been flooding remediation, park revitalization, bike paths and replacing aging trees. Treeplanting target was 75,000 plantings (2007-2010). Multi-faceted strategy included parks, properties, restorations and capital projects with ratepayer associations, service clubs, youth, schools, adopt-a-park groups. Goal was reset to 90,000 by end of 2014.

ACE introduction – Diane Szoller, past chair, 2014 – recent activities

1. Started term off with ACE planning session, group decision on sub-groups, goals.
2. Spearheaded input comments to City's Community Energy Planning stakeholder process – Oct 15, 2013. ACE support areas – ReThink, built environment, by-law, policy and planning, education, finance. Recommendations list submitted.
3. Spearheaded ACE input to City's yearly operations and capital budget process. Attended public meetings on the above as well as on water wastewater budget.
4. Subgroup for 'bee health' policy, spearheaded/organized November public forum. Attended staff meeting with others to discuss ACE's 10 policy recommendations.
5. Input to provincial neo-nic reductions ACE remarks, met with City's Urban Agricultural committee to gain support for ACE recommendations to the province, attended provincial public meeting held in London December 9, 2014.
6. Wrote summary of ACE accomplishments for Council, and new term members.
7. Refined previous ACE member exit survey (borrowed from EEPAC), chased up and summarized ACE member remarks for discussion and for new term members.
8. Looked to sort out better use of library materials purchased by ACE in past years.
9. Attended and summarized conferences and gave recommendations - a) Ottawa 2014 April symposium on extreme weather: impacts, challenges and adaptation and b) Michigan's Future – November Energy, Economy and Environment forum.
10. Provided majority of content, photos and provided edits to ACE's brochure.
11. Prepared ACE's critique of changes and recommendations to draft London Plan.
12. Engaged City's Agriculture Committee to share minutes with ACE, vice-versa.
13. Requested London Hydro update of Smart Meter program to ACE – July 2014, tour of Western Biotron and tour of main green roof worksite September 2014, ACE rep at London Transit's routes and services review, made inquiry on current City policy for boulevard naturalizations MLHU's update on London Climate Change Adaptation Task Force and ACE recommendations – February 2015.
14. Wrote nomination for Bob Porter, appointed on Mayor's New Year's Honour List
15. Member of City's Cycling Advisory Committee as Road Safety Strategy rep.
16. Attended FCM's February 2015 Sustainability conference held in London.