



KINGSTON ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY FORUM  
MEETING No. 02-2009  
MINUTES

Monday, January 12, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.  
In Conference Room A/B at Rideaucrest Home  
KEAF website: [www.cityofkingston.ca/keaf](http://www.cityofkingston.ca/keaf)

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*Please provide regrets to Sunni Rideout, Committee Clerk at 613-546-4291 Ext. 1219; [srideout@cityofkingston.ca](mailto:srideout@cityofkingston.ca)*

**Present**

Councillor Rob Matheson  
Councillor Lisa Osanic  
Mr. Ted Bailey  
Ms Tina Bailey  
Mr. Tom Carpenter  
Mr. Ian Dubin  
Mr. Robert Foster  
Ms Janis Grant  
Mr. Matthew Gventer  
Mr. Theodore Hsu  
Mr. David Kay  
Mr. Harold Pickering  
Ms Bardi Vorster

Mr. Andy Dubchak

**Regrets**

Councillor Leonore Foster  
Mr. Christopher Knapper

**Also Present:**

Councillor Vicki Schmolka  
Mr. Jeff Lowe  
Mr. Guy Oram

**Staff Present**

Mr. Paul MacLatchy, Director, Strategic, Sustainability & Communications  
Mrs. Sunni Rideout, Committee Clerk

THIS IS NOT A VERBATIM REPORT

**MEETING TO ORDER**

Mr. Hsu called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

Moved by Ms Grant  
Seconded by Councillor Osanic

**THAT** the Agenda be amended

- to add a delegation by Mr. Guy Oram representing "SPLASH", a group advocating an alternative activity to the Kingston Poker Run;
- to add under Correspondence a discussion regarding Lake Ontario Park Master Plan group session;
- to add a discussion on the linkage between KEAF and sustainability; and

as amended, be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Moved by Councillor Osanic  
Seconded by Mr. Carpenter

**THAT** the Minutes of the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum Meeting No. 01-2009 held on December 8, 2008 be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

**DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None was declared.

**DELEGATIONS**

Mr. Guy Oram, representing SPLASH, a small group in Kingston formed with the intent of encouraging the City of Kingston to promote alternative activities to the Kingston Poker Run particularly activities that are sustainable participation events that celebrate the natural resources in the community. Mr. Oram advised the group has been meeting regularly over the last four weeks. They have collected 400 signatures from members of the public and have spoken with Councillors and the Downtown Business Association.

Mr. Oram explained that his group feels the Poker Run is a display of activity that is hard on the environment and that there are other ways to draw tourists to the downtown. Mr. Oram pointed out that it is their intention to draw attention to the amount of greenhouse gasses emitted by these boats and stated that one boat is capable of emitting more than all the cars in Kingston times three. He stated he was pleased to learn that the City of Kingston is working towards becoming the most sustainable city in Canada and felt that this race is contrary to that statement. He requested that SPLASH be permitted to mention KEAF in their correspondence as being in support of their goals. He suggested that if KEAF conducted a Greenhouse gas audit, SPLASH would submit some figures.

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When asked what alternatives SPLASH is proposing, Mr. Oram indicated a waterside event of family boat races, a wearing of the green event in recognition of the large Irish population, solar powered boat races and inviting an organization with the capability of putting on a large fountain display that may perhaps allocate energy from the windmills to generate this.

Mr. Hsu thanked Mr. Oram for his comments and indicated that KEAF would not take a public position in order to preserve its objectivity.

## BRIEFINGS

Mr. Paul MacLatchy, Director, Strategy, Environment and Communications advised that a Request For Proposal ("RFP") along with detailed references closing on January 21, 2009 has been issued. This RFP is seeking consultants to assist the City in creating a sustainability plan in order to achieve its stated goal of becoming the most sustainable city in Canada. He said that in the terms of reference there is a component that requires focus groups and smaller consultations within the four pillars of sustainability. Within those four pillars community groups are being identified to lead these discussions. Kingston Economic Development Corporation of Ontario would lead economic discussions and KEAF is thought to be the best group to lead an environment focus group. There is a compressed timeline and the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan ("ICSP") will be started the third week after the consultant has been selected. There will be one large public meeting, a move into focus groups and then another large public consultation before crafting the first draft. The RFP is posted on the City's website under "tenders".

In response to a concern with securing resources for infrastructure funding at a time of severe economic problems, Mr. MacLatchy stated that having an ICSP would help to ensure continued access to Federal gas tax money. He commented that the project will go forward without delay in any event.

When asked if there is a subcommittee and staff assigned to work on creating an inventory or prioritization list of things to ask for, Mr. MacLatchy responded that there are a number of projects in the planning and implementation stages at the present time and that Council has set priorities.

## BUSINESS

### a) KEAF Objectives for 2009/2010

Mr. Hsu pointed out that KEAF is half-way through its term and led a discussion under the following headings:

#### What do we do now?

In response to the question of what KEAF is doing now the following comments were made:

1. We have speakers to learn about local issues;
2. Respond to requests from Council;
3. Undertake specific projects such as education (state of the environment, Local Action Plan for greenhouse gasses, check boxes);
4. Public education such as Green-Up;
5. Energy meters in the library to be taken out on loan;
6. Information sharing through e-mail;
7. Worked on an overview and larger, broader perspective respecting sustainability; and
8. Responsive to questions from Paul MacLatchy and Council.

#### What is good about what we do now?

In response to the question of what is good about what KEAF is doing now the following comments were made:

1. Meeting its mandate and terms of reference;
2. Pooling analytical resources;
3. Provided considered objective advice on the questions asked;
4. Speakers make us more knowledgeable and capable; and
5. Combine questions 2 and 3 by looking at question one to give ourselves a grade of 10

#### Is Council happy with what we do now?

In response to the question of whether Council is satisfied with what KEAF does now the following comments were made:

1. KEAF is expected to provide a lot of help for the next two years on the question of the plastic water bottle and Council is able to rely on KEAF for advice. It was acknowledged that Council may not have used KEAF as much as it should have.
2. KEAF is meeting Council's terms of reference. The motion regarding Christmas wrapping paper and the plastic water bottle indicates Council's faith in KEAF.
3. Concern was expressed that KEAF was considering disbanding. It was pointed out that KEAF's fireworks report affected policy decisions and there will be more opportunity for KEAF in future.

It was noted that the mandate is Council directed and that some direction from KEAF to Council would also be helpful.

Mr. MacLatchy noted that when a matter comes to KEAF from Council it may be difficult for KEAF to respond without having access to some basic information or reports provided by staff. Mr. MacLatchy suggested it would be more helpful if staff would provide more reports to KEAF.

It was suggested that KEAF could put together a report on its activities in the first half of this term to Council to supplement Agendas and Minutes in order for Council to be more aware of its activities. It was recommended that KEAF provide just a one page summary or short statement of undertakings like greenhouse gasses inventory and green building since Councillors deal with a great deal of reading and reports. It was noted that part of the mandate is community involvement and public education and more outreach may be required.

#### Do you find the time spent on KEAF useful?

In response to the question of whether KEAF members regard their time as well spent the following comments were made:

Mr. Hsu stated that he found responding to requests from Council to be useful, however, if it was a question of trying to make changes in the community and asking the community to change the way they live, he did not believe that to be a good use of his time.

A concern was expressed that KEAF is not being used by Council as much as they could be and there was some frustration that KEAF was not as busy as they expected to be or that things were not being finished. Reference was made to a meeting with builders to determine their thoughts on green building design. It was felt that KEAF was offering a concept that no one wished to purchase although it could also be said that builders are perhaps not selling the green things as vigorously as they should. In terms of educating builders, it was suggested that this should be sent back to Planning or that people who are selling houses could be consulted about how to do this better. It was suggested that Council be advised they have asked the question in the wrong way.

It was pointed out that as the City moves towards becoming the most sustainable city it cannot work in isolation and that if KEAF has ideas, they should be placed into the system to generate conversation.

#### Problems?

In response to the question of what are the problems the following comments were made:

1. Not being used enough by Council and not being busy.

2. Plasco was to be rescheduled and is unresolved.
3. This period has the most pending requests from Council.
4. A request was made to see the Statement of the Environment in a form to be published for the public at the end of this term. It was noted that projects like the Local Action Plan and State of the Environment at some stage would involve asking permission of Council to take certain steps. It was felt a more structured approach as to how these projects are to proceed is required. The State of the Environment is important but a big project for someone to do it. The Local Action Plan is out there and we don't know what to do with it. There is no project plan to take these projects from where they are now to where they should be.
5. A request was made for more precise information respecting resources and timelines. If there is something in KEAF's opinion that is very important and staff does not have resources there should be a request to Council that would effectively amend the budget. Things are not getting finished. We have talked about taking a request from Council and suggesting a different way back to Council about how to accomplish this.
6. There should be more follow up on attendance and participation issues. A discussion followed regarding the relationship between KEAF, Queens University and St. Lawrence College with respect to volunteers and alternates. It was noted that these institutions provide a broad spectrum of expertise and some thought should be given to perhaps suggesting a particular skill set.

#### Anything we should do differently?

In response to the question of KEAF should be doing differently, the following comments were made:

1. Determine what subcommittees exist and what their mandates are.
2. Increased collaboration through the website or shared drive. While it is useful to have speakers there should be a time limit set for delegations of 15 to 20 minutes with a limit for questions.
3. Upload information to a site for shared information for articles on local initiatives with information and background on things other people are doing.
4. Posting documents to stimulate on line discussion.
5. Improving communication strategies by a blog, website or KEAF face book page. The KEAF website needs to be upgraded and the results of what we have done should be posted to inform people what we are doing. Follow up on check boxes is needed.
6. A request was made to hear speakers who may be critical of what the city is doing to get a more broad perspective.
7. Create an abeyance list that would advise Council what is happening and to provide more structure around assignments.
8. Consider co-chairs for working groups.

It was agreed that Mr. Hsu will summarize and circulate the points raised. An abeyance list will be started at the next meeting.

Business Item c) MOTION (4) – JANUARY 6, 2009 – PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES was discussed at this point in the meeting. Please refer to page 7.

#### **b) MOTION (3) – JANUARY 6, 2009 - CHRISTMAS WRAPPING PAPER**

At the regular meeting of Kingston City Council held on January 6, 2009, the following motion was approved and referred to the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum for review and direction.

*WHEREAS the City of Kingston has established a goal to increase its waste diversion rate to 65% by 2012;*  
*AND WHEREAS, despite the fact that the Christmas holidays are supposed to be a time of peace and goodwill, the waste sent to landfill as a result of our actions over the Christmas holidays increases due to the excessive packaging of gifts and*

*the fact that most wrapping paper is not recyclable. As a result, it could be argued that our actions in this regard are not in keeping with the spirit of the holidays;*

**AND WHEREAS**, *in December 2008, the City of Toronto approved report PW20.1 entitled "Proposed Measures to Reduce In-Store Packaging Waste and Litter, Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste and Plastic Water Bottles", which includes the establishment of a working group to explore options available to reduce excessive packaging.*

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** *the City of Kingston requests that the federal and provincial governments develop legislation requiring that all wrapping paper sold and manufactured within their respective jurisdictions be recyclable, with a goal to establishing an eventual ban on the sale and use of non-recyclable wrapping paper within their respective jurisdictions;*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** *staff develop a communications strategy to be implemented prior to Christmas 2009, encouraging Kingstonians to adopt more environmentally-friendly practices regarding gifts including but not limited to:*

- a. Using recyclable paper to wrap gifts, or reusable gift bags, instead of non-recyclable wrapping paper*
- b. Reusing reusable gift bags before purchasing new ones*
- c. Encouraging citizens to purchase gifts from manufacturers, companies and retailers who sell products that do not use excessive packaging*
- d. Encouraging local retailers, suppliers and businesses to use their influence to encourage manufacturers and companies to reduce excessive packaging in their products*
- e. Encouraging local retailers and suppliers of non-recyclable wrapping paper to use their influence to encourage manufacturers of non-recyclable wrapping paper to develop and sell only recyclable wrapping paper;*

**AND FURTHER THAT** *such strategies including financial considerations be referred to Environment, Infrastructure and Transportation Policies Committee (EITP) for consideration and recommendation to Council;*

**AND FURTHER THAT** *staff monitor the work of the Packaging Reduction Working Group of the City of Toronto and the work of other municipalities in regards to packaging reduction in order to develop recommendations for action that could be taken by the City of Kingston in the future to reduce excessive packaging in the City of Kingston;*

**AND FURTHER THAT** *the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum (K.E.A.F.) be requested to consider this resolution and provide input to staff and the Environment, Infrastructure and Transportation Policies Committee on the matters outlined herein;*

**AND FURTHER THAT** *a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Premier Dalton McGuinty, Hon. Hugh Segal, Senator for Kingston, Frontenac, Leeds, Hon. Peter Milliken, M.P. for Kingston and the Islands, Hon. John Gerretsen, M.P.P. for Kingston and the Islands, the provincial and federal ministers and party critics responsible for the Environment, Industry, Trade, Consumer Affairs, Science and Technology, FCM, AMO and all municipalities on our regular information and endorsement distribution list.*

A discussion ensued regarding the issue of Christmas wrapping paper. It was noted that this is basically a question of packaging and manufacturers producing a product that municipalities are required to dispose of. It was suggested that the responsibility of dealing with this should be given to the manufacturers and the Province be encouraged to enact legislation.

Mr. MacLatchy explained the time lines are around October or November, 2009 and that staff would prepare a report in July, 2009 outlining information around why the paper is not acceptable for consideration.

It was agreed that the Plastic Bag Free Kingston Group will conduct research on this matter. It was pointed out that wrapping paper could be shredded for insulation, however, the cost of collecting this paper for insulation as opposed to the collection of newsprint should also be considered.

**c) MOTION (4) – JANUARY 6, 2009 - PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES**

At the regular meeting of Kingston City Council held on January 6-2009, the following motion was approved and referred to the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum for review and direction.

*WHEREAS Kingston City Council wishes to set a positive example for the Kingston community on environmental matters; and*

*WHEREAS in December, 2008, the City of Toronto approved report PW20.1 entitled "Proposed Measures to Reduce In-Store Packaging Waste and Litter, Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste and Plastic Water Bottles"; and*

*WHEREAS the above-mentioned report of the City of Toronto establishes policies to be implemented and timelines to be followed regarding a ban on the use and sale of bottled water in municipal facilities in the City of Toronto; and*

*WHEREAS the City of London has also adopted a similar ban on the use and sale of bottled water in its municipal facilities;*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, using the measures adopted by the City of Toronto and the City of London as a guide, staff be directed to present a report to the Environment, Infrastructure and Transportation Policies Committee at its May 2009 meeting that includes a draft City of Kingston Bottled Water Ban In Municipal Facilities Policy which will:*

*a. Establish policies and timelines for the elimination of the sale of bottled water in municipal facilities where easy access to tap water exists.*

**CARRIED**

*b. Establish a formal policy reducing the use of bottled water in municipal facilities and increasing the use of tap water at meetings and events held in municipal facilities; and*

**CARRIED**

*THAT following the presentation of the report by staff to the Environment, Infrastructure & Transportation Policies Committee, that the Environment, Infrastructure & Transportation Policies Committee be asked to hold at least one public meeting on this issue and whether or not there should be a ban on the sale of bottled water in municipal facilities; and*

*THAT as part of the report, staff outline the steps required to increase the accessibility of tap water in municipal facilities in order for Council to be able to implement a full ban on the sale and reduction of the use of bottled water in municipal facilities; and*

*THAT as part of the report, staff develop a communications strategy designed to educate and inform the public about the City of Kingston Bottled Water Ban In Municipal Facilities Policy and encourage voluntary participation in a bottled water ban by Kingstonians outside municipal facilities; and*

*THAT the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum (K.E.A.F.) be requested to consider this resolution and provide input to staff and the Environment, Infrastructure and Transportation Policies Committee on the matters outlined herein prior to the May meeting.*

*THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to Hon. Hugh Segal, Senator for Kingston, Frontenac, Leeds, Hon. Peter Milliken, M.P. for Kingston and the Islands, Hon. John Gerretsen, M.P.P. for Kingston and the Islands, the federal and provincial ministers of the environment, and all municipalities on our regular information and endorsement distribution list.*

**LOST**

Councillor Osanic advised the issue of plastic water bottles was discussed at Council and there was intense lobbying. She commented it was a disadvantage that KEAF was not present and offered to share background information. Mr. Gventer noted that a lot of issues were raised that require consideration and asked for clarification on health implications, how this fits into City policies, existing contract commitments, ease of accessibility to water and the environmental impact on the waste system. Mr. MacLachy agreed to provide a report outlining the concerns raised for the March agenda so that input can be provided to the Environment, Infrastructure and Transportation Committee in April. He noted the report would recommend a policy. A request was made to specify what facilities do not provide public water.

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Moved by Mr. Gventer  
Seconded by Ms Bailey

That a working group committee composed of Matthew Gventer, Tina Bailey, Ted Bailey and Bob Foster be struck to conduct background research prior to receiving a staff report on the question of plastic water bottles.

**CARRIED**

## WORKING GROUP ITEMS

### Inner Harbour Group

(Dr. Laing, Dr. Remenda, Ms Vorster)

Ms Vorster reported she has been unable to contact Dr. Laing. Councillor Schmolka asked if it was KEAF's intention to comment on environmental implications for the proposed Third Crossing.

### Partners in Climate Protection Group (PCP)

(Ms. Bailey, Mr. Foster, Ms. Grant, Mr. Hsu, Mr. Pickering)

In response to a question of next steps, Mr. MacLatchy suggested it is something that could be done through the Local Action Plan.

### Communications – Environmental Strategy Group

(Mr. Bailey, Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Foster, Ms Grant, Mr. Gventer, Mr. Kay, Mr. May, Councillor Osanic, Mr. Dubin)

Mr. Hsu stated the next step is to get suggestions from Mr. Del Stowe which will be brought back.

### Plastic Bag Free Kingston Group

(Ms. Vorster, Ms Grant, Mr. Pickering, Mr. Gventer)

Ms Vorster advised that clarification has been received to permit going forward.

## OTHER BUSINESS

### SHOW AND TELL ITEMS:

Lisa – article in Whig on January 20 at Dunning Hall at 7:00 p.m. Hosted by Council of Canadians. Speaker is Maude Barlow

Tina – I got an adjustment to my metre that sends real time information and it is really cool. Present from Canadian Tire and about \$100.00. Operates on a battery and attaches to the metre outside. She will circulate information to committee.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Annual greenup festival as a date of April 18<sup>th</sup> at Portsmouth Olympic Harbour.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Lake Ontario Master Plan Focus Group session. We should make sure that some of us volunteer to be there. Thursday, January 27 at 11:00 to 12:30 in the third floor of City Hall in Councillor's Lounge. Bardi, Ian, Matt, Janis, Ted will go

Rob – Official Plan is being released at the Isabel Turner Library on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Encourage people to show up

## DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum is scheduled to be held on Monday, February 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at Rideaucrest Home.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Andy  
Seconded by Tom

That we so adjourn at 9:11 p.m.

**CARRIED**

