



CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
Healthy Environments Division

TO:	Mayor and Members Public Health Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	December 4, 2023
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Food Advisory Committee 2024 Budget Request (BOH23043) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Heather Harvey (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3635
SUBMITTED BY:	Kevin McDonald Director, Healthy Environments Division Public Health Services
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

That the Food Advisory Committee 2024 base budget submission attached as Appendix “A” to Report BOH23043 in the amount of \$1,500, be approved and referred to the 2024 budget process for consideration.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Food Advisory Committee requests that a total budget of \$1,500 be referred to the 2024 budget process for consideration. This budget request consists of the Food Advisory Committee’s annual base budget of \$1,500 to cover Committee expenses such as parking, materials, and training.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 3

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The Food Advisory Committee requests that a total budget of \$1,500 be referred to the 2024 budget process.

Staffing: Not Applicable.

Legal: Not Applicable.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Food Advisory Committee was created as a result of the City's 2014 advisory committee review process and the City's 2016 endorsement of the Hamilton Food Strategy. This Committee consolidated attention toward food issues that were previously addressed on two separate advisory committees. The Food Advisory Committee can accommodate 13 to 18 members who are appointed by Council. Membership includes a range of food system expertise in farming and food businesses, food literacy, food access and waste, policy, non-profit/community-based food programs, and a non-voting Staff Liaison from Public Health, Healthy Environments Division.

Since 2016, the Food Advisory Committee has advised the Board of Health on Hamilton's Food Strategy including community food security within a broader health-promoting food system. The Food Advisory Committee has provided advice and support on the implementation of the Food Strategy and have been involved with actions to advance the goals of the Food Strategy. These have included participation in Food Strategy events and conducting a community engagement survey.

At the September 7, 2023 Audit, Finance & Administration meeting, the Committee passed a motion pausing most Voluntary Advisory Committees, including the Food Advisory Committee. During October 2023, Food Advisory Committee members for this past term of council were sent a letter of appreciation thanking them for their service and acknowledging the completion of their term.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

Not Applicable.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Finance and Administration was consulted, and supports the report recommendation.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Food Advisory Committee has put forward a base budget request of \$1,500 to cover basic expenses.

The Food Advisory Committee budget request is attached as Appendix "A" to Report BOH23043.

The Food Advisory Committee's full mandate is outlined in their Terms of Reference, attached as Appendix "B" to Report BOH23043.

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ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Council could choose not to refer the Food Advisory Committee budget request to the budget process for Advisory Committees.

Financial: The Food Advisory Committee would not have a budget to operate.

Staffing: Not Applicable.

Legal: Not Applicable.

Policy: Community engagement was undertaken in 2016 to develop this Committee’s mandate; discontinuing funds for the Committee could be seen as not adhering to the City’s commitment to community engagement.

Pros: Not funding the Committee may leave additional funds that could be allocated elsewhere.

Cons: Not funding the Committee may result in lower or inequitable engagement and potential loss of volunteer members if base funds to cover the Committee’s parking reimbursement, training/education and meeting supplies are not available. In addition, the Advisory Committee Review recommendations of reforming and amalgamating food related committees would not be followed if budget was not assigned to the Food Advisory Committee.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Report BOH23043

Food Advisory Committee 2024
Budget Submission Form

Appendix “B” to Report BOH23043

Food Advisory Committee Terms
of Reference

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