

Town and Gown Committee

Meeting held June 29, 2021

A meeting of the Town and Gown Committee is held this day commencing at 10:00 o'clock a.m. via Zoom video conference, there being present the following members:

Councillor Fabio Costante, Chair
Councillor Fred Francis
Dr. Phebe Lam
John Fairley
Alan Richardson

Guests in attendance via Zoom:

Ember Chapdelaine, Christianne Labelle, Catherine Hundleby, Kai Hildebrandt,
Caroline Taylor, Joe D'Angela
Jim Porter, delegate regarding *Item 4.4*

Also present are the following resource personnel:

John Revell, Chief Building Official
Michael Cooke, Manager, Planning Policy
Anne Marie Albidone, Manager, Environmental Services
Bill Tetler, Manager of By-law Enforcement
Sandra Gebauer, Council Assistant
Amanda Alchin, Council Resolutions Coordinator
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 10:04 o'clock a.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule A attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

2. Declaration of Conflict

None disclosed.

3. Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by J. Fairley, seconded by Dr. Lam,

That the minutes of the Town and Gown Committee of its meeting held April 1, 2021 **BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED** to add that Joe D'Angela, Helen Martin, Frank Butler and Simarjeet Sahota were in attendance as guests via Zoom video conference.

Carried.

Clerk's Note: Mr. Richardson requests that his motion proposed at the April 1, 2021 meeting that did not receive a seconder be included in the minutes as follows:

"That the recommendations noted in Mr. Richardson's report entitled "Recommended action for the Windsor Town and Gown TGAO Symposium" be forwarded to the University of Windsor and St. Clair College for their consideration and action."

The Chair refers to the Town and Gown Terms of Reference and Mandate and notes that he has received e-mails from residents regarding matters of discussion for this Committee. He states that the Town and Gown Committee is a committee of Council, and the Mandate provides for the following:

- Encourage open communication between the neighbourhood and the University and/or College
- Provide an open forum for discussion of issues of concern between the residents and the University and/or College and the City of Windsor
- Identify or provide assistance to solving issues relating to possible areas of conflict between the students and residents in the neighbourhoods
- Assist in developing solutions to problems of common interest
- Promote and support activities to ensure a safe and healthy community

The Chair states that this committee in its nature is collaborative. The Town and Gown is not a committee that has the power to direct the University or the College to do anything. He adds that some residents have indicated that this is a "grassroots" committee, which should be more activist and should scrutinize decisions of Council. There is no committee in the city that has the jurisdiction to scrutinize past decisions of Council, i.e. Adie Knox.

4. Business Items

4.1 University of Windsor & St. Clair College – Clean Sweep Initiatives around Campus

Jim Porter, delegate appears before the Town and Gown Committee to provide an idea relating to collaborative clean sweep initiatives between the University and College.

Mr. Porter provides the following comments:

- Has resided in the area east of the University since the 1970's.
- Expresses concern with the amount of litter around his house and plastic bags in the alley.
- A few years ago, there were some students picking up litter, which was appreciated.
- Suggests that students undertake this initiative a few times a year.

J. Fairley states that in 2020, the College introduced "Community Saints" where students, staff and Administration performed clean-ups, however, with COVID, the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU), would not allow them to proceed with this. The Community Saints will be introduced officially in the fall 2021 pending the approval of the WECHU and the province. There may be the potential to plan something for a weekend or a Saturday along with the students, staff, and the student governments.

Dr. Lam advises that University of Windsor commenced this initiative in 2019, which was not undertaken in 2020 due to COVID. The University is supportive of this initiative and hopes to have it again this fall.

A. Marie Albidone reports that the City of Windsor has a Rose City Clean Sweep Program and volunteers need to register at 311 and the City will provide them with garbage bags and gloves to do a litter clean up in their neighbourhood. The City will then collect those bags on a designated day at a designated location. This program has been suspended due to COVID but hoping that it will be available in the fall.

J. Porter responds that the information and efforts provided by the University, College and the City are appreciated

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by J. Fairley,
That the updates regarding the University of Windsor and St. Clair College clean sweep initiatives around campus **BE RECEIVED.**
Carried.

4.2 Residential Rental Licence Pilot Project Study & Consultations

J. Revell indicates that the Building Department's role in this is to provide inspection services.

B. Tetler remarks that a point person, Jude Malott, Executive Initiatives Coordinator, Legal Department has been appointed as the the lead in this project. He adds that updates will be provided to the Committee when they become available.

The Chair asks Administration what the plan is regarding the consultation phase along with the timelines.

B. Tetler responds that he does not have this information; however, he suggests that an e-mail update be provided to the committee.

J. Fairley states that with the release of this pilot project by the news media, it was reported that some landlords have sold their properties and left the city, and he asks if this is speculation from the news or has there been a change in ownership.

B. Tetler responds that he is not aware of this, but this would not impact the scope of the project in his opinion.

J. Revell adds from a Building perspective, it is actually the Orders that they are writing pursuing landlords through the court system that is causing a much higher turnover in the properties. He is not aware of concerns relating to the cost of the licensing program. There may be smaller operators or out of town operators that do not pay as much attention to their properties as they should. There are times when the Building By-law Officers docket in the court system is larger than the *Highway Traffic Act* so they are pursuing many landlords aggressively under the Vacant Building and Rental Registry Programs. He notes that if there is a turnover in properties, it is more related to these factors rather than the licensing program.

The Chair asks for a percentage of the number of prosecutions with out of town landlords versus landlords that live in the city.

J. Revell responds that anecdotally it is probably 75 percent out of town.

The Chair proposes that the Executive Initiatives Coordinator, Legal Department provide a general timeline guide on the development of the bylaw in advance of the next meeting.

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by J. Fairley,
That Jude Malott, Executive Initiatives Coordinator, Legal Department **BE REQUESTED** to provide a one-sheet summary to the Town and Gown Committee via e-mail prior to the next meeting, on the timeline general guide relating to the development of the Residential Rental Licence Bylaw for the next six to twelve months.
Carried.

4.3 University of Windsor & St Clair College – Update on Projected Enrolment in the fall and Student Orientation Week

Dr. Lam provides an overview relating to enrolment and orientation at the University of Windsor as follows:

- Registration has not begun for returning students. The University is planning a return to face-to-face programming although only eighteen percent has some sort of a face-to-face component.
- Orientation Week will be held from September 4, 2021 to September 10, 2021, which is the University's welcome week. At this time, all events are being planned as virtual events.
- The student residents will begin moving in on September 4, 2021.

J. Fairley provides the following relating to enrolment and orientation at St. Clair College:

- Looking at doing face to face as much as possible as are governed by the Ministry as well as the local Health Unit.
- Registration is going on now for September and the scheduling will be face-to-face as well as virtual.
- This past year, labs have been held as a component of hands-on learning with approximately 800-900 people spread out throughout the day who physically came to the campus.
- Orientation week will be held if not virtual, will be placed on their website on Blackboard, which is the communications that they have with the students.
- If students return in the fall, then Fire, representatives from the Building Department and City Hall will be invited to the downtown campuses and the main campus.

In response to a question asked by the Chair regarding the status of the student residence on campus, J. Fairley responds that the residence is not owned by St. Clair College but by a conglomerate of their international partners in Toronto. The College is looking to be able to bundle programs as well as the international students here to live there.

The Chair asks if there are 500 beds in the residence.

J. Fairley responds that it is slightly different due to COVID as initially there were six people allowed in a room or pod. He adds that he will report back on the number of beds and how many students will be allowed in the building.

The Chair asks if the University and College envisions more of a hybrid model whereby distance learning becomes permanent, and if there is a possibility that there will be less students in our city due to taking classes from wherever they reside.

Dr. Lam responds that this is being discussed as we move forward. We know that a hybrid on-line component does work and will report back on this in a few months. Our high flex model where a teacher could be teaching face to face with a certain number of students but the class is also streamed live to students who cannot be on campus. The

University is taking a very reserved approach to returning to campus and we are looking at a fifty percent capacity for fall and are reviewing a hybrid model for the faculty.

J. Fairley indicates that type of learning has fared well with some people, but some things cannot be learned on line and some people are not on line learners. He adds there are fifteen programs that will start on line in the fall to run from September to December.

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by J. Fairley,
That the updates provided by Dr. Lam, University of Windsor and J. Fairley, St. Clair College on the projected enrolment in the fall and student orientation week **BE RECEIVED.**
Carried.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on September 29, 2021.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 10:47 o'clock a.m.

CHAIR

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR