



City of Hamilton
GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE ADDENDUM

Meeting #: 20-001
Date: January 15, 2020
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: Council Chambers, Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West

Stephanie Paparella, Legislative Coordinator (905) 546-2424 ext. 3993

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- *5.1 Correspondence respecting Item 3 of the School Board Properties Sub-Committee Report 19-003, as it relates to Report PED19239 - Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Property at 65 Frances Avenue, Stoney Creek (Ward 10) (Item 10.9)

Recommendation: Be received and referred to consideration of Item 10.9.

- *5.1.a Lakewood Beach Community Council
- *5.1.b Sherry Hayes and Dennis Facia
- *5.1.c D. and P. Stanford
- *5.1.d Alexandra Kamphuis
- *5.1.e Debbie Martin
- *5.1.f Linda McEneny
- *5.1.g Susan Easson

- *5.2 Suzanne Mammel, CEO - Hamilton-Halton Home Builders' Association, respecting Item 11.2 - GRIDS 2 Transportation and Infrastructure Assessment

Recommendation: Be received and referred to consideration of Item 11.2.

6. DELEGATION REQUESTS

- *6.2 Dave Steeves, Stelco Fishing Club and Area Angling Clubs, respecting a Request for a Free Public Boat Launch at Fisherman's Pier

(For a future GIC)
- *6.3 Don McLean, Hamilton 350 Committee, respecting the City's Climate Emergency

(For the February 5, 2020 GIC)
- *6.4 Tom Ker, respecting Item 10.13 - Report PED20008, Feasibility of Locating a New Arena on the Hamilton Mountain
- *6.5 Greg Maychak, Cecelia Carter-Smith and Jasper Kujavsky, Hamilton100 Commonwealth Games Bid Corporation, respecting Item 10.7 - Report PED19108(c) - Commonwealth Games 2030

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

- *12.1 Protection of Solicitor-Client Privilege by Separating Legal Advice from all Confidential Staff Reports and Recommendations
- *12.2 Leaving Children Unattended in a Vehicle
- *12.3 Feasibility of Developing a Hamilton Biodiversity Action Plan

Paparella, Stephanie

From: Lakewood Beach Community Council
Sent: January 8, 2020 4:11 PM
To: DL - Council Only
Cc: Paparella, Stephanie; Kolar, Loren
Subject: GIC Meeting Agenda Item 10.9 - School Board Properties Sub-Committee Report
Attachments: Frances Ave City Presentation Slides.docx

Dear Honourable Mayor and Council,

We are attaching our slide presentation that was made during the Sub-Committee on the Turtle Pond property (aka 65 Frances Avenue). Our presentation focused on WHY since the Staff Recommendation was written prior to the approval of the City's Corporate Climate Change Goals as well as HOW to fund a potential purchase and the many options available to Council if there is the will.

During the presentation by the HWDSB a few days prior, the community was advised the FMV of this land (based on previous sale of similar land in Hamilton) is in the range of \$24,000. (\$6,000 per acre). Further research suggests @ \$50,000 might be a more reasonable purchase offer.

Ironically, the city had possession of this land in 1974. When the lands from Green to Millen were rezoned to High Density to accommodate the intended 13 apartment buildings the developer gave the Town of Stoney Creek citizens 10 acres of land as a community benefit. The Town kept 2 acres and gave the adjacent 8 acres to the public and the catholic school boards (4 acres each). The HWCD SB sold their 4 acres back in 2013 to Edgelake Woods Ltd. after that Board turned down the City's purchase offer of \$1.

The appendices to the Staff Recommendation do not have any comments from Parks & Rec Staff. Currently, the city still only has the same 2 acres which is our local neighbourhood park despite the 300% growth in population in our area. (partially projected due to 3 skyscraper rumoured to be getting approval next month). Based on our Official Plan, the area is deficient in Neighbourhood Park open space and has been for quite some time.

We'd also like to draw your attention to the comments from Natural Heritage Staff. That particular department appears to see the value in the city purchasing the land.

While we appreciate the efforts of the members of committee, we do not believe the City can arbitrarily change Zoning on lands they do not own. Nor do we have confidence another Environmental Impact Statement won't yet again overlook the vast natural attributes as was attempted in the one EIS from 2006/2007 that resulted in a Recommendation to decrease the Core Area to 50%. Salamanders aren't that easy to spot but they are still present. Also, we heard there is now a family of Deer there and due to the significant loss of Tree Canopy, our citizens need our leaders to keep that woodlot intact. This land provides significant Public Health benefits within this urban-ish area adjacent to the QEW.

Respectfully, please reconsider providing the Board with an Expression of Interest at this time and directing Staff to come back with

If you wish copies of the many articles written in The Spec and the Stoney Creek News back in 2007 or any of the historical Planning Committee minutes, please let us know. One article states that there are 158 natural species present on the land which is **extremely** rare. This land has value even though it should be left untouched.

Thank you,

Lakewood Beach Community Council

WHY

Quick Win!

Climate Change Goals:

Goal 4: Planning –

City will ensure future land use supports climate change mitigation and resiliency

Goal 6: Protect & Restore the Natural Environment

(same action as Goal 4)

Goal 7: Climate Adaptation

minimize future damages and take advantage of opportunities

Goal 8: Diversity, Health & Inclusion

enhance collaboration & consultation with groups on protecting the environment

Goal 9: Education & Awareness –

empower City Staff & Educate Public

HOW

Funding Sources:

Non-Property Tax Revenues:

- (a) Cell Tower Reserve - \$74K balance @ Dec 2018
- (b) SC Compensation Royalties (Terrapure) - \$1.2M/yr
- (c) 5% Cash in Lieu of Parkland (indirectly) - \$29M projected balance @ Dec 2019 (\$750K from skyscrapers?)
- (d) Hamilton Future Fund B - \$3M balance

Property Tax Revenues:

- (a) Ward 10 Special Capital Re-investment - \$12K per year (100%? specifically from our neighbourhood)
- (b) Parkland Acquisition Reserve - \$10M balance (\$1.5M from annual tax levies; specifically to purchase board properties?)
- (c) Area Rate - @ \$1.70 ONE TIME levy to R/C/I in SC

THE IRONY

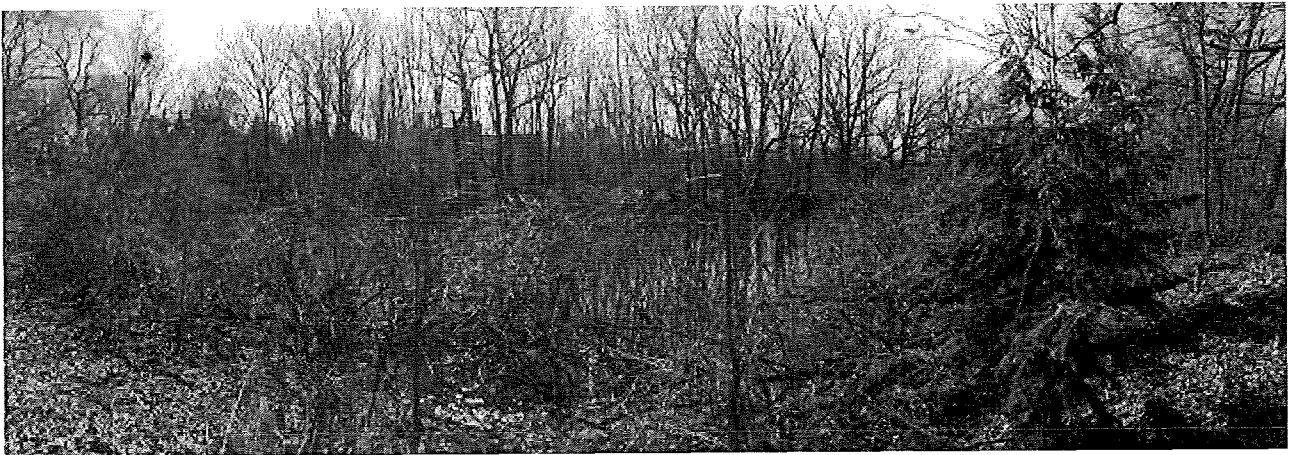
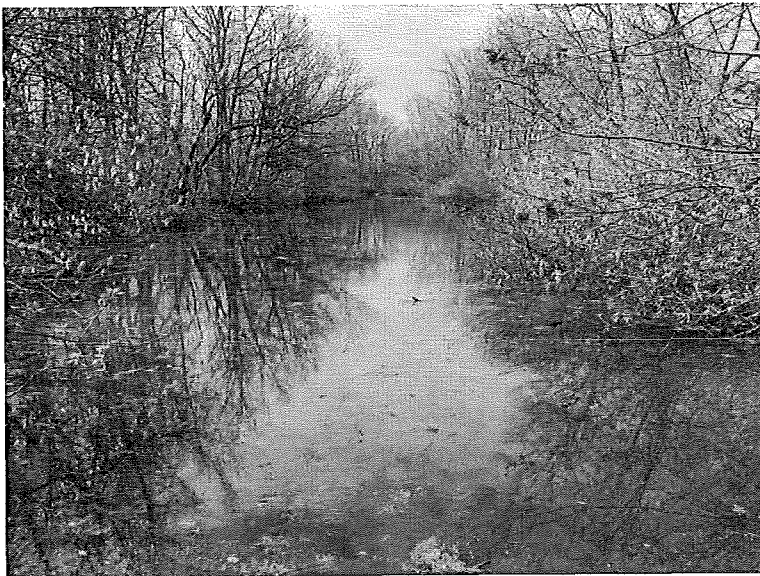
Community Skin in the Game

(a) In 2007

(b) in 1974

THE FAIR MARKET VALUE . . .

HONEST QUESTION?



Paparella, Stephanie

From: Sherry Hayes
Sent: January 9, 2020 3:27 PM
To: DL - Council Only
Cc: Paparella, Stephanie; Kolar, Loren
Subject: GIC Meeting Agenda Item 10.9 - School Board Properties Sub-Committee Report

Please include my email in the agenda of the above noted meeting

Regarding: Frances Avenue, Stoney Creek School Board Property

Dear Honourable Mayor and Council,

As a follow up to the School Board Public Meeting and the Sub-Committee Meeting of December 2019 - of which I attended both – it seemed obvious to many that the value of this land as environmentally sensitive and extremely important to the waterfront neighbourhood is not fully appreciated by school board or council.

We in the area realize the importance of this forest land and the need to preserve it fully as protected and without development in perpetuity. It is clear that the Natural Heritage Planning Department understands the importance of this parcel of land and the potential for devastation should any development take place there or on the adjacent park land.

This area is growing exponentially and with what appears to be a complete disregard to the overall health of the environment, lake, carbon footprint, wildlife and current resident population. There have been over 150 species that reside in or utilize this forest wetland. Some recorded are noted on the Endangered Species List.

Surely no environmentally-conscious citizen of this city, including our elected city officials feel that this small slice of sensitive land, that is a haven for birds, amphibians, mammals, plants and more, should be left open to any possibilities. This is a critical moment in time where everyone should consider how this exceptionally important forest and wetland area should never be developed or put into the hands of anyone that might consider such. It can also be a valuable lesson in understanding preservation to show our future generations that we care NOW.

To halt the speed of this proposed surplus land sale, could the city and council at least provide the Board with an Expression of Interest? And with the intent to maintain in perpetuity, the eco-sensitive status of this parcel of land?

Respectfully requesting consideration of the preservation of this land,
Sherry Hayes & Dennis Facia
Green Road Residents

Paparella, Stephanie

From: Pat Stanford
Sent: January 10, 2020 9:15 AM
To: Paparella, Stephanie
Subject: RE Francis Ave School Board Property

We agree this property should stay as is.
D & P Stanford

Saturday, January 11th, 2020

Subject Line: GIC Meeting Agenda Item 10.9 - School Board Properties Sub-Committee Report January 15th, 2020

Dear Sir or Madam,

Hello. My name is Alexandra Kamphuis and I'm writing this letter to you about something that is very important to me; the forest. Specifically, the one that runs between Frances Avenue and Church Street. The one you're planning to sell to a builder who you know is going to cut it down for superfluous housing.

First off, forests as a whole are important, as I'm sure you know. I find it hypocritical that you, as a school board, teach children about the endless flaws of deforestation only to sell off your forest to some guy with connections and a half-baked plan for cash. Not only do trees exchange the carbon dioxide exhaled by humans and other animals for more breathable oxygen, but they also provide a habitat and home to many forest-dwelling creatures such as birds and squirrels. If housing is built there instead, where are the animals going to go? Nowhere good, that's for sure. The forest is the only large green space in this area. It also houses foxes, which, if driven out of the woodlands, are probably going to eat people's pets. Neither of us want our cats and dogs and, I don't know, fish eaten, so what I propose to you is that you leave the forest alone. It's not that hard.

Secondly, the forest is unique in its beauty. Look it up and you'll find a thousand cheesy quotes about the serenity of walking between the trees, and for good reason. Imagine waking up every morning for 14 years and seeing the sun rise over the trees, watching the trees stretch their leafy branches towards the endless sky, all the while backlit by a pastel blend of blues, pinks and oranges as birds chirp and cats purr in the background. Now imagine instead waking up to the sound of hammering and drilling and some guy in an ugly fluorescent orange vest shouting and looking outside to brown as far as the eye can see. One of these is the superior option and we both know which one.

Finally, being a school board, it stands to reason that you would care about the future of the next generation. You're not doing this for the cash, you're doing it to get rid of the land as a quick, easy, and short-term solution. How do you think me and all the other young people living in this area will feel when we have to move away soon because the value of our house is going down? When we spend years of our lives protesting and lobbying and revolting and writing letters to the people in charge of our education in the hopes that the planet isn't on fire by the time we're 30? When we tell stories to our grandchildren (if we even get that old) about the forest that used to be behind our houses, abundant with greenery and wildlife, that was destroyed by the big bad school board? You have a chance to prove your values and teach children an exemplary lesson on how to plan for the future and think about the next generation. Take advantage of it.

If you sell this land, not only will you be helping to destroy an irreplaceable piece of nature and kill the animals and plants that live there, but you will also be proving that the pillars of value that you hold your board upon are made of nothing more than sand. Thank you for your time, and I hope you will take this letter into consideration before making your final decision on whether to sell the land.

Yours truly,



Alexandra Kamphuis

From: Deborah Martin

Sent: January 12, 2020 7:05 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>

Subject: GIC Meeting Agenda Item 10.9 - School Board Properties Sub-committee Report

Dear Mayor, City Council and Ms Paparella

I am emailing regarding the forest lands area known as 65 Frances Ave. or Turtle Ponds Property. Based on a report from the Natural Heritage Planning committee and under the Planning and Economic Development Department it is important to state that the 65 Frances property has been and is a Core Area within the Urban Hamilton Official Plan (UHOP). It is considered an important part of the Natural Heritage System which includes the property's identified biodiversity, its productivity, and its ecological and hydrological functions. The Core Area has been identified as the Community Beach Ponds ESA. Located in this forest is woodland, wildlife habitat, wetland and a watercourse. Protecting this biodiversity and keeping our tree canopy is another purpose for and reason to keep this wooded area and wetlands in their present state. It is a designated environmentally sensitive area.

Major flooding has already occurred in our area and the presence of this woodland area has provided much needed stormwater management due to a tributary and wetland. It would be hazardous to have this feature obstructed, or worse, removed.

The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board has stated that a fair market value of this land, based on previous sales of similar land in Hamilton, is in the range of \$24,000 at approximately \$6,000 per acre. With our city reserves and taxpayer funding Hamilton City council needs to vote to do the right thing. Please provide the Public School Board with an expression of intent, from the city, to purchase this land.

Thank you for your attention and concern in this very important matter.

Respectfully,
Debbie Martin

Paparella, Stephanie

Subject: FW: GIC Meeting Agenda item 10.9 - School Board Properties Sub-Committee Report

From: Linda McEneny

Sent: January 13, 2020 11:53 AM

To: DL - Council Only <dlcouncilonly@hamilton.ca>

Subject: GIC Meeting Agenda item 10.9 - School Board Properties Sub-Committee Report

Dear Honorable Mayor and Members of Council,

I would like to bring to your attention, please, my thoughts on this piece of property in question on Frances Ave. that is available for sale at fair market value. It is my understanding that the City is not interested in purchasing this tract, as it is, apparently, of no value. I would beg to differ. This land contains an ESA and provides valuable urban tree canopy in an area in where our urban forestry is shrinking. In light of the extremely high amount of development that has occurred and is continually occurring in this area, I would think preserving this, essentially, last bit of natural green space is of great importance. We have also lost many mature trees in this area due to the ash borer. With the addition of the 54 story triple tower project looming just around the corner from this area, the concrete jungle threat is even more palpable!

According to a Hamilton Spectator article from September 2018 (see link below), the City of Hamilton is aiming for 35% urban forest coverage up from the current 18% (part of which is contributed by a strip of forested land of the Niagara Escarpment). I hope that you take the time to read this article as it highlights many interesting and important facts surrounding our urban tree canopy.

If Hamilton is committed to increasing our green space overall, wouldn't it make good sense to keep this natural green space, with all its wildlife (that already has had its habitat compromised), rather than having to fund new growth? It is a real risk, that if the City does not buy this land and retain it as natural space, it will then end up in the hands of developers. Regardless of the here say that developers would walk away from this, I don't believe this for a minute, considering the sale of the opposite tract off of Church Ave. An ESA is not a deal breaker. And it seems that development is occurring on every last little bit of bare land in our neighborhood.

I'm not going to reiterate all the meaningful facts, financial or otherwise, provided by the Lakewood Beach Community in an earlier communication. They already did a great presentation of all the reasons why this proposal to purchase this land is an obvious choice to make. I do wish to stress that land value must not be coveted just for its developer-generated dollars. What a wonderful opportunity for the City, with just this one-time purchase (and a commitment to keep as natural green space) to preserve this special place. What a gift for not just our neighborhood but for Hamilton as a whole in keeping with the commitment to increase urban forestry. Please be the instrument of this preservation and consider mindfully to purchase this land.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Linda McEneny

<https://www.thespec.com/opinion-story/8922339-why-urban-trees-matter-to-hamilton/>

Paparella, Stephanie

From: Susann
Sent: January 13, 2020 4:48 PM
To: DL - Council Only; Paparella, Stephanie; loren.kolare@hamilton
Subject: GIC Meeting Agenda Item 10.9 - School Board Properties Sub-Committee Report - Frances Ave.

Dear Honourable Mayor & Council,

I want to reiterate and support the protection of this natural property. This green space supports habitat for the wildlife living here and better quality of life for the residents living in this area.

I have lived here for 30 years and this property has extreme value in being left in its natural state.

Please consider the value of preservation for all concerned here, wildlife and residents, when you vote.

Thank you,
Susan Easson
Teal Ave.

Paparella, Stephanie

From: Suzanne Mammel <smammel@hhhba.ca>
Sent: January 13, 2020 5:41 PM
To: Paparella, Stephanie; Clark, Brad
Cc: Wilson, Maureen; Farr, Jason; Nann, Nrinder; Merulla, Sam; Collins, Chad; Jackson, Tom; Pauls, Esther; Ward 8 Office; Pearson, Maria; Johnson, Brenda; Ferguson, Lloyd; VanderBeek, Arlene; Whitehead, Terry; Partridge, Judi
Subject: GIC tomorrow - proposed motion Item 11.2

Good evening,

It has been brought to my attention this afternoon that motion 11.2 is being put forward regarding funding mechanisms for infrastructure through the GRIDS 2 process.

Our members have several questions regarding the proposed motion, and would like an opportunity to understand what is being proposed.

Specifically at this time: the amounts being proposed to be taken from DC reserves to cover this study – was it proposed and included as part of the DC background studies and thus included in the quantum of the Development Charge or are these “extras”?

Also: front ending has a number of pros and cons. However, it is not clear “who” will be front ending these works, nor how this will be determined?

We would appreciate having dialogue with staff tasked to carry this out, as we believe it would be beneficial to hear about the experiences that some of our members, myself included, have had, actually carrying such activities out. Lastly, given the potential to change private industry’s financing models, the timing with which projects would have to be brought forward, construction issues, mechanisms for reimbursing front enders, etc., we urge that the terms of reference for studying this be clearly laid out and reviewed with the industry before proceeding.

Thank you for your consideration.

Suzanne Mammel, MBA
CEO, Hamilton-Halton Home Builders’ Association

Form: Request to Speak to Committee of Council
Submitted on Friday, December 13, 2019 - 9:23 am

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Dave Steeves

Name of Organization: Stelco Fishing Club and area Angling clubs

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: I talked to Werner Plessl last night at the RAP meeting, told me to get in touch with Jim Hewett. Wishing to have a free public boat launch at Fishermans pier. Toronto area has a few, why can't Hamilton. We realize there is free beautiful launch at pier 4 but it's a long drive to access L. Ont. The closest launch is 50 Point and the price is out of this world for anyone to take their family out for a hour or so. Our fishing club is 252 members strong plus other area angling clubs I belong to.

Thank You

Dave Steeves

Stelco and Dofasco angling club member.

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Form: Request to Speak to Committee of Council

Submitted on Thursday, January 9, 2020 - 7:09 pm

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Don McLean

Name of Organization: Hamilton 350 Committee

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Reason(s) for delegation request: City climate emergency – for February 5 meeting.

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Committee Requested

- Audit, Finance and Administration
- Board of Health
- Emergency & Community Services
- Advisory/Sub-Committee (enter name) _____
- General Issues **GIC**
- Planning
- Public Works

Requestor Information

Name: TOM KER

Name of Organization: Citizen Hamilton

Contact Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Reason(s) for delegation request: Report PED 2008

Speak to the for a mention Report

Will you be requesting funding from the City? Yes No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? Yes No

Do you or your organization represent a lobbyist Yes No

If yes, to the lobbyist question, who are you representing? _____

(The information collected for the Lobbyist registry system was implemented by City Council in 2004 and information provided is on a voluntary basis. The Voluntary Lobbyist Registry is a public document and is available for viewing in the City Clerk's office.)

Requests to speak to Council are forwarded to the Committee and will be placed on a Committee agenda for consideration. Once considered by Committee, and approved, you will be notified of the date for your presentation.

This form is not for the purpose of presenting unsolicited proposals by Vendors to Committee. Such proposals are subject to a competitive process as required by the City's Purchasing Policy.

The City makes a video record of Committee and Council meetings. If you make a presentation to a Committee, the City will be video recording you and will be make the recording public by publishing the recording on the City's website.

Personal information collected on this form is authorized under Section 5.11 of the City's Procedural By-law No. 10-053 for the purpose of contacting individuals and/or organizations requesting an opportunity to appear as a delegation before a Committee and will be published with the Committee Agenda. The Voluntary Lobbyist Registry is a public document and will be available for viewing in the City Clerk's office. The Procedural By-law is a requirement of Section 238(2) of the Municipal Act. Questions about its collection can be directed to the Manager, Legislative Services / Deputy Clerk, 71 Main St. W., Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5, 905 546-2424 ext. 4304.

EDRMS_n384473_v1_Delegation_Request_form_revised_on_November_25_2013.doc.

Form: Request to Speak to Committee of Council

Submitted on Monday, January 13, 2020 - 9:28 pm

==Committee Requested==

Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Greg Maychak, Cecelia Carter-Smith,
Jasper Kujavsky

Name of Organization: Hamilton100 Commonwealth Games
Bid Corporation

Contact Number: (905) 536-1100

Email Address: greg@hamilton100.ca

Mailing Address:

c/o 77 James Street North
Suite 300
Hamilton, Ontario
L8K 2K3

Reason(s) for delegation request: To thank Council and Staff for the 2030 Commonwealth Games update report, and express our appreciation for their cooperation and collaboration as work continues on preparation of the Part 2 Hosting Proposal.

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

CITY OF HAMILTON NOTICE OF MOTION

General Issues Committee: January 15, 2020

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR B. CLARK.....

Protection of Solicitor-Client Privilege by Separating Legal Advice from all Confidential Staff Reports and Recommendations

WHEREAS, the Solicitor-Client privilege is a legal concept that enables the client to entrust with their lawyers confidential and private information and enables their lawyer to provide unfettered and confidential advice to their client;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Canada has called Solicitor-Client Privilege, “a principal of fundamental justice and civil right of supreme importance in Canadian law.” (Lavallee, Rackel & Heintz v. Canada (Attorney General); White, Ottenheimer & Baker v. Canada (Attorney General); R. v. Fink, [2002] 3 S.C.R. 209, 2002 SCC 61);

WHEREAS, the Solicitor-client privilege is solely the clients’ and as such only the client can voluntarily waive the privilege;

WHEREAS, it has been past practice of Hamilton’s Senior Leadership Team to provide confidential staff reports that are a hybrid of staff information, recommendations and legal advice;

WHEREAS, concerns have been expressed that any public release of such reports could mean a waiver of Solicitor-Client privilege;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the City Manager and City Solicitor be directed to implement a policy, by March 31, 2020, requiring the separation of any legal advice from all confidential staff reports, with any such legal advice to be provided as an appendix to be attached to the corresponding confidential staff report.

CITY OF HAMILTON NOTICE OF MOTION

General Issues Committee Date: January 15, 2020

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR S. MERULLA.....

Leaving Children Unattended in a Vehicle

WHEREAS, the Province of Quebec, under section 380 of the *Highway Safety Code* Chapter C-24. 2, prohibits a person from leaving a child under the age of 7 unattended in a vehicle;

WHEREAS, section 218 of the *Criminal Code* and Section 136 of the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act*, S.O. 2017, c. 14. Sched.1 prohibits abandoning a child, there is no explicit provision in Ontario to prohibit a person from leaving a child unattended in a vehicle;

WHEREAS, the Province of Ontario under the *Highway Traffic Act*, RSO 1990, c. H. 8, does not have adequate language that prohibits a person from leaving a child unattended in a vehicle;

WHEREAS, the Province of Quebec is the only province with an age limit for leaving children unattended in a vehicle; and,

WHEREAS, there have been concerns of the health and safety of children being left unattended in vehicles in the City of Hamilton.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Mayor correspond with the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Transportation and local Members of Provincial Parliament to request that the Province consider adopting similar provisions to Quebec, specially that a person is prohibited from leaving a child under the age of 7 unattended in a vehicle; and,
- (b) That a copy of the correspondence be forwarded to other Ontario municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario requesting their endorsement.

CITY OF HAMILTON NOTICE OF MOTION

General Issues Committee Date: January 15, 2020

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR B. CLARK.....

Feasibility of Developing a Hamilton Biodiversity Action Plan

WHEREAS, the scientific consensus is that habitat loss and climate change together have triggered mass extinction of life on earth and that 60% of all wildlife worldwide has been lost since 1970;

WHEREAS, increasing and/or enhancing biodiversity within ecosystems benefits all species, including humans, and provides ecological services such as pollination services, climate resiliency and stability, as well as providing beautiful green spaces that support the wellbeing and mental health of individuals and communities;

WHEREAS, enhancing biodiversity is a “nature-based solution” to climate impacts, such as managing flooding by storing water, significantly reducing air pollution by sequestering carbon, filtering out harmful particulates, and cooling, thereby reducing the harmful effects of heatwaves and increasing the quality and resilience of infrastructure at lower costs and reduced risk;

WHEREAS, cities have a critical role to play in the biodiversity crisis and the climate change crisis and a Biodiversity Action Plan for Hamilton will help the City of Hamilton and conservation partners to protect and restore Hamilton’s biodiversity;

WHEREAS, Hamilton is addressing the climate crisis with the Climate Change Task Force and a Biodiversity Action Plan can help to mitigate the climate crisis with nature-based solutions to help address serious issues like storm water management and temperature amelioration and reduction of urban heat island. The Biodiversity Action Plan will complement the Climate Change Task Force workplan;

WHEREAS, the development of the Biodiversity Action Plan will foster environmental awareness and sustainability and increase interactions and engagement among community stewards;

WHEREAS, the Biodiversity Action Plan allows the City of Hamilton to highlight and align initiatives already in place and further engage local communities in an environment of creativity and innovation which will promote a healthier life for our community; and,

WHEREAS, many other municipalities have developed Biodiversity Strategies that can be used as resources for Hamilton (ex. Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the appropriate staff be directed to investigate the feasibility and resources required to develop a Biodiversity Action Plan for Hamilton in collaboration with the conservation and report back to the General Issues Committee.