

Advisory Committee on the Environment

Report

The 8th Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Environment
July 4, 2018
Committee Room #4

Attendance PRESENT: S. Ratz (Chair), M. Bhavra, K. Birchall, M. Bloxam,
S. Brooks, S. Hall, M. Hodge, J. Howell, N. St. Amour, T.
Stoiber, D. Szoller and A. Tipping and P. Shack (Acting
Secretary)

ABSENT: L. Langdon and G. Sass

ALSO PRESENT: A. Beaton and B. Westlake-Power

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 Practices Related to the Watering of Trees

That it BE NOTED that the attached presentation, from A. Beaton
Manager, Forestry Operations, with respect to the Practices Related to the
Watering of Trees, was received.

3. Consent

3.1 7th Report of the Advisory Committee on the Environment

That it BE NOTED that the 7th Report of the Advisory Committee on the
Environment, from its meeting held on June 6, 2018, was received.

3.2 5th Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 5th Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory
Committee, from its meeting held on May 23, 2018, was received.

3.3 Municipal Council Resolution-Environmental Programs Annual Overview Update

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council Resolution, Environmental
Programs Annual Overview Update, was received.

3.4 Municipal Council Resolution-Appointment to the Advisory Committee on the Environment

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council Resolution, from its meeting
held on June 12, 2018, with respect to the appointment of Manmohan
Bhavra to the Advisory Committee on the Environment, was received.

4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

None

5. Items for Discussion

5.1 Waste Management Feedback

That it BE NOTED that the attached revised Waste Management feedback document, with respect to the Environmental Programs Annual Overview Update, was received with adjustments to be BE FORWARDED to J. Stanford, Director, Environmental Fleet and Solid Waste for review.

5.2 ACE Presentations/Events/Meeting List

That it BE NOTED that the Advisory Committee on the Environment Presentations Events and Meeting List document, dated June 26, 2018 and submitted by S. Ratz, was received.

5.3 Potential Advisory Committee Review - D. Szoller

That it BE NOTED that the Advisory Committee on the Environment held a general discussion, with respect to the potential Advisory Committee Review;

it being noted that the committee heard from B. Westlake-Power, Deputy City Clerk that there is a comprehensive review of the Advisory Committees, at the direction of council taking place in the fall.

5.4 ACE 2018 Work Plan - Review

That it BE NOTED that the Advisory Committee on the Environment 2018 Work Plan was received.

6. Deferred Matters/Additional Business

6.1 (ADDED)Toilets are Not Garbage Cans Sticker Initiative

That it BE NOTED that the Advisory Committee on Environment heard a verbal update from S. Ratz with respect to Toilets are Not Garbage Cans sticker initiative.

6.2 (ADDED)Green in the City Speaker Series

That it BE NOTED that the attached document from S. Ratz, with the respect to the Green in the City Speaker, was received.

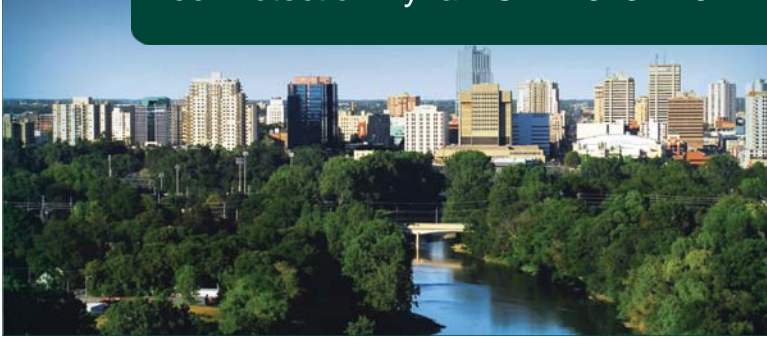
7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM.



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Tree Protection By-law C.P.-1515-228



Trees & Forests Advisory Committee
June 27, 2018



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Overview

We Are “The Forest City”

Urban Forest Strategy (2014) – “Protect More”

- Distinctive Trees (UGB) 50cm+
- Tree Protection Areas - mapped, City-wide, all trees regardless of size

What We Have Learned

- Public outreach and engagement; consulted with those that went through the permitting process
- Challenges with administration of By-law and building things as we needed them



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How Did We Listen?

Tree Care Professionals & Industry Consultants

- February 2018
- “Global café” meeting at Civic Gardens
- 20+ attendees, 16 different companies
- Round table discussions
- Q & A

Residents & Home-owners

- Online survey
+ comments to staff

Other

- Developers one-on-one conversation
- London Development Institute (LDI) meeting
- London Planners Lunch



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What We Heard

Generally, the By-law is a good thing

- More trees being pruned instead of removed
- \$100 fee is okay (some exceptions) for Distinctive Tree
- Understood the value of trees; some recommended that trees of smaller size should be protected
- Satisfied people - tended to be quiet or did not feel the need to attend meetings

*“I appreciate the value of this program.
The City is losing too much of its forest cover and we must act to protect the little that remains”.*

*“When I called the dept. someone came to inspect the tree and advised that the tree needed to come down for safety reasons.
The permit was expedited. It’s a good by-law and we were happy to comply”.*

“Process went smoothly. City staff were great to work with”.



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What We Heard

But.....

- Public generally unaware it applied to their tree
- Fee for trees in woodlands (TPAs) \$1,000 is too steep
- Reported uptick in healthy tree removal <50cm DT size threshold
- “Fly by night” tree care company operators
- Process takes too long and is unclear
 - Cemeteries and golf courses need to be able to submit one-tree, or few-tree, applications
 - Need electronic submission - online payment system, fillable forms



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Challenges with Administration

Taking longer than expected

- Enforcement challenges, delays in Urban Forest Strategy implementation and project work
- Fee taking, keeping, returning
- No fillable forms – manual entry, multiple places
- Secure Urban Forestry data storage system
- Preparation & Attending appeals; court hearings
- Direction from Hearing Officer’s decisions
- Slipping from ~2 weeks to ~6 weeks (down 1 staff)



What We Propose to Do

Create Simplified Process & Clear Guidance

- “DDT” – Dead Distinctive Tree permit (no fee; no replanting)
- Application requirements vs additional information
- When a permit shall issue - swimming pool installation, building permits
- Replanting requirements
- No 5+ year plan for cemeteries & golf course
- \$100 flat permit fee (some exception); add \$100 fee to Appeal
- Only Landowner, or agent, may apply for a Permit
- Requesting fillable forms, online payment (2019)



Next Steps

- Trees & Forests Advisory Committee
- Receive and consider public comments – until August 2018
- Present new Tree Protection By-law September 24, 2018 (public participation meeting)
- Existing By-law remains in force and effect for now
- Repeal and replace by year end 2018

Questions?



Waste Management Feedback

June 26, 2018

For consideration at the July 4, 2018 meeting of ACE

Following review and receipt of the presentation “Markham Diversion Strategy – Mission Green” at the June 6, 2018 meeting of ACE, and further discussion amongst ACE members, this report summarizes key items we will be watching for in the expected Waste Diversion Action Plan.

Proposed Motion

Option A - That the Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to

- review this report and refer it to the Civic Works Committee for further review where ACE would request a delegation
- as possible, specifically address these items when preparing the Waste Diversion Action Plan
- a staff representative attend a future ACE meeting to discuss these items with the committee

Option B – That the report be received.

Key Items

(numbering is for reference only, and does not necessarily reflect priority)

1. A strong focus on the first R- Reduce – not only in terms of individuals, but for businesses, organizations and schools. To have other departments including planning consider waste generation in all projects including residential and commercial development. For example, how will these future developments impact waste generation and processing?
2. A recognition that the decision to create waste is not made when individuals or businesses decide to throw something out. That largely the decision to create waste, is when a purchase is made, and the item(s) are acquired.
3. Consider the potential impact of Climate Change on waste quantities. For example, the possibility that severe weather events could cause significant damage, and increase waste amounts.
4. The ability to ensure consistent programming regardless of the residential situation - house, condo or apartment/ or business /organization setting such as restaurants, community centres, schools, offices, manufacturing facilities etc.

5. Ensure there is a specific program where municipal facilities and staff are required to meet, and hopefully exceed, diversion objectives including specific actions such as:
 - Removal of individual garbage cans from work areas & provide one central garbage can per work area to increase awareness of garbage generation and potentially recognize cost savings on janitorial costs.
 - Acquiring composting equipment for the City Hall cafeteria which would allow for on-site composting of organics.
6. Will the program be designed in a way that strongly encourages participation by residents? Including, but not limited to:
 - Bi-weekly collection of garbage vs weekly green bin/recycling pick ups
 - Use of clear plastic bags to discourage the hiding of recyclables, hazardous waste and other items in the garbage.
 - Large, bright Oops stickers to be used on containers which are not sorted properly to reinforce education, enforcement and compliance.
 - A full and clear communications and marketing plan to support the launch and first 2 years of any new waste diversion program.
7. Specifically address pet waste and diaper waste. There are concerns that these items are not appropriate for processing systems designed for organic waste. Review and consider programs to encourage more environmentally friendly options versus disposable diapers and non-biodegradable cat litter.
8. Beyond pet waste and diaper waste, how green bin contamination will be dealt with.
9. Identify the organic waste processing options for City of London organic waste.
10. Review and encourage backyard composting and vermicomposting. Look for ways to make it even more convenient to purchase composters, and obtain brown materials and other helpful ingredients.
11. Incorporation of feedback measures to identify citizen concerns with proposed actions. I.e. Specifically identify top 10 motivators and top 10 concerns with the new program. Allow time and resources to trouble shoot these issues, and ensure communication materials specifically address concerns / celebrate the motivations.
12. How garbage pick up staff will be trained regarding the new program.
13. Expansion of depots for speciality recycling and possibly hazardous waste materials – possibly at existing municipal facilities such as arenas/community centres to make drop off easier and/or the possibility of working with community groups to facilitate special collection days.

14. Review of fibre recycling and furniture/tool/ building material recycling programs in the city.
 - Consider having drop off areas at community centres/arenas.
 - Liaise with charities and businesses providing these services in the city. Identify how the City can work with them to continue to increase capacity and awareness of these programs.
 - Introduce a program where useable items (furniture, bikes etc.) in good condition would no longer be picked up via regular garbage pick up but stickered with information promoting charity pick up.
 - Review whether all fibre recycling boxes should be city branded to increase credibility and use of such programs.
15. Consider the establishment of Spring & Fall “Free Days” where citizens can put items that others can have for free at the curb. Although individuals sometimes do this on their own, having an organized & promoted event would increase participation and encourage others to pick up items.
16. Review of current policies and enforcement resources in relation to illegal dumping. As well, consider incorporation of measures that would document and track illegal dumping before and after implementation of any new programs.
17. Remove all single use plastics from municipal facilities. Ie. drinks in plastic bottles.
18. Specifically identify how the existing FOG (Fats, Oils and Greases) program and cups as well as the “Toilets are not Garbage Cans” program will be integrated into Waste Diversion efforts. For example, will FOG collection points be expanded? If not, and FOG cups are meant to initiate FOG collection but not necessarily be relied upon going forward, the messaging on the cups could be reviewed and adjusted.
19. Will waste studies similar to the Food Waste review be undertaken to better understand and pinpoint waste issues specific to London.
20. How would residents be further educated, perhaps in partnership with community groups, on composting, reducing food waste and other topics.

Green in the City Speaker Series

Overview as of July 4, 2018

By Susan Ratz, ACE

Organizers

- Advisory Committee for the Environment – City of London
- London Public Library
- City of London

All sessions

6:30pm – Doors open

7:00 – 8:00 pm Presentations

Location – Stevenson & Hunt Room – Central Library

Tuesday, November 6th - Creating Health & Resilience with Soil

Presenter - Ruth Knight, Organic Soil Consultant & Agronomist, Co-Leader of Transition Erin Soil Health Coalition

Local Perspective/Update by Gabor Sass + potentially City of London staff representative

Tuesday, November 13th – Bee-coming Pollinator Friendly – In Gardens & Across the City

Presenter – Victoria MacPhail – Pollination Guelph

Local Perspective/Update by Gabor Sass + potentially City of London staff representative

Tuesday, November 20th – Down the Drain (tentative title)

Presenters:

Jordan Hawkswell - Zero Waste Forest City – Plastics in our Oceans & Great Lakes

Tom Cull – Thames River Rally – Local river pollution.

Barry Orr – City of London – Challenges with non-flushables.

Tuesday, November 27th – Food Waste

Presenter – being finalized

City of London perspective - Jay Stanford

Tuesday, December 4th – Climate Change / Community Energy Action Plan

Presenter – being finalized

City of London perspective - Jay Stanford