



**KINGSTON ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY FORUM
MEETING NO. 04-2012
MINUTES**

Monday May 14th, 2012

**6:30 p.m., Wilson Room, Kingston Frontenac Public Library
130 Johnson Street**

PRESENT

Mr. Dubin; Co-Chair
Councillor Berg
Councillor Downes (arrived 7:20)
Mr. Ball
Mr. Carnegie
Ms. Farrar
Mr. Foster
Mr. Kaye
Mr. Matovic
Ms. Muirhead
Ms. Nobrega
Ms. Paquin

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Jannette Amini, Committee Clerk
Mr. Jim English, Pollution Prevention
Specialist
Ms. Kristine Hebert, Parks & Open Space
Planning Coordinator
Ms. Sheila Kidd, Director of
Transportation
Mr. Brodie Richmond, Environmental
Engineer/Geoscientist

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Ben Tymchyshyn, MMM Group

REGRETS

Councillor Neill
Mr. Carpenter
Ms. Illes
Mr. McCauley

THIS IS NOT A VERBATIM REPORT

MEETING TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were none.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Moved by Ms. Farrar
Seconded by Councillor Downes

THAT the agenda be amended to include a discussion regarding a newspaper article on the Lafarge Plant in Bath, Ontario and an article in the Toronto Sun pointing out issues with the Green Energy Act under Other Business, and as amended, be approved.

CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Berg
Seconded by Ms. Paquin

THAT the Minutes of the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum Meeting No. 03-2012 held February 13th, 2012 be confirmed.

CARRIED

DELEGATIONS

There were none.

BRIEFINGS

- a) **Ms. Sheila Kidd**, Director of Transportation spoke to the Committee regarding the City's Transit Redevelopment Plan 2011-2015.

Ms. Kidd advised the Committee that the City will be implementing a CAD/AVL system which is a bus locator system that allows staff to determine where a bus is at any given time as well as communicate with transit operators in order to divert those operators and pick up passengers from other routes when there are traffic delays due to road conditions, accidents, etc. She also noted there are future plans to introduce a mobile application that allows transit users to track where a bus is at any given time and how long it will be before it reaches a specific bus stop. Regarding bus stop infrastructure, Ms. Kidd clarified that infrastructure also refers to work that is required on the ground as some existing stops have no connection from the sidewalk to the curb. She also confirmed that bus shelters fall within bus stop infrastructure and there are changes planned for them.

Councillor Downes expressed concern with respect to the high fuel consumption and asked if this fuel consumption includes the entire transit division compliment. Ms Kidd was not certain of this; however did note there is a lot of commuting transit drivers to and from various stops in the City where they would either start or end a shift. The committee noted many factors play into fuel consumption including the size and capacity of the bus; however Ms. Kidd advised that the City has not been successful in finding a manufacturer of the smaller buses that is dependable. Part of the solution could be the move to hybrid buses; however presently the cost to maintain these hybrids is out of the City's reach as it not only includes the cost of the bus but the cost of new tools required in order to maintain a hybrid bus.

To Mr. Dubin's query regarding the number of passengers per kilometer, Ms. Kidd advised the Committee that the Canadian Urban Transit System collects

this type of data and can be found on their website. The City also has comparator municipalities it uses. The 2011 data will be available in the fall.

To Ms. Muirhead's concerns regarding how these changes will benefit short distance commuters, Ms. Kidd noted the City is re-aligning transit routes and this should help as even those travelling short distances could potentially fall within an express stop. With respect to climate controlled shelters, Ms. Kidd noted the City currently has contracts for the bus shelters that pay for the shelters including installation. As such, it would not be an option to upgrade these shelters nor would it be affordable to consider 4 season shelters.

- b) **Mr. Ben Tymchyshyn, MMM Group and Ms. Kristine Hebert**, Parks and Open Space Planning Coordinator spoke to the Committee regarding the City's Sustainable Turfcare Management Plan Project.

Councillor Downes pointed out that sports fields are looked at differently than a local park and asked if there will be sufficient maintenance in the local parks to allow children to play informal sports. Mr. Tymchyshyn advised that the standard is to maintain a 7 day cycle per grass cutting with a 3 inch cut which is standard within Ontario municipalities. Ms. Hebert added that staff are aware of areas within the parks that are used for these informal sports and areas that are used for nature; however it is important to ensure that when maintaining parks, they do not look hap hazard. This package contains an educational component for the public on the uses in the parks.

With respect to Mr. Matovic's question around engaging communities, Mr. Tymchyshyn indicated there is an "Adopt a Park" policy which includes clean up and tree planting and there is an educational component with signage to indicate what these naturalization areas are and understand the value of them.

Councillor Scott noted that the Green Spaces & Waterways Working Group has also been looking at this matter and asked if those reports would be used. He also asked if storm water retention will be looked at. Ms. Hebert indicated that storm water retention was not included in the scope of this work; however there are opportunities for this group to request policies. The next steps will be to hold a public meeting and consultation with senior staff with a final report to standing Committee and then Council based on that feedback.

BUSINESS

- a) **Brownfields Gathering**
Report on the Brownfields Gathering, which informed the public on Kingston Brownfields Initiatives and Brownfields Policies that took place on April 21st, 2012 from 10 am to 12 at the Kingston Frontenac Public Library.

Ms. Muirhead provided an overview of the summary that was attached to the agenda. She indicated a more formal report will be forthcoming. She felt that the turn out could have been better and if the group were to hold such an event again, it would take place in the evening during a weeknight with more publicizing. Councillor Berg suggested that any future event could be tied into the Sustainable Kingston annual forum. Mr. Foster suggested that members submit names of individuals and businesses and target those people when putting on these events. It was noted that those that did attend were engaged and interested.

b) Discussion on Suggested Research Projects for Students

It was noted that Mr. MacLatchy at a previous meeting stated there would be no staff time awarded to these projects and that these would be KEAF initiatives.

It was suggested that all working groups review these topics along with submitting any additional topics they felt would be relevant. If there are to be any site visits the appropriate city staff should be contacted and each suggested research project should have the appropriated City department identified with it.

Moved by Councillor Scott
Seconded by Councillor Berg

THAT the suggested Research Projects submitted by the Climate Change Working Group be deferred to the June meeting to allow the Green Spaces & Waterways and Land Use and Rejuvenation Working Groups an opportunity to provide additional suggestions and highlight target students.

CARRIED

c) Update regarding Working Groups

i. Green Spaces & Waterways Working Group
There is no report from this Working Group

ii. Land Use and Rejuvenation Working Group

Moved by Councillor Berg
Seconded by Councillor Scott

THAT the Land Use and Rejuvenation Working Group notes be received for information purposes.

CARRIED

i. Climate Change Working Group

Moved by Mr. Bell
Seconded by Mr. Matovic

THAT the Climate Change Working Group notes be received for information purposes.

CARRIED

Mr. Dubin noted the Climate Change Forum he attended in Memorial Hall and felt that KEAF should be involved in this. This has been passed on to the Climate Change Working Group.

Councillor Scott stated that he did attend the site for the solar panels at Rideau Lakes and provided the Committee with photos taken of the site. He will follow up with issues and concerns around well water and report back to the Committee. He also noted concerns that have been raised around noise and potential fires on the sites.

d) City of Kingston Third Crossing of the Cataraqui River Environmental Assessment

A copy of the Public Notice issued by Mr. Dan Franco, Assistant Project Manager is attached.

Councillor Downes noted that the City of Kingston Third Crossing of the Cataraqui River Environmental Assessment has already been approved by Council and would be mute for KEAF to provide comments at this point. The Committee received this report for information purposes only.

Mr. Foster did note that if the Committee would like to learn more about the inner harbor it could invite representatives from the Royal Military College (RMC) as it is currently doing research on the inner harbor.

OTHER BUSINESS

a) Lafarge Plant in Bath, Ontario

Mr. Matovic clarified comments he made while attending a site visit to the Lafarge Plant in Bath and that he was there as an environmental engineer and not representing KEAF although he did mention that KEAF is connected through Tom Carpenter and himself. He did request that in the future KEAF be involved. He provided a background on the Lafarge fuel issue.

b) Toronto Sun article pointing out issues with the Green Energy Act

c) Meeting schedules and quorum

It was suggested, when scheduling KEAF meetings for next year that public holidays be taken into consideration to ensure they do not interfere with meetings.

d) Secondary Suites

Mr. Matovic questioned if KEAF should be involved in this discussion as there has been much discussion that the downtown infrastructure cannot support additional suites.

CORRESPONDENCE/DOCUMENTS

a) Correspondence received from Ms. Vicki Schmolka, dated January 27th, 2012 regarding habitat fragmentation.

b) Correspondence from John Bolognone, City Clerk, advising of motion approved by Council at its regular meeting held April 3, 2012 with respect to recommendations contained in the Ministry of Transportation's Wildlife Mortality Study on the Highway 401.

(This item is now identified on the Abeyance List as item #5)

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum is scheduled to be held on Monday June 11th, 2012.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Berg
Seconded by Mr. Matovic

THAT the meeting so adjourn at 8:47 p.m.

CARRIED

