

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING COMMENTS

3.8 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING – Environmental Management Guidelines

- Councillor Hopkins: I would like to go to staff for a presentation. Thank you, Ms. Williamson. I'd like to go to Committee Members if they've got any technical questions for staff? I see none. I would like to now go to the public.
- Heather Lysynski, Committee Clerk: Sandy Levin, Chair, Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee.
- Councillor Hopkins: Mr. Levin. Welcome.
- Sandy Levin, Chair, Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee: Thank you Madam Chair and Members of Committee. I want to start by thanking staff for being involved and leading this very extensive process but it's the right process for a document that is important to the municipality in so many ways and I encourage you to adopt this guideline document. The other piece that I'd like to recommend that the Committee add to the recommendation is that the bi-annual update that's referred to in the staff report be added to your deferred list. Having been around as long as I have, I know that once it's on a deferred list it then gets the attention it deserves. I know staff have already put it into their work plan for 2023 but I think it would be appropriate for this Committee to add it to its deferred list. Other than that, Madam Chair, again I want to thank staff, the consultants, we've come a long way and it might be a precedent that both EEPAC and LDI are in the same place. We urge you to adopt and we look forward to the bi-annual review. Thank you, Madam Chair.
- Councillor Hopkins: Thank you.
- Heather Lysynski, Committee Clerk: Brendon Samuels.
- Brendon Samuels: Hi. Can you hear me?
- Councillor Hopkins: Yes.
- Brendon Samuels: Excellent. Thanks. Sorry I'm just calling from the road. I want to echo Sandy's comments. I have been working with EEPAC on the review of the Environmental Management Guidelines for a few years now. I want to thank staff for all of the work that they did and for including us in the process. The guidelines definitely strengthen protection for the natural heritage system compared to their 2007 predecessor. I would urge the Planning Committee to adopt the current draft of the Environmental Management Guidelines. I would also suggest that given that we are incorporating the language into the guidelines we're not going to know how effective the updated input is until the guidelines are put in place so I would suggest that it be recommended that this be revisited in the future and that the regular follow-up from staff to comment on how the implementation of the updated guideline is going. I would also like to ask the city if they can verify with staff the nature of a certain piece of the guidelines specifically the use of citizen science data. I included a letter in the meeting agenda about why this is important. In Appendix C, Data Collection Standards, it says "It is recommended that reputable citizen science data sources, such as iNaturalists and the Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas, be reviewed when conducting a background review to supplement data obtained by the consultant team." I would like to clarify whether this means that reviewing citizen science data sources is optional or if it is expected and required. The reason this is important is because when consultants go out and do studies they only get a snapshot of what exists in a given study area. The species that are present, the features and function and there are now with today's technology databases contributed by the public we have records

going back many years [inaudible]. I would like to clarify whether reviewing those data sets is something that is expected of [inaudible] because I think it would only contribute more data to make these studies [inaudible]. Thank you.

- Councillor Hopkins: Thank you Mr. Samuels.
- Heather Lysynski, Committee Clerk: Mike Wallace.
- Councillor Hopkins: Mr. Wallace welcome.
- Mike Wallace, London Development Institute: It's Mike Wallace I'm the representative of LDI. I've been here many times. I wore my green tie tonight because environmental guidelines I thought I would look the part at least any way. Listen, I am also here, there was a letter we put forward in support of the guidelines as presented to be adopted. First of all I also want to thank staff they did include us and the Home Builders Association actively in discussing the present guidelines, future guidelines, the guidelines that you see in front of you. I'm assuming Emily Williamson will be glad she won't be hearing from me again for a while. I do appreciate all of the effort that went into this because these guidelines were from 2007, that's 15 years ago. There's a lot of work involved, you had obviously the issues with the Covid challenge and making sure we got this done so we do appreciate that. A few things in here that we do appreciate, let's be frank, we didn't agree with everything that's in here. I have ten pages of changes that we wanted that we didn't get, we got some of them but there were things we wanted but what was missing and what we are looking for is what the previous speakers talked about is an opportunity to review this and it's every other year at this point and as we review the Design Manual I don't know if you know this but we reviewed the Design Manual every year. We think this kind of document, these are guidelines that need to be, that are going to be part of The London Plan. They need to be reviewed, science changes and we need to make sure we know what's working and what isn't working. We are fully supportive of protecting and helping the natural heritage in London. This document affects our industry 100%. We are the implementers of the Design Guidelines. The development, it says right in there, it's for development, it's for the development community on how they should operate with the natural heritage that is here in London. We like the changes that are happening in terms of there's an opportunity for compensation that wasn't in the previous document, there are improvements to monitoring. We are supportive, not necessarily agreeing with everything but we are supportive of an update that was well overdue. We appreciate staff's effort; we appreciate the recognition that this needs to be done on a more regular basis and I can guarantee we will be at the table giving you our input as we did this time and again thank you for putting this together and making it happen and we look forward to working with you guys in the future. Thanks.
- Councillor Hopkins: Thank you Mr. Wallace. Is there anyone else from the public that would like to make a comment? I see none. I will ask one more time if there's anyone from the public that would like to make comments? I see none. With that Committee I would like to close the public participation meeting.