



Transforming Civic Engagement VACs to Community Liaison Groups

**Climate Change Advisory Committee
June 17, 2025**

Presenters: Sunil Angrish, Lauren Vraets – Community Engagement, CMO

Volunteer Advisory Committee Review Phase 1 (2023-2025)

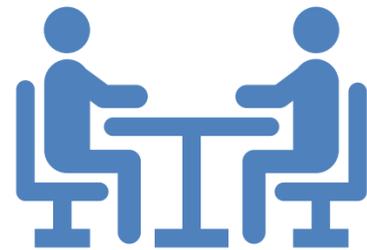
What We Heard: A Desire for Change



Meaningful
Engagement



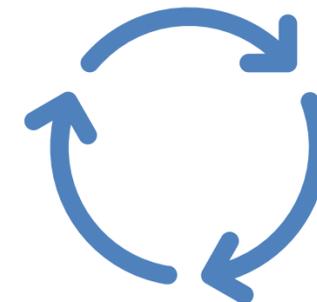
Increased
Transparency



Role Clarity



Improved Work
Culture



Structural
Changes



Enhanced
Training &
Development

Report CM23025(b) Recommendation:

Transition 14 VACs to Community Liaison Group (CLG) model

- ✓ Responds to Council directions from November 2024
- ✓ Reflects experiences from VAC members
- ✓ Reduces barriers to support meaningful participation
- ✓ Alignment to relevant departmental work plans
- ✓ Implements Hamilton's Public Engagement Policy
- ✓ Creates training and support opportunities for CLG members

Benefits:

- Resident-led with support from City staff
- Roles and responsibilities are established by CLG members
- CLGs reflect community interest and needs

Volunteer Advisory Committee Review

Phase 2 (2025-2026)

- **We know the “Why”** – meaningful engagement, transparency, reduced barriers to participation, role clarity, training and improved culture of support.
- **What do we have to do?**
 - Review options for resident-led, staff facilitated Community Liaison Groups (CLG) for each VAC
 - Not all CLGs need to have the same model/process
 - Staff liaison reps participating in community of practice guided by CE team
 - Community engagement for each VAC to be developed collaboratively
 - 1 year report-back from Departments to Committees of Council (March 2026) for approval of new CLG models
 - Post approval – Implementation and Recruitment of volunteer members,

Volunteer Advisory Committee Review Phase 2 (2025-2026)

CCAC Meeting on May 27, 2025

Key themes from group discussion after staff presentation:

1. Clarity on Community Engagement - How to define scope? Who will be doing it? How can it be done?
2. Structure of CLG – How will roles/responsibilities be defined?, how will transparency and accountability be considered while also considering flexibility? what is the structure?

Community Engagement: Part 1

- Part 1 of Community Engagement is on Engage Hamilton now
- Broad Tell us what motivates you to volunteer, what supports you may want/need, and how you want to be recognized for your contributions
- <https://engage.hamilton.ca/volunteer>



Community Engagement: Part 2

- Part 2 of Community Engagement will be more tailored to each VAC and the audiences they would like to hear from
- Lead by staff liaisons in collaboration with existing VAC (if still active) with Support from Community Engagement
- Need to scope who you want to hear from, what you want to know, what methods you can use, and how you will consider the feedback
- Engage Hamilton platform to be revised to support Phase 2



Structure

Terms of Reference components

- Preamble
- Mandate/Purpose
- Composition
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Annual Workplan
- Meetings
- Working Groups
- Decorum/Procedures
- Reporting to Council



Thank you!

For more information, contact:

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