



## Hamilton

### **MINUTES 22-006**

#### **Indigenous Advisory Committee**

Thursday June 2, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Due to COVID-19 and the closure of City Hall

All electronic meetings can be viewed at the

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:** Beth Dockstator, Project Manager Indigenous Initiatives, Healthy & Safe Communities (staff)  
Jennifer DiDomenico, Senior Project Manager Indigenous Relations, Healthy & Safe Communities (staff)
- Guest:** Andrea Smith, Senior Development Consultant West Harbour Redevelopment, Planning and Economic Development (staff)

## **1. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES**

### (i) Land Acknowledgment

P. Lawlor began with the land acknowledgement

### (ii) Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

### (iii) Opening Address/Prayer

A. Loft opened the meeting with a prayer of Thanksgiving in Mohawk and English

## **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Chair requested the following item be moved up the agenda to item:

### **9. Staff Presentations**

9.1 Discovery Centre (Planning and Economic Development, West Harbour  
Redevelopment)

**(A. Loft/S. Cruikshank)**

That the agenda for the June 2, 2022 meeting of the Indigenous Advisory Committee be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**(i) Minutes of April 7, 2022**

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

That the minutes of the April 7, 2022 meeting of the Indigenous Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

**5. Staff Presentations (Item 9)**

**(i) Discovery Centre, West Harbour Redevelopment (Item 9.1)**

A. Smith attended the meeting and reviewed the presentation materials (sent to committee in advance). The information for committee included study area, goals, strategy framework and draft strategic principles. Her objective in attending was to explore the Indigenous Advisory Committee's thoughts on the initiative and get advice on how to further engage with the Indigenous community about it.

Discussion was framed by the following questions posed:

- What opportunities and issues do you see for the Site?
- Which strategic themes and actions of the 2019 Urban Indigenous Strategy align to the Discovery Centre Study?
- What might the recommendation be to connect with the Urban Indigenous Communities to invite input to the Study?
- What interest does the Committee have in this Study?

Committee provided feedback and responses to the presenter. Some of the opportunities suggested include installing a ferry service to/from Toronto, exploring a partnership with the Hamilton Public Library to do something like the Indigenous Market they are now hosting downtown, an education centre for nature (continuing with the type of function when Parks Canada operated there), and/or developing a multicultural centre (a gathering place to share, learn and enjoy international cultures). Another opportunity that would really align with the UIS is for the City to gift the Indigenous community with the facility and adjacent property. With the location on the water (culturally significant), it would enable the Indigenous community to

explore uses for culture purposes, dance performances, teaching, arts and craft talent, and even cuisine. Perhaps adding a sizable/noticeable feature in the landscape such as a drum arbour/dome and stands for seating would add some distinction to the site.

In terms of connecting with the Indigenous community, committee suggested sending information out through Indigenous agencies or networks such as CHIL (Coalition of Hamilton Indigenous Leadership) with an offer to discuss through a meeting if they are interested. In addition, getting out to attend Indigenous community events such as the upcoming Soaring Spirits powwow at Battlefield through setting up a booth/table with information and to invite comment, maybe even survey of attendees.

Regarding future interest in this study, the committee requested to be kept informed especially where the City will consider this centre for the Indigenous community. Members requested that any updates be shared through the staff liaisons by email and noted that their term is coming to a close with the Municipal Election.

**(P. Lawlor/AI Loft)**

That the presentation respecting the Discovery Centre Study be received.

**CARRIED**

**6. COMMUNICATIONS**

**(P. Lawlor/AI Loft)**

That the following items be deferred to the June 23, 2022 meeting:

- 6.1. Virtual Meetings for Advisories, forwarded by B. Dockstator, Urban Indigenous Strategy/Healthy & Safe Communities Department from L. Kolar, Legislative Coordinator, Office of the City Clerk (April 20, 2022)
- 6.2. Statement for City's Vaccine Policy for Employees, forwarded by B. Dockstator, Urban Indigenous Strategy/Healthy & Safe Communities Department, from L. Kolar, Legislative Coordinator, Office of the City Clerks (April 27, 2022)
- 6.3. Complimentary Tickets, from B. Dockstator Urban Indigenous Strategy/Healthy & Safe Communities Department (April 20, 2022)
- 6.4. Code of Conduct Training for Local Boards and Committees (Slide Deck), forwarded by B. Dockstator, from L. Kolar, Legislative Coordinator, Office of the City Clerk (April 27, 2022)

**CARRIED**

**7. CONSENT ITEMS**

- (i) **Report: Meeting re Indigenous Advisory Committee Minutes Archives, Webpage, and Secretary and Staff Liaison Roles**

**(P. Lawlor/AI Loft)**

That the item be deferred to the June 23, 2022 meeting

**CARRIED**

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

**(i) Urban Indigenous Unit Update (Item 9.2)**

B. Dockstator provided committee with an overview of the initiatives associated with National Indigenous History Month that the Indigenous Relations Team (IRT) will be hosting or partnering on. There will be virtual events hosted with the Hamilton Public Library through the Woodland Cultural Centre and participation in the opening of the children's garden at Gage Park. The IRT is also supporting the Branches of Native Development (BOND) conference on June 24 at Battlefield Park. For National Indigenous Peoples Day (NIPD), a celebration event will be hosted at City Hall on June 21<sup>st</sup> which will be co-hosted with the IAC.

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

That the Indigenous Advisory Committee contribute funding to an upset limit of \$300 towards the purchase of cake and supplies for the National Indigenous Peoples Day event at City Hall.

**CARRIED**

One final item that staff are working on is an art exhibit created by children at Niwasa to be showcased at City Hall. B. Dockstator inquired about the contents of the glass cabinet on the second floor where the IAC displayed some items such as the medicine box, etc. The committee supports offering that space for this exhibit and asked that the items (which are not personal) be safely stored by staff elsewhere during that period.

**9. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**(P. Lawlor/AI Loft)**

That Items 10.3 to 10.9 be deferred to the June 23, 2022 meeting.

**CARRIED**

**(i) Indigenous Advisory Committee/ Urban Indigenous Unit Banner (item 10.1)**

The subject of a new banner has been on subsequent agendas, but the content has not been completed to date. The Chair recommended that the IRT staff be directed to take lead responsibility for finalizing the banner through to production. There was discussion by members that the content be simple and include minimal text (so that the message is more easily conveyed to pedestrians and vehicles passing by City Hall) and reflect the key days of Indigenous significance. The banner is still intended to be a joint offering/venture between the IAC and the IRT.

**(ii) Indigenous Advisory Committee Logo (Item 10.2)**

Members discussed and decided that a logo should be considered by the new (incoming) Indigenous Advisory Committee once they are established next year.

**(iii) Advisory Committee Meeting Dates for Remainder of 2022 (Item 10.10)**

The Chair suggested that given there are still items on the agenda and the fall discussion needs to focus on recruitment before the hiatus during Elections, another meeting of committee should be convened in June. Members indicated their support to meet and asked staff to make arrangements for a suitable time.

Historically the IAC has not met during the summer and members agreed to continue with that approach. As such, the next meeting would be in September and then committee would not meet until after the Municipal Election in October.

**10. GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS**

**(i) Indigenous Market (Hamilton Public Library) (Item 13.1)**

J. DiDomenico indicated that the HPL was successful for a grant to pilot an Indigenous artists and vendors market downtown. The Market will be hosted on 2 Saturdays per month from May to December in the Central branch. The Library will be working with the IRT to potentially submit another grant proposal to expand this pilot if successful.

**(ii) Code of Conduct Training (Item 13.2)**

B. Dockstator reminded members of committee of the virtual session being offered on June 7<sup>th</sup> for members of the City's volunteer advisory committees on this topic. If a member is not able to participate, they should let her know and she can follow-up with Clerks to determine if there are alternatives.

**(iii) Water Walk Solidarity Day Event (Item 13.3)**

The Chair shared that there will be a blanket exercise offered by Ryerson United Church on June 15 for anyone interested in attending this good, impactful initiative.

P. Lawlor shared that the Catholic Women's League (CWL) held a conference recently that incorporated Indigenous speakers (Yvonne Maracle) on the agenda in the CWL efforts to learn and become more aware of Truth and Reconciliation and it was well received.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**(i) Closing Address/Prayer (Item 15. 1)**

A. Loft closed the meeting with a prayer in Mohawk and English.

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

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

That the meeting of the Indigenous Advisory Committee be adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

**CARRIED**

Marilyn Wright, Chair  
Indigenous Advisory Committee

B. Dockstator, Staff Liaison  
Indigenous Relations Team