
Environmental Action Committee

Date: April 6, 2021
Time: 9:30 AM
Location: Online Video Conference

Members Present	Councillor Matt Mahoney Councillor Stephen Dasko Councillor George Carlson Brad Bass Lea Ann Mallett Alice Casselman Melanie Kramer Britt McKee Andrea Rowe Brad Butt Sid Gendron	Ward 8 (Chair) Ward 1 (Vice-Chair) Ward 11 Citizen Member Citizen Member Association for Canadian Educational Resources Credit Valley Conservation Ecosource Greening Sacred Spaces (Non-Voting Member) Mississauga Board of Trade (Non-Voting Member) Sawmill Sid Inc. (Non-Voting Member)
Members Absent	Chelsea Dalton Pujita Verma Carina Suleiman Shailly Prajapati Vacant	Citizen Member Citizen Member UTM (University of Toronto Mississauga) Student PEYA (Peel Environmental Youth Alliance) Student Partners in Project Green
Staff Present	Dianne Zimmerman, Manager, Environment Lisa Urbani, Supervisor, Environment Initiatives Catherine Nguyen-Pham, Communications Coordinator Diana Suzuki-Bracewell, Supervisor, Environmental Outreach Heliya Babazadeh-Olegi, Environmental Outreach Coordinator Samantha Dilorio, Environmental Assistant John MacKinnon, Natural Areas and Million Tree Program Coordinator Jamie Ferguson, Manager, Parks Services Dayna Obaseki, Legislative Coordinator	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Mahoney, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:32AM.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved (B. Bass)

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST - Nil.**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING****4.1 Environmental Action Committee DRAFT Minutes – March 2, 2021**

Approved (Councillor Carlson)

5. DEPUTATIONS**5.1 Port Credit Waterfront Pollution and the effects on Waterfowl**

Valeria Pirner, Ontario Trumpeter Swan Restoration
Dianne Horwath, Ontario Trumpeter Swan Restoration

Ms. Pirner and Ms. Horwath presented and provided an overview on the contamination of the Port Credit waterfront and the effects on waterfowl, in particular the Trumpeter swans. They noted led poisoning from ingesting discarded fishing gear, fishing line entanglement and wrongful feeding as the leading dangerous causes for the waterfowl. They provided proposed solutions that consisted of public education, promoting non-led fishing tackle, signage and enforcement.

Members of Committee spoke to the matter and noted the need for public education, signage and alternate options to non-led fishing gear.

Jamie Ferguson, Manager, Park Services noted the solutions the City of Mississauga were currently working on, which included fishing line recycling tubes in designated fishing areas and promoting steel sinkers. Mr. Ferguson noted that a social media campaign as a public education tool and signage outlining acceptable food items that can be fed to waterfowl would be great additional solutions to work on.

Councillor Mahoney requested that staff report back to the Committee on the effects of led on waterfowl and then a motion can be drafted and brought forward regarding the limiting the use of led fishing equipment.

DIRECTION to staff to report back to the Committee on the effects of led on waterfowl.

RECOMMENDATION EAC-0008-2021

Moved By Councillor Dasko

That the deputation and associated presentation by Valeria Pirner and Dianne Horwath, Ontario Trumpeter Swan Restoration regarding Port Credit Waterfront Pollution and the effects on Waterfowl be received.

Received

5.2 Blooming Boulevards: Growing the Future

Jeanne McRight, President, Blooming Boulevards

Ms. McRight presented and provided an overview on the environmental services offered by Blooming Boulevards. She highlighted the native plant propagation program and the educational workshops and outreach programs. She further noted the pollinator gardens, family and neighbourhood plantings, the community benefits and genetic integrity. Ms. McRight requested that the City of Mississauga provide a community greenhouse for conservation groups to grow native plants and as an educational center.

Members of Committee spoke to the matter and raised the following questions and concerns:

- Applauded and supportive of the programs being offered;
- Recommended that staff work offline regarding a community greenhouse with additional community organization partnerships;
- Noted the potential location and space requirements for a community greenhouse;
- Suggested a winter greenhouse as a tourist attraction and educational center with a activity hub and perimeter of trees as a outdoor maze;
- Noted the potential to increased tourism as a result of beautification from planting on boulevards;
- Noted the great opportunity for volunteers;
- Noted urban agriculture;
- Noted supporting local pollinators as it supports the local food system as well;
- Inquired about commercially purchased wildflower mixes; and
- Inquired about the plant upkeep and maintenance aspect;

Ms. McRight responded to questions from the Committee;

- Commercial wildflower seed mixes end up cross-contaminating native plants, which are struggling to survive and further encouraged the need for community greenhouse to provide access to native seeds for residents to purchase.
- Maintenance and plant upkeep can provide a number volunteer and part-time employment opportunities. She further noted utilizing passive solar systems for greenhouses where no food is being grown, educational aspects and benchmarking research in regards to maintenance.

RECOMMENDATION EAC-0009-2021

Moved By A. Casselman

1. That the deputation and associated presentation by Jeanne McRight, President, Blooming Boulevards regarding Blooming Boulevards: Growing the Future be received.
2. That the Environment Staff schedule a meeting with Jeanne McRight, President, Blooming Boulevards to further explore the feasibility regarding the request to create a Municipal Greenhouse.

Carried

5.3 Community Climate Council

Baani Dhillon, Political Advocacy Coordinator, Community Climate Council

Lajanthan Prabakaran, Board Member, Community Climate Council

Ms. Dhillon and Lajanthan (LJ) Prabakaran presented and provided an overview on the Climate Community Council (CCC). They provided a background, spoke to the CCC's three pillars, highlighted their projects and upcoming events as well as how to support Climate Community Council's work through event collaboration, project development and shared work with networks.

Brad Bass, Citizen Member inquired about the current membership and if there was an age limit. Mr. Prabakaran responded by noting there are currently 30 active members and noted the membership has no age limitation and is open to all individuals who may be interested.

RECOMMENDATION EAC-0010-2021

Moved By B. Bass

That the deputation and associated presentation by Banni Dhillon, Political Advocacy Coordinator and Lajanthan Prabakaran, Board Member, Community Climate Council regarding Community Climate Council be received.

Received

5.4 Urban Agriculture Strategy

Lisa Urbani, Coordinator, Environmental Initiatives

Jane Hayes, Project Lead, Hoffmann Hayes

Ms. Urbani and Ms. Hayes presented and provided an overview on the Urban Agriculture Strategy. Ms. Urbani noted the purpose, objectives, process, community engagement, priorities, and next steps. Ms. Hayes further noted the timelines of the project that consist of website launch, a public/stakeholder engagement in Spring 2021, a draft strategy in May 2021 and final strategy presented in Summer/Fall of 2021. They posed three questions to the Committee surrounding policies/programs, food system linkages and contributions to a healthy environment.

Brad Bass, Citizen Member noted the innovative strategy and briefly addressed a big risk to food security is running low on phosphorous, as it is not a renewable source.

Lea-Ann Mallet, Citizen Member advocated for Ecosource has this organization spearheaded community gardens and urban agriculture. Ms. Hayes, Dianne Zimmerman, Manager, Environment and Diana Suzuki-Bracewell acknowledged Ecosource as key organizational partner and vital in the development of the strategy.

Members of the Committee further noted other organizational partnerships.

DIRECTION to Clerks' staff was given to share the three posed questions in the deputation presentation via email to the Environmental Action Committee Members and to provide the Members with an opportunity to provide their comments in writing.

DIRECTION to Environment staff to set up an offline meeting with Britt McKee, Community Group Representative (Ecosource), Lea-Ann Mallet, Citizen Member and any other organizational partners to discuss the application of the Urban Agriculture Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION EAC-0011-2021

Moved By L. Mallett

That the deputation and associated presentation by Lisa Urbani, Coordinator, Environment Initiatives, City of Mississauga and Jane Hayes, Project Lead, Hoffman Hayes regarding the Urban Agriculture Strategy be received.

Received

5.5 Update on 2021 Earth Days

John MacKinnon, Natural Areas and Million Tree Program Coordinator

Heliya Babazadeh-Olegi, Environmental Outreach Coordinator

Diana Suzuki-Bracewell, Supervisor, Environmental Outreach

Ms. Babazadeh-Olegi presented and provided an overview on the Update on Earth Days 2021. She noted the Earth Days events would take place over a period of two weeks and would consist of virtual walks, take and make workshops, story time events, sketch and trivia nights, food and gardening in a changing climate, and a nature in your neighbourhood event. She further noted the COVID-19 safety planning and that the 20-minute makeover had to be postponed due to the Provincial lockdown guidelines. Mr. MacKinnon spoke about the one million trees initiative, the tree giveaways and the partnerships with conservation authorities.

Councillor Dasko applauded the staff for constantly pivoting through the pandemic and the impact on outdoor public engagement. Alice Casselman, Community Group Representative thanked Mr. MacKinnon for creating the plant pandemic protocol.

DIRECTION to Clerks' staff was given to share the Mississauga, mobilized municipality for Earth Day video to the Members of the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION EAC-0012-2021

Moved By M. Kramer

That the deputation and associated presentation by Heliya Babazadeh-Olegi, Environmental Outreach Coordinator and John MacKinnon, Natural Areas and Million Tree Program Coordinator regarding an Update to Earth Days 2021 be received.

Received

6. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD - 15 Minute Limit

No member of the public registered to speak.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

No items were approved under the Consent Agenda.

8. MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED**8.1 Environmental Action Committee (EAC) Work Plan**

Dayna Obaseki, Legislative Coordinator spoke to the EAC Work Plan item on Reporting on Committee Progress. Ms. Obaseki provided two options; for the Committee members to make a deputation to a General Committee meeting on June 9, 2021 or for staff to draft a covering memo and attached the Work Plan in an email to be sent to the Members of Council.

Members of Committee approved the option to Report on the Committee's Progress via email and nominated Alice Casselman, Community Group Representative to be the presenter at a future deputation.

RECOMMENDATION EAC-0013-2021

Moved By Councillor Carlson

1. That staff prepare a memo with the Environmental Action Committee Work Plan attached to be emailed to the Members of Council by the end of June 2021 to Report on the Committee's Progress.
2. That the Environmental Action Committee Work Plan be approved as discussed at the April 6, 2021 EAC meeting.

Approved

9. INFORMATION ITEMS - Nil.**10. OTHER BUSINESS/ENQUIRIES - Nil.****11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 9:30am - Online Video Conference

12. ADJOURNMENT

11:38AM (L. Mallet)