



Hamilton

MINUTES

**Aboriginal Advisory Committee
Thursday, January 6, 2022 – 5:30 P.M.**

Due to COVID-19 and the Closure of City Hall,
all electronic meetings can be viewed at:

City's YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/InsideCityofHamilton>

Present: Marilyn Wright, Chair
Connie Bellamy, Vice-chair
Patty Lawlor, Secretary (Ally/non-voting)
Allan Loft, Member
Scott Cruickshank, Member

Also Present: Shelly Hill, Manager, Indigenous Relations Team, Healthy and Safe Communities (staff)
Beth Dockstator, Project Manager, Indigenous Initiatives, Healthy and Safe Communities, Children's Services and Neighbourhood Development Division, (staff)
Sonya Baldwin, Program Secretary, Healthy and Safe Communities, Children's Services and Neighbourhood Development Division (staff)

1. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES (Item 1)

(i) Land Acknowledgment (Item 1.1)

M. Wright began with the City of Hamilton Land Acknowledgment.

(ii) Call to Order (Item 1.2)

M. Wright called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

(iii) Opening Address (Item 1.3)

A. Loft spoke briefly about the four medicines (tobacco, cedar, sweetgrass, and sage) before saying a prayer of Thanksgiving to the Creator in Mohawk and English.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)

(C. Bellamy/S. Cruickshank)

That the agenda for the January 6, 2022 meeting of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (item 4)

(i) Minutes of December 2, 2021 (Item 4.1)

(C. Bellamy/A. Loft)

That the minutes of the December 2, 2021 meeting of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

CARRIED

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 10)

(i) Update on Tasks Arising from the November 4 and December 2, 2021 Meetings of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee (Item 10.1)

Committee and staff members reported on the status of tasks assigned to them at the November 4 and December 2, 2021 meetings.

The list resulting from this meeting will include any tasks not yet completed as well as new tasks assigned at this meeting.

(ii) Renaming of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee (Item 10.2)

Discussion about contemporizing the Committee's name included consideration of the following replacements for "Aboriginal:"

- Indigenous
- First Peoples
- First Nations, Métis, and Inuit.

(P. Lawlor/A. Loft)

That the members of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee recommend changing the Committee's name to "Indigenous Advisory Committee" for the purposes of keeping up with the times and having consistency with the City of Hamilton's Urban Indigenous Strategy and Indigenous Relations program.

CARRIED

Next step: submit a Citizen Committee Report recommending the name change to the Audit, Finance, and Administration Standing Committee.

(iii) Replacement Banner/s and Collaboration with Indigenous Relations (Item 10.3)

Discussion resulted in the following agreements:

- the Aboriginal Advisory Committee will collaborate with Indigenous Relations team to promote awareness of significant Indigenous days and events
- the Aboriginal Advisory Committee will replace its outdated banner with a single banner designed to be suitable for all significant Indigenous days and events
- the banner will feature logos representing both the Aboriginal Advisory Committee and Indigenous Relations
- both the Aboriginal Advisory Committee and Indigenous Relations will collaborate on banner design and development, and contribute funds for banner production.

Next steps: investigate booking options for banner display, initiate logo and banner design and development, and obtain estimates for logo and banner production costs.

(iv) Hamilton Water Issues (Item 10.4)

(a) Review Questions for Guests (Item 10.4.a)

Committee discussion identified key areas of concern for the questions it will provide to guests prior to the Aboriginal Advisory Committee's February 2022 meeting.

Next steps: review, refine, and submit questions to Indigenous Relations team.

(b) Guests Invitation: Next Steps (Item 10.4.b)

Discussion resulted in agreement that staff:

- will be better able to determine appropriate guests once it has received the Aboriginal Advisory Committee's questions
- will inform the Aboriginal Advisory Committee who the guests will be prior to the Committee's February meeting.

(c) Community Forum/Meeting in Spring 2022 (Item 10.4.c)

Deferred due to time constraints.

(v) Budget Submission Update (Item 10.5)

S. Hill reported that Council approved the 2022 Aboriginal Advisory Committee budget, as submitted.

(vi) Presentation of Committee Communications (Item 10.6)

Discussion, based on the presentation of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee's Residential School Findings letter in September 2021, resulted in:

- agreement that the Aboriginal Advisory Committee requires letterhead to reinforce the credibility of such communications
- confirmation that other Advisory Committees have and use committee-specific letterhead to good effect
- noting that the logo to be developed for banner use may also work for letterhead.

Next steps: obtain and review the other Advisory Committees' letterheads for discussion at the Committee's March meeting

(vii) Access to Aboriginal Advisory Committee's Approved Minutes (Item 10.7)

Information provided by staff for accessing the Committee's approved minutes did not lead to the minutes.

Next steps: follow up with staff and report back to the full Committee.

(viii) Recruitment Clarification (Item 10.8)

Time constraints allowed only for providing notice that there are recruitment-related matters to consider.

Next step: draft and circulate a briefing note to Committee members to expedite discussion of this matter at the Aboriginal Advisory Committee's April 2022 meeting.

(ix) Private and Confidential Agenda Items and In Camera Meetings (Item 10.9)

Time constraints allowed only for providing notice of communications progress with the Clerk's office on this matter.

Next step: draft and circulate a briefing note to Committee members to expedite discussion of this matter at the Aboriginal Advisory Committee's April 2022 meeting.

(x) City Website (Item 10.10)

a) Officer Listings on Advisory Committee Pages (Item 10.10.a)

Time constraints allowed only for tabling the question: is there a reason Advisory Committee website pages don't identify the committee chairs, vice-chairs, and secretaries?

Next step: investigate and report back at the Aboriginal Advisory Committee's April 2022 meeting.

b) Aboriginal Advisory Committee Page

Discussion resulted in agreement that the Aboriginal Advisory Committee would appreciate a proactive, rather than reactive, consultation when the City begins its process of updating Advisory Committee webpages this year.

Next step: Inform appropriate staff, report back on the project timeline, and schedule a visit for an upcoming Aboriginal Advisory Committee meeting.

(xi) Visioning for Final Year of Aboriginal Advisory Committee Term (Item 10.11)

a) Increase Indigenous Awareness Via City Hall "HAMILTON" Sign

Discussion resulted in agreement to revisit the possibility of permanently modifying the HAMILTON sign located on City Hall plaza to incorporate an Indigenous element. Brainstorming resulted in the following ideas:

- dotting the "i" with a medicine wheel
- incorporating a medicine wheel into the "o"
- possibly using lens technology to achieve the effects.

Next step: resume research and report back to the full Committee for further consideration.

6. GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS (Item 13)

(i) Planning for February 2022 Meeting

Discussion resulted in agreement that:

- the Aboriginal Advisory Committee meeting will focus almost entirely on the Hamilton water issues discussion with guest staff

- the Committee may invite an Indigenous Elder or water advocate to provide Indigenous context for water care and concerns.

Next steps: work with staff to adapt the agenda, and identify and invite an Elder or water advocate

7. ADJOURNMENT (Item 15)

(i) Closing Address (Item 15.1)

A. Loft said a prayer in Mohawk and English.

(ii) Adjournment (Item 15.2)

(M. Wright/C. Bellamy)

That the meeting of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee be adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

CARRIED

Marilyn Wright, Chair
Aboriginal Advisory Committee

Patty Lawlor, Secretary
Aboriginal Advisory Committee

Next Meeting: February 3, 2022