



# Hamilton

## **MINUTES**

### **Aboriginal Advisory Committee Thursday, June 7, 2018 – 5:30 P.M. City Hall, 71 Main St. W., Room 264**

- Present:** Marilyn Wright, Allan Loft, Deborah Elmes, Patty Lawlor, Scott Cruickshank, Khitanya Petgrave
- Regrets:** Connie Bellamy
- Absent:** Sheryl Green
- Also Present:** Betsy Pocop – Human Rights, Diversity & Inclusion (staff)  
Nicole Jones – Urban Indigenous Strategy; Healthy & Safe Communities  
Nicole Smith – community member, Ward 2 candidate  
Kris Jacobson – Acting Director, LRT Project Coordination  
Catherine Plosz – Natural Heritage Planner, Urban Forest Strategy

**Chairperson:** Marilyn Wright

#### **Opening**

- A. Loft did an opening

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

- All were welcomed and introduced

#### **1. Changes to the Agenda**

- Addition of Item 5.5 - Cabinet Display Follow up
- Addition of Item 6.4 - Committee Membership Status

#### **A. Loft / D. Elmes**

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee accepts the June 2018 agenda, as amended.

**CARRIED**

#### **2. Declaration of Interest**

- There were no declarations of interest

#### **3. Presentations**

##### **4.1 LRT Project – K. Jacobson/C. Plosz**

- The Committee wished to discuss the LRT project and in particular, concerns for the number of trees that are expected to be cut down as a result of the project
- K. Jacobson: Metrolinx has the project; expressed that the LRT project is sensitive to the topic of trees being cut down; the LRT corridor is 14 kilometres in length from Eastgate Square to McMaster University; there are 1300-1400 trees along the corridor on the street, it is considered that maximum 600 trees will be impacted by the construction;
- Are there records for the trees that will be cut down?
- There is a misconception that the project will not be putting anything back in to replace the trees, however, there is a provision within the contract to preserve as many trees as possible; where width permits, trees will potentially be planted; contractors are not allowed to remove a tree without permission otherwise they can face a hefty fine; there are other consequences if contractor does not abide by the laws, such as fines and termination of contract; there are protections in place;
- All trees have been coded for inventory; the tree type, species and its health have been recorded; they will know based on the type of tree what type is to be planted
- All tree removals will have tree permits
- Where are trees that are cut down go? Is it possible the tree go to a carver to memorialize the tree?
- There is a Community Connectors program; the Connectors canvass and connect with the community, this allows for community members to ask questions they may have about the project; it is not about sustainable living at this time, however there will be more community engagement in the fall
- K. Jacobson offered to take the Committee on a tour of the proposed corridor
- C. Polsz: happy to attend future meetings to provide periodic updates
- Where a tree cannot be saved, they need to find a replacement based on massing of tree and diameter of the trunk; there is a replacement strategy
- The City will be responsible for replacing trees not Metrolinx
- C. Polsz: the City is doing an Urban Forestry Strategy, it is at the beginning stages, feedback is welcomed in terms of what the community would like to see; there is a webpage available with information
- K. Jacobson: Have gone through exercise of plotting every single tree
- Has there been a study on the effect of removing the trees on the health of residents in the area?
- There was a previous promise of trees to be replaced that were cut down for the Red Hill Valley
- B. Pocop to follow up on promises from RHV project about trees

- The LRT will run on its own guideway, traffic is not allowed to run on the same lane, it won't affect vehicle traffic

#### **4. Approval of Previous Minutes**

##### **S. Cruickshank/ D. Elmes**

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee accepts the minutes of May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, as presented.

**CARRIED**

#### **5. Discussion Items**

##### **5.1 Business Arising From Previous Meeting**

- B. Pocop to send P. Lawlor letter for reference
- Program from previous presentation (Hamilton's Indigenous Mothers Gateway Program) was in the Hamilton Spectator

##### **5.2 Information Fair**

- N. Jones provided debrief
- Any feedback for the event is welcomed
- There were 42 registered attendees, however more people attended that were not registered
- Activities were interspersed which was good
- Helpful to have draws or bingo to draw people in
- The City services represented were well received and it was good to have them there
- Helpful to have bus tickets available

##### **5.3 Urban Indigenous Strategy Update**

- Posters have been distributed for the survey
- Upcoming event: June 22 from 1-3pm "Stories from the Land"
- June 21 – there will be a small gathering inside City Hall in recognition of National Indigenous Peoples Day
- The Health Centre will donate the cake for the event
- FYI – Aboriginal service centres will be closed June 21st

##### **5.4 Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action**

- Deferred to September meeting

##### **5.5 Cabinet Display**

- P. Lawlor to meet with N. Jones to discuss possible displays
- Consideration to be made for the Committee's cabinet to display books

**6. Other Business**

**6.1 Pow Wow**

- M. Wright asked if there was any interest from the Committee to have the Committee's feather taken in for Grand Entry at the Pow Wow at Pier 4 Park

**D. Elmes/M. Wright**

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee have their feather taken into grand entry into the Pow Wow at 12pm

**CARRIED**

**6.2 September Meeting**

- Committee will meet next on September 6, 2018
- P. Lawlor and N. Jones to work on display cabinet over the summer months

**6.3 Banner Display**

- B. Pocop confirmed Committee's banner will be hung on balcony of Council Chambers

**6.4 Membership Status**

- Members sought clarification about upcoming term and application process

**Closing**

D. Elmes did a closing.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm