



KINGSTON ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY FORUM
MEETING No. 09-2009
MINUTES

Monday 09 November 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
In the Boardroom at Rideaucrest Home

KEAF page on the City Website: www.cityofkingston.ca/keaf

PRESENT

Councillor Leonore Foster
Councillor Rob Matheson
Mr. Tom Carpenter, Co-Chair
Mr. Ted Hsu, Co-Chair
Mr. Aaron Ball (Queen's)
Mr. Ted Bailey
Mr. Andy Dubchak (KFL&A-alternate)
Mr. Ian Dubin
Mr. Robert Foster
Ms. Janis Grant
Mr. Mathew Gventer
Ms. Sarah O'Neill (CRCA)
Mr. Harold Pickering
Ms. Bardi Vorster

REGRETS

Councillor Lisa Osanic
Mr. David Kay
Mr. Darko Matovic
Dr. Vicki Remenda (Queen's)
Dr. Barb Zeeb (RMC)

OTHER TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. Romy Baur (St. Lawrence College – alternate)
Dr. Boyd Davis (Queen's – alternate)
Mr. Peter Hebert (CRCA-alternate)
Dr. Kunal Karan (Queen's –alternate)
Dr. James May (St. Lawrence College)
Dr. Ken Reimer (RMC-alternate)

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Paul MacLatchy, Director, Strategy,
Environment & Communications
Ms. Susan Powley, Committee Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT

Ms. Tamsin Laing (RMC)

THIS IS NOT A VERBATIM REPORT

MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Ted Hsu, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Hsu noted that an election for Co-Chairs will take place at the December meeting.

WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Hsu welcomed Ms. Tamsin Laing who was in attendance at the meeting and who served previously as a technical representative for RMC.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None was declared.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

*Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Mr. Pickering*

THAT the agenda be confirmed as amended to add under 'Working Group Updates':

- *Discussion regarding Packaging and Waste Committee*

CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

*Moved by Mr. Dubin
Seconded by Ms. Grant*

THAT the Minutes of the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum Meeting No. 08-2009 held 19th October 2009 be confirmed with agreed to edits.

CARRIED

DELEGATIONS

- a) *Moved by Mr. Foster
Seconded by Mr. Carpenter*

THAT the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum waive the rules of By-Law No. 98-1, "Council Procedural By-Law", in order to amend the agenda to allow a delegation by Mr. Jordan A. Van Leuken, Architectural Technologist and Planning Manager, Braebury Homes to speak regarding green building.

CARRIED

Councillor Foster introduced Mr. Jordan A. Van Leuken, Architectural Technologist and Planning Manager, Braebury Homes, who was present to provide an overview of green building.

Mr. Van Leuken advised that Braebury Homes construct at a level 20-30% above the Building Code, and have adopted the Energy Star program as a standard for all homes. He noted that the return for a home owner is 5-7 years depending on the system which is chosen. He described the use, size, and Canadian content percentages for solar panels.

To a question regarding solar panels to go along with green roofs, Mr. Van Leuken referenced their use on the Royal Block building downtown, advising that green roofs are good, that solar panels are light and with planning, they can be incorporated together.

It was noted that buyers are more interested in aesthetics of the interior than energy efficient homes, and that government education of the public is vital.

With a diagram, Mr. Van Leuken described comparative energy losses of houses built in the 1950's to present. He noted that EnergyStar has a building code of its own, and other techniques can be adopted. He referenced a program called 'Build' for which he can provide more information. At this time there are no tax incentives for new home purchases with energy savings; currently there are renovations incentives.

To a question regarding a business model that includes costs of utilities for two years, Mr. Van Leuken advised that this had been done as a test pilot project in Calgary.

Mr. Van Leuken confirmed that buyers of Braebury Homes are second home or repeat buyers. He suggested that an option for more energy efficient homes could be proposed. It was noted that education would involve both consumers and bankers.

Mr. Van Leuken confirmed that he provides architectural designs for Braebury Homes and most companies have their own designers. The orientation of homes on lots was noted.

In terms of sustainability, the upgrading of old homes rather than increasing new homes was suggested as the process of building uses energy and new homes could possibly be less sustainable. In addition, the Official Plan encourages increased density. To a question regarding the Braebury business plan, Mr. Van Leuken said they are adapting to the new plan, adding harvest homes and developing a geothermal system for small lots.

The Committee thanked Mr. Van Leuken for attending and he left the meeting at this time.

BRIEFINGS

REPORTS

BUSINESS

- a) **Discussion regarding the ' Active Community Charter Trails for Active Transportation – Kingston Community Report'.**

A copy of Report EITP 09-029 was attached to the 13 October 2009 EITP agenda. The full document can be viewed at <http://www.cityofkingston.ca/cityhall/committees/infrastructure/agendas.asp>

Recommendation of the Environment, Infrastructure and Transportation Policies Committee on 13th October 2009:

THAT a copy of the Active Community Charter Trails for Active Transportation – Kingston Community Report be forwarded to the Kingston Environment Advisory Forum (KEAF) for discussion.

Councillor Foster noted that the report which encourages people to walk and bicycle was endorsed by the Environment, Infrastructure and Transportation Policies Committee on 13th October 2009. Staff have been requested to highlight ie. bike lanes and commuter routes as an indicator of what is being done. The trails system in the City is improving.

Mr. Gventer added that there is a need for benches as resting places along trails was discussed.

Councillor Foster and Councillor Matheson noted that environmental aspects of active transportation could be considered by the Committee. Cyclists and motorists could be provided with further education.

Mr. Carpenter referenced a past acknowledgement that the City is already the second most active transit city in Canada, so the City does this well already. Mr. Maclatchy added that this is the result but is not fully reflected in the infrastructure. It was recognized that there are bicycle parking rings and a rack and roll program in place in the City at this time.

Ms. Grant suggested that safety be considered as an issue.

It was agreed that a discussion of active transportation be undertaken by the Communications – Environmental Strategy Group and that an action suggestion be developed in the next three months for consideration at the February 2010 meeting and then provided to Council. Any ideas during this time can be forwarded to Mr. Bailey.

b) Update regarding the Kingston Integrated Community Sustainability Plan project and discussion regarding key elements and indicators within the plan and KEAF's role as pillar champions

(Representatives for the Kingston Integrated Community Sustainability Plan Project: Mr. Ian Dubin and Mr. Harold Pickering)

The draft ICSP, proposed indicators and logo were distributed by e-mail 25 September.

Mr. MacLachy reported that consideration will be given to the FOCUS Kingston Steering Committee recommendation to Council that report Draft 1, Version 5 of the Sustainable Kingston Plan be accepted at the 17 November meeting.

Representatives of Project Management Team for the Community Sustainability Plan project under consideration by the FOCUS Kingston Steering Committee will attend the 14th December KEAF meeting to provide an update.

c) Update regarding SPLASH - 'SPLASH – Sustainable Practices Leave a Sustainable Heritage' calculations – by Mr. Ian Dubin, Mr. Ted Hsu, Dr. Barb Zeeb

A copy of a draft report was attached to the addendum for the meeting.

Mr. Dubin noted the report which had been distributed early to members by email and recognized that some don't feel that all the figures should be included. He referenced the summary and recommendations on page 10.

A discussion took place regarding the development of a process by which the information could be provided as requested, and whether or not recommendations or options should be included. Concerns were expressed regarding the provision of some of the information within the draft report; a majority and minority report were suggested.

Noted during the discussion were Committee steps taken to date which include the Pesticide report which was not upheld unanimously but received a majority vote, and the current City policy limiting staff travel.

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Suggestions included that a non-opinionated report could be produced, or the provision of numbers with relative information.

It was noted that while KEAF recommendations could be made they would be without the benefit of seeing the whole picture. It was further noted that a caveat could be added. Mr. Dubin agreed to rewrite a draft report to take a more neutral tone.

Mr. Bailey suggested that the Communications – Environmental Strategy Group could review the draft report, taking into account the discussion and make recommendations.

It was agreed that a short summary would be written by the Co-Chairs in response to the letter.

Members were requested to send options to Mr. Dubin and copied to Mr. Bailey as soon as possible. Consideration will be given to the finalized report at the December meeting.

*Moved by Mr. Carpenter
Seconded by Councillor Matheson*

***THAT** a note based on a draft report compiled by Mr. Dubin regarding 'SPLASH – Sustainable Practices Leave a Sustainable Heritage' calculations, be provided to Council as a response to the letter forwarded to KEAF from the Mayor's office.*

CARRIED

d) Update regarding the KEAF Annual Report

A copy of a draft report provided by Mr. Ian Dubin was attached to the addendum for the meeting.

Mr. Foster suggested that the report be noted as a 2007-2008 Annual Report, with the addition of 2007 information.

Mr. Dubin will forward a copy of the amended KEAF Annual Report to the Committee Clerk by 17 November.

e) Discussion regarding Community Green House Gas Local Action Plan

Mr. MacLatchy and Mr. Hsu will continue to work on the Community Green House Gas Local Action Plan with some form of consultation taking place prior to completion.

f) Discussion regarding a response to Council request: gift wrapping paper

Mr. MacLatchy advised that an information report ('Reducing the Generation of Non-Recyclable Waste During the Holiday Season' Report EITP-09-031) will be considered by the Environment, Infrastructure and Transportation Policies Committee on 10th November.

Mr. Gventer advised that he would like to engage in further discussions regarding packaging issues and an ongoing role by KEAF. He expressed concern that the packaging issues could be lost due to the other issues dealt with by the Communications – Environmental Strategy Group.

It was determined that the Communications – Environmental Strategy Group and the Packaging Issues Group would merge as the same members on the Packaging Issues Group also belong to the Communications – Environmental Strategy Group. If this is not workable, the matter is to be brought back to KEAF.

g) Update regarding digitized new members package

Ms. Vorster provided an update regarding the package.

Ms. Vorster will add other information to the index which was circulated to members and bring it forward to KEAF following a determination of the KEAF mandate by the Committee to Review By-Law 98-1 and resolution of Council.

WORKING GROUP UPDATES**a) Inner Harbour Group (IHG)**
(Dr. Laing, Dr. Remenda, Ms. Vorster)

Ms. Vorster reported that a new initiative needs to be determined.

b) Partners in Climate Protection Group (PCP)
(Mr. Foster, Ms. Grant, Mr. Hsu, Mr. Pickering,)

With the resignation of Ms. Bailey, this group requires a new leader for issues to include green roofs and stop signs.

c) Communications – Environmental Strategy Group
(Mr. Bailey, Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Foster, Ms. Grant, Mr. Gventer, Mr. Kay, Mr. May, Councillor Osanic, Mr. Dubin)

Mr. Bailey advised that a meeting will be held this week.

d) Plastic Bag Free Kingston Group
(Mr. Foster, Mr. Gventer, Ms. Vorster, Ms. Grant, Mr. Pickering,)

This working group is no longer required.

e) Packaging Issues Group
(Mr. Bailey, Mr. Foster, Mr. Gventer)

Matters relating to this group will be merged with the Communications – Environmental Strategy Group as members belong to both groups; at this time a separate working group is no longer required.

OTHER BUSINESS**Cities Alive Conference**

Ms. Vorster advised that she attended a recent 'Cities Alive Conference'.

Green Roofs

Mr. Foster referenced a comment at the last meeting regarding green roofs not working in cold climates. He noted that there are some green roofs located in the state of Michigan.

SHOW AND TELL ITEMS:

UPCOMING EVENTS:

19th November 2009 - Queen's helping the World Wildlife Fund

Mr. Carpenter noted a speaker in regard to Climate Change mitigation in the Arctic at Queen's at noon and in the evening at the Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library.

CORRESPONDENCE/DOCUMENTS

Copies of the following correspondence were sent out from the Clerks' Department, and were available at the meeting if a member wished to review the full document:

- a) Memorandum from Ms. Jannette Amini, Committee Clerk, EITP to Ms. Susan Powley, Committee Clerk regarding 'Motion by Environment, Infrastructure and Transportation Policies Committee – Active Community Charter Trails for Active Transportation – Kingston Community Report'.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled at 7:00 p.m. in Rideaucrest Home Board Room as follows:

- 14 December

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

