



**Meeting
Environmental Advisory Committee
Aug 12, 2020, 6:00 p.m.**

The following were in attendance:

Staff: Darlene Suddard
Janice Peyton

Council: Councillor Mark Bagu
Councillor Harry Wells

Public Members: George McKibbon
Jack Hellinga
Tim Hoyle
Norbert Gieger
Trent Doan
Clayton Nadeau
Kerry Royer

As a COVID-19 precaution, city staff and the chair met in person at the Engineering and Operations Centre. The rest of the committee joined on Microsoft Teams.

1. Call to Order

George McKibbon was Acting Chair in Beth Palma's absence.

George called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Clayton Nadeau
Seconded by Tim Hoyle

That the agenda dated August 12, 2020 be accepted as circulated.
CARRIED.

3. Disclosures of Interest

Nil.

4. Election of Committee Chair & Vice Chair

A letter of appreciation will be sent to former Chair Beth Palma for her years of dedication to the committee.

Moved by Jack Hellinga
Seconded by Tim Hoyle

That George McKibbon be appointed Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee for the remaining term of Council.
CARRIED.

George accepted the appointment of Chair with thanks.

Moved by Jack Hellinga
Seconded by George McKibbon

That Clayton Nadeau be appointed Vice-Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee for the remaining term of Council.
CARRIED.

Clayton accepted the appointment of Vice-Chair with thanks.

5. Approval / Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

Moved by Norbert Gieger
Seconded by Tim Hoyle

That the minutes of March 11, 2020 be accepted as written.
CARRIED.

6. Items Arising from Previous Minutes

a) Roadside Mowing

Darlene advised that due to the pandemic the roadside mowing remained status quo for this year.

b) Draft Report on Boulevard Trees

Darlene advised that the draft report on boulevard trees is pending. Staff are working on a forestry survey for boulevard trees. Staff have generated a draft list of trees suitable for boulevards. It will likely be next year before considerations for amendments to the by-law are proposed.

c) Site Alteration Permit Review and Costing

This item is currently with the engineering department. Darlene will advise the committee when additional information is available.

d) Vale CBRA Community Status Report/Questions & Acquired Responses

George advised that Vale has hired a consultant to handle their water sampling. George asked if staff have been approached by Vale regarding water sampling. Darlene will check with the Drainage Superintendent. George will have more information on this item at the next meeting.

George advised that the application for design award for this report has been delayed due to the pandemic. George will make application when the time comes.

e) GHG Emissions Reduction Plan

Darlene spoke to the Fleet Manager regarding electric vehicles. There are not many options for electric vehicles currently as not much in the way of incentives are offered in Ontario. Our fleet is relatively new for those vehicles that could be retrofitted to electric.

With regard to the initiative of renting city owned electric vehicles to residents, there is no additional information available at this time.

f) New Provincial Policy Statement

George advised he has been in contact with the Region and the NPCA. The Province has been making changes and more recently, they have passed Bill 167, the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act. Together with the changes made in the Provincial Policy Statement 2020, municipal policy is changing very quickly and the comments that George drafted earlier need to be updated. Jack made some comments, and he and George will explore these further and incorporate into the earlier draft.

g) Climate Warming Adaption

Darlene and Clayton will work together on some climate warming adaption strategies. Darlene advised that direction for climate warming policies for sanitary and storm sewers is coming. George feels that the committee needs to work closely with the municipality, as the municipality reviews how climate warming affects municipal water and sewer services. The analysis prepared by staff can be used to draw some conclusions on how the built environments in the surrounding areas might change.

7. New/Other Business

- a) Parks and Recreation Master Plan – EAC Involvement Memorandum from Director of Community and Economic Development

The EAC received a memo from the Director of Community and Economic Development regarding the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the EAC's responsibility for some of the recommended actions. The committee has been working on the community garden initiative.

Contact was made with the Greener Community Initiatives group and with Vale for possible partnerships. Vale has declined any involvement at this time.

George and Clayton will reach out to Port Cares to find out the status of the East Village garden. The location is favorable and it is evident that, at some point, much time and money was spent on establishing this garden.

b) Review of Committee Terms of Reference

The committee terms of reference (attached to the minutes) was provided for review. Darlene advised that the committee can request changes through Council if they wish. Members feel that the EAC has been pro-active in commenting on issues to Council and feel that the committee mandate is being met.

Clarification/direction was requested for item #10. Darlene will provide information at the next meeting.

c) Activity-Friendly Neighbourhoods can Benefit Non-Communicable and Infectious Diseases

George provided information (infographic attached to the minutes) regarding activity friendly neighbourhoods that shows there is no relation between population density and recorded COVID-19 cases or death rates. The infographic has been provided to the Active Transportation Committee for information.

8. Next Meeting/Adjourn

Moved by Norbert Gieger
Seconded by Jack Hellinga

That with no further business to discuss, the meeting be adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

The next EAC meeting will be on October 14 at 6:00 pm.

7(b)
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The Environmental Advisory Committee:

1. The Environmental Advisory Committee is an Ad-Hoc Committee of Council whose purpose is to:

- Advise Council on environmental, energy conservation and shoreline protection issues that affect the City of Port Colborne and those matters referred to the committee by Council.
- To promote the integration of environmental, energy conservation and shoreline protection considerations into the planning and development of City policies, programs and services.

2. The Environmental Advisory Committee shall consist of the following voting and non-voting members:

(a) Up to thirteen voting members who shall be eighteen years or older and residents in the City of Port Colborne, three members shall be from Council and up to ten members shall be appointed from the public at large by resolution of Council.

(b) One non-voting member of staff who shall be appointed by resolution of Council and who shall act as a resource person, recording secretary and shall provide administrative support to the Committee. The Chief Administrative Officer may designate an alternate staff person who may act in the absence of the staff member so appointed.

(c) In the case of a vacancy for any cause other than expiration of term, the member appointed to fill the vacancy shall hold office for the balance of the term of the member whose place is vacant.

(d) One non-voting representative of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA), who shall be designated by the NPCA to serve as a resource person to the Committee.

3. Unless otherwise provided for, the term of the Environmental Advisory Committee shall be the term of the Council.

4. A voting member of the Environmental Advisory Committee shall cease to be a member of the Committee upon submission of a letter of resignation to the City Clerk or if he/she absents himself/herself from three successive scheduled meetings of the Committee without being authorized to do so by a resolution of the Environmental Advisory Committee entered in its minutes.

5. All meetings of the Environmental Advisory Committee shall be open and no person shall be excluded therefrom except for improper conduct or except matters identified in Section 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25.

6. All members of the Committee shall serve without remuneration excepting that the remuneration of the non-voting staff member shall be governed by the Administrative Policies of the City of Port Colborne or the collective agreement whichever is applicable.

7. The Chair, or in his/her absence the Vice-Chair, shall, upon a written request from Council or a majority of Committee members call a meeting for the consideration of any business within the Committee's mandate.

8. A quorum of the Environmental Advisory Committee shall consist of a majority of sitting, voting members; vacant seats shall count as seats for the purpose of calculating a quorum.

9. Subject to such limitations and restrictions as the Council may herein or hereafter either by resolution or by-law impose the Environmental Advisory Committee shall:

(a) Appoint from the voting members a Chair and a Vice-Chair;

(b) Make regulations governing its proceedings, the calling of meetings, and the conduct of its members;

(c) Provide reports to Council as requested.

10. The Committee shall hold public meetings when, in their opinion, the issues being discussed require community input. Notice of a public meeting shall be given in the local newspaper(s) no less than five days in advance of the meeting.

11. The minutes of all Environmental Advisory Committee meetings shall be recorded and distributed to Committee Members and to the City Clerk for safekeeping and inclusion on the next regular Council Agenda. The minutes shall be open to inspection in accordance with Section 253(1) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25., as amended and such minutes will be posted on the City's website.

Activity-friendly neighbourhoods can benefit non-communicable and infectious diseases



Expected net effects of built environment attributes on non-communicable diseases and infectious diseases

Source: Adlaka, D. & Sallis, J.F. (2020). Activity-friendly neighbourhoods can benefit non-communicable and infectious diseases. *Cities and Health*, In Press. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23748834.2020.1783479>

Non-Communicable Diseases	Environmental Attributes	Infectious Diseases
Favourable effect	Residential density	No effect
Favourable effect	Mixed land use	Favourable effect
Unfavourable effect	Automobile-optimized transportation system	Favourable effect
Favourable effect	Public transportation	Unfavourable effect
Favourable effect	Pedestrian & bicycling facilities	Favourable effect
Favourable effect	Parks, trails, open spaces	Favourable effect
Favourable effect	Open streets initiatives	Favourable effect

Results from 36 cities showed no relation between population density and recorded COVID-19 cases or deaths rates

Conclusions

- Dense walkable cities with recreation facilities that are recommended for non-communicable diseases are generally better during infectious disease epidemics.
- Walking and biking are the safest and healthiest forms of transport, if there are safe places to walk and bike.
- Recommended mitigation measures on public transport include limiting riders, ensuring physical distancing, requiring masks, providing hand sanitizer, and cleaning vehicles often.