

Advisory Committee on the Environment Built Environment sub-committee - report

Meeting date/place: Thursday, February 2, 2017 @ London Home Builders' Association

In attendance: Ken Birchall, Mike Bloxam, Lois Langdon, Natalie St. Amour, Diane Szoller

Regrets: *none*

The meeting commenced at 16:45.

1. Review workplan for 2017

#6 – Alternative building materials/strategies

The sub-committee decided to keep all of the current items, adding that: the green-roof by-law is currently underway by Jamie Skimming; we should add tiles that absorb kinetic energy from pedestrians under heated sidewalks, and note that Montréal is currently implementing heated sidewalks.

#7 – Low-impact development

The sub-committee decided to keep all of the current items, adding that: we had presentations in Fall 2016 regarding stormwater management, and we need to continue to monitor and advise on combined sewer overflows and bypass, and sanitary sewer overflows. This topic was chosen as the focus for 2017.

It was also decided to add Community Improvement Plans (CIP) as a bullet point for future discovery.

#8 – Nighttime issues

The “dark sky” policy was successful in that it has been taken on by a working group of numerous advisory committees, and will be ready for presentation shortly. We will continue to monitor the progress. There were also concerns about new lighting with LEDs, where too many are being installed and making places too bright at night, such as the new lighting on the West London dyke.

The sub-committee will continue to explore the idea of night markets, as they provide 24-hour use of public space and encourages multiple usages of municipal structures.

2. Underused public land

Discussed at the September meeting: “Underused/unused public land could be used to grow food; the City should be asked for allotments to allow such lands to be available to citizens.” This sub-committee would like to ***refer this idea to the Food sub-committee.***

3. Cycling lanes on Queens Avenue

Our sub-committee would like to know further about the environmental impacts of removing boulevard trees to install segregated cycling lanes, versus the idea of using a parking lane with parked vehicles as the barrier between the vehicle lane and the cycling lane, instead of building a permanent obstruction. This will cause issues for street sweeping and snow clearing, not to mention impede pedestrian access to cross the road. A public participation meeting takes place on February 8th for the downtown section of the expansion; members hope to attend to learn more about the proposals.

The meeting concluded at about 18:00.