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Windsor, Ontario July 5, 2012

A meeting of the **Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee** is held this day commencing at 5:30 o'clock p.m. in the Board Room, Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant, 4155 Ojibway Parkway, there being present the following members:

Councillor Alan Halberstadt, Co-Chair
Charlie Wright, Co-Chair
Shahbaz Ahmed
Frank Butler (alternate for Rick Coronado)
Derek Coronado
Roger Dzugan (alternate for Mark Bartlett)
Karen Fallon
Evan Freeman-Gibb
Paul Henshaw
Juliet Mohammed
Tamara Stomp (arrives at 5:42 p.m.)
Radwan Tamr

Regrets received from:

Councillor Hilary Payne (meeting conflict)
Mark Bartlett
Pauline Cheslock
Matthew Child
Dean Clevett
Rick Coronado
John Miller
Phil Roberts

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Averil Parent, Environment & Sustainability Coordinator
Bill Roesel, Manager, Forestry & Horticulture
Beau Wansbrough, Planner II
Karen Kadour, (A) Committee Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair calls the meeting to order at 5:32 o'clock p.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule "A" **attached** hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT**

None disclosed.

4. **MINUTES**

Moved by P. Henshaw, seconded by R. Tamr,
That the minutes of the meeting of the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee held June 7, 2012 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

5. **PRESENTATION**

Bill Roesel, Manager, Forestry & Horticulture is present to provide information relating to the City of Windsor – One Million Trees initiative as well as the Walkerville tree education project. He distributes photos of a 200 year old Jesuit Pear Tree and an Overview – South Cameron Area City Maintained Trees, ***attached*** respectively as Appendix “A” and “B”. The salient points of discussion relating to the foregoing are as follows:

- Forestry Department maintains 65,000 – 75,000 street trees and 30,000 park trees
- Silver Maple trees are not planted on residential streets as they grow too quickly, are brittle and the life span is not long
- Only 3 trees of one particular species are planted in a row
- 311 Call Centre receives 3,000-4,000 calls relating to trees annually.
- The ten year anniversary of the One Million Trees is in 2013 – May reach Two Million Trees by 2013
- Interest in constructing a customized nursery to increase the number of heritage trees
- Jamieson Pharmaceuticals provided funding for the planting of 500 trees
- Public meeting held with Walkerville Residents Association regarding the loss of trees in that area and a plan to replant
- There are no Federal or Provincial Forestry programs that assist municipalities with loss of trees and the resulting costs– i.e. emerald ash borer
- Suggestion to contact AMO and FCM regarding the lack of federal/provincial funding for the costs associated with removing diseased trees and replanting.

The Co-Chair thanks Mr. Roesel for his very informative presentation.

6. BUSINESS RISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Renewable Energy Media Campaign

A. Parent reports the campaign advertisements and editorial content ran in the County papers, Windsor Star Online as well as Windsor This Week. Additional information regarding the Campaign was available on WECEC's webpage, and a media conference was held on June 22, 2012 at the Lakeshore Studio.

A. Parent indicates the balance of WECEC's original contribution to the campaign is approximately \$1,000 which will be put forth for a new campaign to focus on another renewable energy technology.

T. Stomp expresses concern that the Ontario Power Authority allows only 5% of the energy grid to be derived from renewables.

6.2 Pat on the Back Awards

A. Parent states the Pat on the Back Awards were held on July 4, 2012 at the Ojibway Nature Centre. An award of \$500 was presented to the following winners:

- 1. Amherstburg Public School - Wetland ecosystem*
- 2. St. Joseph's Elementary School – Native trees/native plant garden*
- 3. Lina Chaker – Neighbourhood composting program*
- 4. Princess Elizabeth Elementary School – Rotating compost bins*

C. Wright, Co-Chair thanks A. Parent for organizing the Pat on the Back Awards event.

7. COORDINATOR'S REPORT

A. Parent advises she received a request from Klaus Dohring, Green Sun Rising Inc. to attend a future WECEC meeting. The purpose is to provide information relating to Green Sun Rising Inc., a Windsor based company focused on developing and supplying solar systems, both solar PV for clean electricity and solar thermal for clean heat energy.

A. Parent indicates the report of the Environmental Coordinator entitled the Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the City of Windsor is complete and will be

available for public viewing and comments in August 2012. She suggests the Environmental Coordinator be invited to attend the October 2012 WECEC meeting.

Moved by C. Wright, seconded by P. Henshaw,

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$1,000. for the Green Speaker Series to be held on October 21, 2012 at a location to be determined in Kingsville, Ontario.

Carried.

Moved by C. Wright, seconded by R. Dzugan,

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$500. for costs associated with the 2012 Provincial Environmental Advisory Committee Symposium to be held in Windsor, Ontario in October/November 2012.

Carried.

8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Air

D. Coronado advises the City of Windsor Environmental Master Plan encourages people not to use gas-powered lawnmowers on smog/poor air quality days. He notes on June 28, 2012, which was declared a smog day by the Ministry of the environment, he received several telephone calls stating the City of Windsor workers were using gas-powered mowers and weed wackers throughout the city.

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair indicates he will contact the Executive Director of Parks and Facilities regarding the use of gas-powered mowers on smog action days.

8.2 Transportation

F. Butler reports the Subcommittee met on July 4, 2012 and the following issues were discussed:

- The Subcommittee wishes to receive and review the specifications for the new e-buses.
- Installation of bike lanes on newly constructed roads
- Timing of traffic signals throughout Windsor not coordinated

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair suggests the Manager, Traffic Operations be invited to attend the next Subcommittee meeting to discuss the timing of the traffic lights.

8.3 Provincially Significant Wetlands

A. Parent states a meeting of the Provincially Significant Wetlands Subcommittee was held on June 25, 2012 and the following items were discussed:

PSW Woodlots at Windsor Airport

A. Parent states the land area outside the 120 m buffer (open area) has been conceptualized as potential green infrastructure stormwater management for the airport. Using this feature to connect or link to the existing woodlot or their buffers was extensively discussed. Dan Lebedyk (ERCA) stated that ERCA has serious reservations about the concept of green infrastructure stormwater management and its potential to have ecological function due to concerns with contamination, maintenance of a feature that might now be functioning habitat (potentially of endangered species), engineering the feature, potential negative impact to the existing woodlots. The subcommittee then met with representatives from ERCA, City and Airport Administration to discuss the realities of this conceptual plan and they reached an agreement that green infrastructure will be looked at in the future and the open space designation will remain to reserve space for a potential green infrastructure project.

Land Use Rezoning for City Owned Property Adjacent to Ojibway Shores Initiative

A. Parent indicates the City is required to service the Port Authority property (Ojibway Shores) thus it would be unreasonable for the city to rezone Ojibway Shores as natural heritage. She notes two strategies were discussed as follows:

- A biological assessment of the properties be undertaken.
- Allow City Administration to discuss the possibility of a land swap with the Port Authority to reduce the City's liability for the cost of having to provide services as guaranteed. With the recent Bridge/Plaza announcement with Michigan, several new issues have arisen which warrants the City to wait for the outcome of engineering and environmental assessments before pursuing this strategy. She states the Subcommittee will prepare to comment on the Environmental Assessment for the new bridge as it is required in the EA process.

8.4 Water Quality

A. Parent reports the Water Quality Subcommittee is interested in producing a PSA video to highlight the causes and potential solutions to algae issues in Lake Erie.

Moved by T.Stomp, seconded by C. Wright,
That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an upset amount of \$1,500 to produce a Public Service Announcement video that highlights the causes and potential solutions to algae issues in Lake Erie.

Carried.

C. Wright suggests the possibility of the County sharing the cost of the PSA video.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.2 Municipal Park Closures

Windsor City Council at its meeting held adopted the following motion:

CR130/2012

*“That Council **DIRECT** Administration to begin the public process of surplus parkland disposition as identified in the attached report and that in 2012, Long Park and Tilston Park South dispositions **BE UNDERTAKEN**, and*

*That Administration **REPORT BACK** on the disposition of each surplus park after the public meeting process and plans for the disposed parklands; and*

*That City Council allow funds from the sale of surplus parkland to be allocated also to the removal and installation of playground equipment and the necessary policies **BE AMENDED** to reflect this.”*

Carried.

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair suggests investigating Long Park and Tilston Park South to determine if they are adaptable to heritage naturalization. He reports 18 parks have been listed as surplus and two parks annually will be sold.

A. Parent indicates parkland is free open space with the potential to adapt into community gardens.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It is generally agreed no meeting will be held in August 2012. The next meeting will be held on September 6, 2012 at 5:30 o'clock p.m. at the Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 7:20 o'clock p..m.

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair

(A) Committee Coordinator