

ATTN: City Clerk's Office
Chair and Members of the Civic Works Committee

June 1, 2023
Subject: Community Advisory Committee vacancies

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to advise that the City of London Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee (ESACAC) currently has several vacancies. Numerous committee members have resigned or ceased attending meetings, while others are expected to depart for extended leave of absence in upcoming months.

With these reductions in Committee membership, it has become increasingly difficult for our meetings to meet quorum requirements. Meanwhile, the Committee is tasked with sharing feedback on several imminent Council decisions related to our mandate, such as the renewal of the City of London's Tree Planting Strategy and Urban Forest Strategy. This work to be undertaken by our Committee will require extensive background review that is difficult to delegate and accomplish with insufficient human resources. Furthermore, it is anticipated that new Committee members will require onboarding to learn about their role and historical context for our work.

In correspondence exchanged with the City Clerk's office on March 7, 2023, it was stated that they would "begin the recruitment process by mid-April". No new information has been provided to date, and I have not received a response from the Clerk's office to my most recent inquiry earlier this week. We are also awaiting an update from staff about when exactly hybrid meetings will begin at City Hall so that our committee can gather together in person for the first time (per motion from the Strategic Priorities & Policy Committee, February 7, 2023, indicating this would happen before the end of the second quarter).

At this time, I am requesting that City Staff open nominations for the vacant membership positions on the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee as soon as possible. The City may also wish to similarly open nominations for other Community Advisory Committees that presently have vacancies. I recommend establishing a timeline for this process, including recruitment and communications, as well as a deadline for applications to be submitted by.

I wish to also remind Council that **we are facing a Climate Emergency.** As the City, Council and Community all strive to implement the Climate Emergency Action Plan, I hope that you will prioritize facilitating consultations with relevant advisory committees, such as ESACAC. These committees serve at the discretion of Council and must be resourced appropriately in order to function.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

Brendon Samuels
Chair, Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee