

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Members Present: Preethi Anbalagan – **Co-Chair**
Harripaul Bridgemohan
Rajbalinder Ghatoura
Malcolm Hamilton
Jafir Jaferi
David Laing
Davika Misir
Vipul Shah
Stacey Wilson
Kayla Wong
City Councillor Doug Whillans

Members Absent: Akeem Gardner – Co-Chair (regrets)
Ken Lauppe (regrets)
Tamsen Metcalfe (regrets)
Amandeep Purewal
Sherry-Ann Ram (regrets)

Staff Present: Michael Hoy, Supervisor, Environmental Planning, Public Works and Engineering
Stavroula Kassaris, Policy Planner, Environment, Public Works and Engineering
Zoe Milligan, Environmental Planning Student
Sonya Pacheco, Legislative Coordinator, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

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The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. and adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

The following motion was considered.

EAC001-2020 That the agenda for the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting of February 11, 2020, be approved, as amended to add the following:

- 7.1. Discussion at the request of Malcolm Hamilton, Committee Member, re: **Incentives for Planting Trees on Private Property.**
- 7.2. Discussion at the request of Malcolm Hamilton, Committee Member, re: **Environmental Planning Funding and Staff Resources.**

Carried

2. Declarations of Interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act – nil

3. Previous Minutes

3.1. Minutes – Environment Advisory Committee – December 10, 2019

The minutes were considered by Committee of Council on January 29, 2020 and the recommendations were approved by Council on February 5, 2020. The minutes were provided for Committee's information.

In response to questions from Committee, staff provided information regarding the ACER (Association of Canadian Educational Resources) organization and clarified the City will partner with various agencies in the One Million Trees program.

4. Delegations/Presentations

4.1. Presentation by Andrew McNeill, Strategic Leader, Policy Planning, Planning and Development Services, re: **Brampton 2040 Plan.**

Andrew McNeill, Strategic Leader, Policy Planning, provided a presentation regarding the Brampton 2040 Plan.

Committee discussion on this matter included the following:

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- Project Engagement Strategy
- Purpose of the Community Leader's Advisory Group
 - It was noted that the terms of reference and process for selecting members is under review.
- Changing development in Brampton (e.g. net zero developments)
- Policy directions and focus on the seven core Brampton 2040 Vision Statement Areas, including sustainability and the environment
- Collaboration between staff and the EAC to leverage networks and inform processes
- Engagement with indigenous communities on the Brampton 2040 Plan
 - It was noted that processes for proper engagement are under review.
- Brampton 2040 Speakers Series
 - Low attendance during this event and alternate tactics to engage the Brampton community

The following motion was considered.

EAC002-2020 That the presentation by Andrew McNeill, Strategic Leader, Policy Planning, Planning and Development Services, to the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting of February 11, 2020, re: **Brampton 2040 Plan** be received.

Carried

4.2. Presentation by Kayla Wong, Chair, and Stacey Wilson, Member, Work Plan Sub-Committee, re: **Environment Advisory Committee Work Plan**.

Kayla Wong, Chair, and Stacey Wilson, Member, Work Plan Sub-Committee, presented the Environment Advisory Committee Work Plan for the 2019-2022 term.

There was committee consensus regarding the Work Plan, and consideration was given to the establishment of the Grow Green Network Sub-Committee, and the membership of all four sub-committees, three of which were previously established by the EAC at the August 13, 2019 meeting.

The following motion was considered.

EAC003-2020 1. That the presentation by Kayla Wong, Chair, and Stacey Wilson, Member, Work Plan Sub-Committee, to the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting of February 11, 2020, re: **Environment Advisory Committee Work Plan** be received;

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2. That the Environment Advisory Committee Work Plan for the 2019-2022 term be received;
- ;
3. That the Grow Green Network Sub-Committee be established and the following Committee members be appointed:
 - Harripaul Bridgemohan
 - Rajbalinder Ghatoura
 - Malcolm Hamilton
 - David Laing
 - Davika Misir
 - Stacey Wilson
 - Kayla Wong
4. That the Engagement Sub-Committee be renamed the Engagement/Outreach Sub-Committee and the following additional Committee members be appointed:
 - Davika Misir
 - Kayla Wong
5. That the following additional Committee members be appointed to the Events Sub-Committee:
 - Preethi Anbalagan
 - Jafir Jaferi
6. That the following additional Committee member be appointed to the Work Plan Sub-Committee:
 - Davika Misir

Carried

5. Reports/Updates

- 5.1. Verbal Update from Malcolm Hamilton, Committee Member, re: **Opportunity for Input from Dr. Ellsworth LeDrew, Geography and Environmental Management Professor, University of Waterloo.**

Malcolm Hamilton, Committee Member, provided an overview of his discussions with Dr. Ellsworth LeDrew, and highlighted the following topics:

- Importance of networking
- Measuring progress on Brampton's 2040 Vision
- Building capacity to manage extreme weather events
- Potential value in obtaining comparative analysis of similar municipalities
- Potential funding opportunities

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Committee discussion on this matter included the following:

- Purpose, composition and efforts of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, and collaboration with municipalities across Canada, including the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
- Importance of community and stakeholder participation in the Brampton 2040 Plan and forums for providing input, including delegations to standing committees and Council when reports are presented

The following motion was considered.

EAC004-2020 That the verbal update from Malcolm Hamilton, Committee Member, to the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting of February 11, 2020, re: **Opportunity for Input from Dr. Ellsworth LeDrew, Geography and Environmental Management Professor, University of Waterloo** be received.

Carried

5.2. Verbal Update from Stavroula Kassaris, Environmental Planner, Public Works and Engineering, re: **Earth Day 2020**.

Stavroula Kassaris, Environmental Planner, advised that the Earth Day 2020 event is taking place on Sunday, April 26, 2020 at the Gore Meadows Community Centre. Ms. Kassaris provided details regarding this event and indicated that an email communication would be sent to all Committee members seeking volunteers for various activities.

The following motion was considered.

EAC005-2020 That the verbal update from Stavroula Kassaris, Environmental Planner, Public Works and Engineering, to the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting of February 11, 2020, re: **Earth Day 2020** be received.

Carried

6. Sub-Committees

6.1. Minutes – Work Plan Sub-Committee – January 26, 2020

The following motion was considered.

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EAC006-2020 That the **Minutes of the Work Plan Sub-Committee Meeting of January 26, 2020** to the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting of February 11, 2020, be received.

Carried

7. Other/New Business

7.1. Discussion at the request of Malcolm Hamilton, Committee Member, re: **Incentives for Planting Trees on Private Property.**

Malcolm Hamilton, Committee Member, introduced the following motion:

Whereas Brampton City Council has declared a climate state of emergency;

Whereas trees are the most effective tool available to draw down CO₂ and that CO₂ is a significant contributor to climate change and extreme climate events;

Whereas the City of Brampton is implementing a million tree planting program;

Whereas many trees are improperly planted or neglected and do not survive; and

Whereas the involvement of citizens is essential to the success of Brampton's 2040 Vision;

That the City of Brampton implement an incentive to reduce municipal taxes by \$20 for residents in the second year of planting a tree through this program on their property.

Staff advised Committee that, as the EAC is an advisory committee of Council, it is not in a position to direct Council/staff on matters which may have financial or other implications for the City.

Committee discussion on the above-noted motion included the following:

- Suggestion that a financial (cash) incentive would be more feasible than a tax reduction
- Indication from staff that the One Million Trees program includes the establishment of incentives for tree planting
- Possibility of monitoring the survival rate of new trees and the need to educate the public on new tree maintenance
- Community outreach strategy for the One Million Trees program

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The above-noted motion was not voted on.

The following motion was considered, voted on and carried unanimously.

EAC007-2020 That, it is the position of the Environment Advisory Committee, that the City prioritize establishing a financial incentive for tree planting on residential properties as part of a one million trees program.

Carried

7.2. Discussion at the request of Malcolm Hamilton, Committee Member, re:
Environmental Planning Funding and Staff Resources.

Malcolm Hamilton, Committee Member, introduced the following motion:

Whereas Brampton is in a state of climate emergency;

Whereas a large part of the City successfully meeting climate goals requires an immediate and thorough response;

Whereas the City, as yet, does not have someone to coordinate and monitor environmental sustainability across City departments; and

Whereas the Environmental Planning group of three full-time staff and two students is too small a workforce to meet the demands of implementing the 2040 Vision for a city of 640,000;

That the City of Brampton hire four additional employees to work in Environmental Planning;

That the City assign a coordinator of sustainable planning; and

That the City structure this group so that the group reports to a City oversight body entrusted to the long-term planning and goals in the best interests of the present and future citizens of Brampton.

Staff advised Committee that the subject matter is not within the Committee's mandate. Committee was also advised that, as the EAC is an advisory committee of Council, it is not in a position to direct Council/staff on matters which may have financial or other implications for the City.

Committee discussion on the above-noted motion included the following:

- Acknowledgement that the EAC cannot advise Council on staffing matters
- Concerns regarding the potential impact of the subject motion and the lack of information to support this request

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- Opinion that additional staff resources are needed in Environmental Planning
- Information from staff that members of the public may delegate Budget Committee on budget-related matters (e.g. staff resources)

The following motion was considered, voted on and lost.

EAC008-2020 *Whereas Brampton is in a state of climate emergency;*
Lost

Whereas a large part of the City successfully meeting climate goals requires an immediate and thorough response;

Whereas the City, as yet, does not have someone to coordinate and monitor environmental sustainability across City departments; and

Whereas the Environmental Planning group of three full-time staff and two students is too small a workforce to meet the demands of implementing the 2040 Vision for a city of 640,000;

That, it is the position of the Environment Advisory Committee, that the City of Brampton hire four additional employees to work in Environmental Planning;

That the City assign a coordinator of sustainable planning; and

That the City structure this group so that the group reports to a City oversight body entrusted to the long-term planning and goals in the best interests of the present and future citizens of Brampton.

Lost

8. Correspondence

- 8.1. Correspondence from Central Peel Secondary School Student, dated December 19, 2019, re: **Proposal to Improve Environmental Issues Within Brampton.**

David Laing, Committee Member, acknowledged the subject correspondence and commended the student's initiative and proposal for an eco-district in Downtown Brampton. Mr. Laing added that such proposals need to be in the context of the 2040 Vision, and suggested that staff communicate with this student and provide information on the delegation process.

The following motion was considered.

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EAC009-2020 That the correspondence from a Central Peel Secondary School Student, dated December 19, 2019, to the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting of February 11, 2020, re: **Proposal to Improve Environmental Issues Within Brampton** be received.

Carried

8.2. Correspondence from David Laing, on behalf of Bike the Creek Organizing Committee, dated January 24, 2020, re: **EAC Participation in 'Bike the Creek' Event – Saturday June 13, 2020.**

David Laing, Committee Member, provided information to Committee regarding the 'Bike the Creek' event, taking place on Saturday, June 13, 2020. He advised this year's theme is "Environmentally Sustainable Communities" and outlined the opportunity for the EAC to participate and operate a booth at this event.

The following motion was considered.

- EAC010-2020
1. That the correspondence from David Laing, on behalf of Bike the Creek Organizing Committee, dated January 24, 2020, to the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting of February 11, 2020, re: **EAC Participation in 'Bike the Creek' Event – Saturday, June 13, 2020** be received;
 2. That the Environment Advisory Committee participate in the 'Bike the Creek' event taking place on Saturday, June 13, 2020; and
 3. That plans and preparations for this event be referred to the Events Sub-Committee.

Carried

9. **Question Period – nil**

10. **Public Question Period**

In response to a question from the public regarding methods for measuring sustainability in local businesses, Michael Hoy, Supervisor, Environmental Planning, provided information regarding Partners in Project Green, which has the largest eco-business zone and monitors and assists businesses with sustainable practices. In addition, Mr. Hoy provided information on the City's Community Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan (CEERP).

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11. Adjournment

The following motion was considered.

EAC011-2020 That the Environment Advisory Committee do now adjourn to meet again on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

Carried

Preethi Anbalagan, Co-Chair