



Hamilton

**MINUTES**

**Aboriginal Advisory Committee  
Thursday, February 3, 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:**

Jennifer DiDomenico, Senior Project Manager, Indigenous Relations,  
Healthy and Safe Communities (staff)  
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)

**Guests:**

Laurie Minor, Administrative Assistant, Faculty of Education, Wilfrid Laurier  
University, Métis Sharing Circle Facilitator, and Water Advocate  
Cari Vanderperk, Director of Watershed Management, Public Works  
Nick Winters, Director (Acting), Hamilton Water, Public Works

**1. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES (Item 1)**

**(i) Land Acknowledgment (Item 1.1)**

C. Bellamy began with the City of Hamilton Land Acknowledgment.

**(ii) Call to Order (Item 1.2)**

M. Wright called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**(iii) Opening Address/Prayer (Item 1.3)**

A. Loft said a prayer of thanksgiving to the Creator in Mohawk and English.

**(iv) Welcome Guests and Introductory Remarks**

M. Wright welcomed everyone and asked them to introduce themselves.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)**

**(C. Bellamy/S. Cruickshank)**

That the agenda for the February 3, 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 January 6, 2022 (Item 4.1)**

Deferred to the Aboriginal Advisory Committee's meeting on March 3, 2022 to accommodate the meeting's guest presentations.

**5. STAFF PRESENTATIONS (Item 9)**

**(i) Indigenous Presentation (Item 9.1)**

L. Minor, Faculty of Education, Wilfrid Laurier, spoke about the Indigenous relationship with water and her personal experience of and involvement with the Water Walkers movement. She emphasized the role of water in Indigenous creation stories, the Indigenous acknowledgment that water has a spirit, and the Indigenous commitment to responsibility for future generations. She expressed concern about water issues in Hamilton observing that where there is "sick" water, there are sick people.

**(C. Bellamy/S. Cruickshank)**

That the presentation respecting Indigenous relationship with water be received.

**CARRIED**

**(ii) Public Works Presentation on Hamilton Water Management and Water Issues (Item 9.2)**

N. Winters and C. Vanderperk attended the meeting to respond to a list of 10 water-related questions and concerns the Aboriginal Advisory Committee had pre-submitted to Public Works. Due to the nature of the subject, the discussion it prompted, and time constraints, it was possible to address only five of the Committee's 10 questions.

M. Wright thanked L. Minor, N. Winters, and C. Vanderperk for sharing their time and knowledge.

**(A. Loft/C. Bellamy)**

That the evening's presentation respecting Hamilton's water management and water issues be received, and that the Public Works staff return to a future Aboriginal Advisory Committee to address the remaining questions.

**CARRIED**

**Next Steps:**

- Arrange for completion of dialogue with N. Winters and C. Vanderperk
- Consider planning a water walk instead of a water symposium
- Identify City Department better suited to respond to #3 questions about the process involved in consulting with/seeking input from Aboriginal/Indigenous communities
- Provide committee members with examples, including dates, of Indigenous consultations
- Ensure committee members receive slides or links to slides used to respond to Question #4
- Refer Question Q5c to Planning and Economic Development.

**6. NOTICES OF MOTION (Item 12)**

**(i) Aboriginal Advisory Committee Honorarium/Gift for Guest Speaker (Item 12.1)**

M. Wright advised that she will bring a motion forward at the Aboriginal Advisory Committee's meeting on March 3, 2022 respecting approval for an honorarium/gift for L. Minor.

**7. ADJOURNMENT (Item 15)**

**(i) Closing Address (Item 15.1)**

A. Loft acknowledged the work done during the meeting and said a prayer of thanksgiving in Mohawk and English.

**(ii) Adjournment (Item 15.2)**

**(C. Bellamy)/A. Loft**

That the meeting of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee be adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

**CARRIED**

Marilyn Wright, Chair  
Aboriginal Advisory Committee

Patty Lawlor, Secretary  
Aboriginal Advisory Committee

Next Meeting: March 3, 2022