

Amini, Jannette

Subject: FW: FOCUS agenda

The following motion was passed by City Council in January 19, 2010:

*Moved by Councillor Hutchison
Seconded by Councillor Garrison*

WHEREAS the City of Kingston aspires to be Canada's most sustainable city and has implemented many measures that are improving the quality of the four pillars of sustainability in our community – economic, environmental, social and cultural; and,

WHEREAS the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum (KEAF) has indicated in its report that for the purposes of balancing the four pillars of sustainability in any decision with regard to the Poker Run, it is KEAF's view that the Poker Run has a negative environmental impact; and,

WHEREAS KEAF further indicates that the Poker Run without carbon offsets is damaging to a culture of Environmental Sustainability;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff, after consultation with FOCUS Kingston and SWITCH, be directed to negotiate with the Poker Run stakeholders and others the possibility of the purchase of high quality, credible, preferably local carbon offsets to ensure that emissions from the Poker Run of an amount of CO2 equal to or greater than the emissions produced from the event are reduced elsewhere with attention in negotiations being given to who should bear responsibility for covering the costs of such carbon offsets; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT attention also be given in negotiations to the possibility of the stakeholders and others reducing the carbon footprint of the Poker Run event; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff report back to Council by June, 2010.

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From: MacLatchy, Paul

Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2010 11:00 AM

To: Amini, Jannette; 'Linda Whitfield'

Cc: Jamieson, Kim

Subject: RE: FOCUS agenda

And for the information of Focus members, the following is what I have proposed as a description of the relationship between the Poker Run event and the Sustainable Kingston Plan:

Environmental Responsibility: A key theme within the environmental pillar is concerned with the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from all sources within Kingston. While the Poker Run event has been shown to produce a relatively small amount of emissions in proportion to all other activities within Kingston, it has nevertheless become a highly visual symbol of gratuitous mechanical power that many find at odds with messages of efficiency, moderation and environmental stewardship.

Economic Health: Economic development through tourism is a theme within the economic pillar of the Sustainable Kingston Plan. The Poker Run event draws a large crowd and is a successful tourism event in that regard as it provides business activity for hotels, restaurants and other services and facilities utilized by local and non-local attendees and participants. The DBIA estimates that the Poker Run event is one of the top three events in Kingston in terms of attendance. This estimation is supported by the recent report by KEDCO on the economic impact of the Poker Run event.

Social Equity: An important theme within the social pillar of the Sustainable Kingston Plan is *Comfort, Safety and Inclusion*. The Poker Run event is free to attend and is held at a location (Confederation Park and Ontario Street) that is serviced by public transit and is generally accessible to those with mobility challenges. While the cost to participate as an entrant is likely beyond the ability of most, the cost to participate as an attendee is virtually free. These attributes make the Poker Run event inclusive for a large proportion of Kingstonians and potential visitors. Within the theme of *Education & Learning*, the Poker Run event is used as an opportunity to educate members of the public on water and boat safety

Cultural Vitality: Events such as the Poker Run, CORK, Perch Derby, Tall Ships, etc. reinforce the City of Kingston's connection to the Great Lakes and Rideau Canal and our history of work, transportation and leisure associated with this connection. While the Poker Run event does not explicitly attempt to make historical ties to the event, it nevertheless is an example of an event where recreational boating and boatmanship are promoted and so does provide some minor reinforcement of the theme of *History and Heritage* within the cultural pillar of the Sustainable Kingston Plan.