



City of Hamilton PLANNING COMMITTEE ADDENDUM

Meeting #: 23-007
Date: May 2, 2023
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: Council Chambers (Planning)
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West

Lisa Kelsey, Legislative Coordinator (905) 546-2424 ext. 4605

Pages

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- *5.1 Tys Theijsmeyer, Royal Botanical Gardens, respecting Draft Biodiversity Action Plan Support (Item 8.1) 2
Recommendation: Be received and referred to the consideration of Item 8.1.



April 28, 2023

RE: Draft Biodiversity Action Plan Support

The federal government is taking a leadership role through ongoing agreements tied to the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity (1993). This includes targets and themes, with these recently updated at COP 15 in Montreal. Implementing local actions in support of these targets is the next step for communities such as Hamilton.

We look for three categories of actions to be captured in the action plan to engage the community:

- Encouragement and guidance for residents
- Encouragement and guidance for business and organizations
- Systems for municipal programs and operations

We would highlight areas where focus must be prioritized for near term action:

- **Water Quality Restoration:** The primary core biodiversity areas in Hamilton as outlined in the City of Hamilton's Natural Heritage System are almost entirely wetlands or stream valley corridors (i.e. hazard lands under the Conservation Authorities Act). Equally significant is that a subset of the water based areas are remediation sites of under the Great Lakes Water Quality agreement (ie Hamilton Harbour, Cootes Paradise, and Grindstone Marsh rivermouth marshes).
- **Roads and Wildlife Crossing:** No system for wildlife crossings of roads within the core areas and linkages exists for municipal road projects. We suggest priority **focus** on locations where roads bisect "core area" habitats. This approach also captures the Niagara Escarpment a globally significant biodiversity feature that runs perpendicular to the stream corridors crossing it. This landform feature currently has no system imbedded within the Niagara Escarpment Plan to facilitate wildlife crossing. Practical guidance for wildlife crossing systems already exists as the Province of Ontario has developed best Management Practices (Published 2016) implemented with Provincial Highway projects. In the shorter term RBG has activity established an interim roadside barrier at Cootes Drive to stem the loss of endangered species, however the set up is small scale and not sustainable and requires a significant investment to withstand the rigours of a busy road.

As a steward of lands that are core areas of Hamilton's Natural Heritage System, we appreciate the work to date to bring forward a draft city wide "Action Plan" in support of the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity that has the potential to engage all levels of our region including residents, businesses, organizations, and City processes. We look forward to collaborating with partners as this project progresses and will assist in facilitating public engagement in reviews of the draft Biodiversity Action Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tys Theijsmeijer".

Tys Theijsmeijer
Head of Natural Areas, Royal Botanical Gardens

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