



The Corporation of the City of Stratford Community Services Committee MINUTES

Date: Monday, July 22, 2024
Time: 10:10 P.M.
Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

Committee Present: Councillor Beatty - Chair Presiding, Councillor Henderson - Vice Chair, Mayor Ritsma, Councillor Biehn, Councillor Briscoe, Councillor Burbach, Councillor Hunter, Councillor Sebben, Councillor McCabe, Councillor Nijjar, Councillor Wordofa

Staff Present: Joan Thomson - Chief Administrative Officer, Audrey Pascual - Deputy Clerk, Tim Wolfe - Director of Community Services, Kim McElroy - Director of Social Services, Karmen Krueger - Director of Corporate Services, Adam Betteridge - Director of Building and Planning Services, Neil Anderson - Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief, Dave Bush - Director of Human Resources, Miranda Franken - Council Clerk Secretary, Nancy Roulston – Manager of Engineering

Also Present: Members of the Public and Media

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the Meeting to Order.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence

from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the *Act*.

Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

No disclosures of pecuniary interest were made by a member at the July 22, 2024, Community Services Committee meeting.

3. Sub-committee Minutes

As quorum was not reached at the July 11, 2024, Community Services Sub-committee meeting, the meeting was adjourned.

4. Delegations

4.1 Request for Delegation by the Friends of the Shakespearean Gardens

Committee Discussion:

Motion by Mayor Ritsma

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

Committee Decision: THAT Reg White, Chair of the Friends of the Shakespearean Gardens, be heard.

Carried

Reg White, Chair of the Friends of the Shakespearean Gardens, presented to Committee about the group and their current activities. Highlights of the presentation included:

- an overview of the history of the Stratford Shakespearean Gardens being provided;
- the history of the Dufton Woollen Mill and the mill's chimney which is currently prominently featured in the garden being provided;
- an overview of the role of Mr. R.T. Orr in the inception and creation of the garden being provided;
- the garden having significant features including a bust of William Shakespeare sculpted by Canadian artist Cleeve Horne;
- the garden being expanded in 1970s with the addition of the woodland garden;

- the Friends of the Shakespearean Gardens being created in 2020 to support the work of the Board of Park Management in the maintenance and improvement of the garden and woodland;
- the association's work in developing publications about the garden including two visitors brochure being noted;
- the garden receiving significant donations including from the Canadian Peony Society;
- Canadian singer-songwriter Loreena McKennitt being a Friends of the Shakespearean Gardens patron;
- the garden being a travel destination for visitors as well as an important amenity for the Stratford community; and
- an overview being provided of the current and future projects being undertaken by the association including the environmental greening campaign for the woodland.

A member thanked Mr. White and the association for their work in the community.

5. Report of the Council Committee Coordinator

5.1 Stratford Invasive Plant Plan 2024 (COM24-006)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the Stratford Invasive Plant Plan be adopted;

AND THAT staff be directed to implement the recommendations contained in the Plan and to include sufficient resources and funding in the annual budget process for Council's consideration.

Committee Discussion:

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor McCabe

Committee Recommendation: THAT the Stratford Invasive Plant Plan be adopted;

AND THAT staff be directed to implement the recommendations contained in the Plan and to include sufficient resources and funding in the annual budget process for Council's consideration.

Members of the Committee and staff held a discussion regarding the following:

- a member commenting that the endorsement and implementation of the plan is important due to the problems with invasive plants including in the TJ Dolan area;
- with respect to an enquiry from a member regarding the budget for the item, the Director of Community Services advised that staff are looking at the financial impact of the implementation of the plan and its inclusion in the parks budget;
- a member commenting that the Energy and Environment Committee has invested in getting the work done to address invasive species;
- the work of the Committee being a successful but piece meal effort with the plan giving them a "plan of attack" to address the weeds;
- there being a suggestion for a summer student position to assist in addressing this matter and getting funding through the summer student job program for the role;
- the plan educating staff in identifying the invasive species present in the community;
- there being a close relationship between the Committee and the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority in implementing the plan; and
- a member recognizing the Energy and Environment Committee for their consistent work in managing the invasive species in the TJ Dolan Area and riverside as well as in the naturalization of the riverside.

The Chair called the question on the motion.

Carried

6. For the Information of Committee

6.1 Advisory Committee/Outside Board Minutes

The following Advisory Committee Minutes were provided for the information of Committee:

- Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee of March 7, 2024
- Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee of April 4, 2024
- Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee of May 9, 2024

7. Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Hunter

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

Committee Decision: THAT the Community Services Committee meeting adjourn.

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 10:10 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 10:27 P.M.