



City of Barrie

70 Collier Street
P.O. Box 400
Barrie, ON L4M 4T5

Final

Active Transportation and Sustainability Advisory Committee

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

10:00 AM

Virtual Meeting

For consideration by the Infrastructure and Community Investment Committee on May 31, 2023.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Councillor, K. Aylwin at 10:03 a.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 7 - Councillor K. Aylwin
Councillor A.M. Kungl
A. Pelan
J. Northcote
K. Patterson-McGrath
L. Hoffarth
S. Diaz - SMDHU

Absent: 4 - E. Jacoby-Hawkins
E. vanWesenbeeck
S. Warren
W. Steimle

STAFF:

Climate Change Coordinator, C. Rodger
Committee Support Clerk, B. Thompson
Community Events Coordinator, A. Donnelly
Manager of Energy Management, A. McMullin
Manager of Parks and Forestry Operations, K. Bradley
Senior Transportation Operations Tech, J. MacDonald
Supervisor of Enforcement Services, J. Forgrave
Supervisor of Urban Forestry and Natural Areas Stewardship, K. Rankin

The Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee met and reports as follow(s):

SECTION "A"

YIELD SIGNS

Jeff Sharp, Supervisor of Traffic Operations and Community Safety indicated that there are approximately 40 yield signs throughout the City. Mr. Sharp indicated that his department is looking to submit a staff report by the end of 2022, to change yield signs to stop signs with the explanation that yield signs are not, typically, seen and motorists seem to pay more attention to vehicles at the yield signs and not the pedestrian and cyclist traffic. He further indicated that stop signs are more conducive to areas where pedestrians and cyclists are the primary focus for motorists, as well as making it easier for motorists to navigate the area to see other motorists.

PRESENTATION CONCERNING THE ON THE MOVE INITIATIVE

S. Diaz, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit provided a presentation concerning the Simcoe Muskoka On the Move Initiative.

Ms. Diaz discussed slides concerning the following topics:

- About the Simcoe Muskoka On the Move;
- How the Simcoe Muskoka On the Move Initiative got started;
- The need for the Simcoe Muskoka On the Move Initiative;
- About the School Travel Planning Model;
- School Travel Planning Process and stakeholders;
- Things that have already occurred;
- Currently happening now;
- Predicting what will occur next; and
- Opportunities to support or be involved in the Simcoe Muskoka On the Move Initiative.

Members of the Committee asked questions of Ms. Diaz, received responses, and deferred further conversations to the next meeting.

INVASIVE SPECIES

The Committee discussed the invasive species and the processes for reporting noted on the City's website, staffing resources, and staff follow-up.

Kevin Rankin, Manager of Parks and Forestry Operations indicated that there are not enough resources for every invasive species report made,

however, there are invasive species that are currently being monitored, tracked, and mapped. Mr. Rankin mentioned that due to the current resourcing, only invasive species that pose a risk to human health are being actively viewed. He provided that there is funding available and community groups that are active in pulls to maintain invasive species, and the City will cut and remove invasive species for public safety reasons.

NO MOW MAY - YARD MAINTENANCE BY-LAW

The Committee discussed the possibility of a No Mow May initiative and the complaints by neighbours currently causing by-law enforcements. Members of the Committee considered proposing a change to the lawn height requirements, adding an exemption to the existing by-law, and creating signage as a communication tool to indicate the intent of the growth and the benefits of No Mow May.

Jason Forgrave, Supervisor of Enforcement Services provided that May is the start of the yard maintenance complaint season for long grass and weeds. Mr. Forgrave indicated that the by-law standard for residential or occupied property is 15 centimetres, or six inches. He mentioned that natural gardens are permitted under the by-law provided they are maintained in a structured environment.

The Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee met and recommends adoption of the following recommendation(s):

SECTION "B"

PROMOTING BIODIVERSITY - YARD NATURALIZATION

1. That staff in Access Barrie, in consultation with the Enforcement Services Branch, investigate the creation of communication tools including yard signage and online educational materials to promote and designate natural gardens and boulevard gardens and report back to General Committee.
2. That staff in the Enforcement Services Branch investigate an amendment to the Yard Maintenance By-law to allow for residents to participate in No Mow May and that staff in Access Barrie investigate the creation of signage and communication tools to clearly communicate the benefits of No Mow May and report back to General Committee.

This matter was recommended (Section "B") to Infrastructure and Community Investment Committee for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 5/31/2023.

The Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee met and reports as follow(s):

SECTION "C"

FUTURE CITY OF BARRIE EVENTS

Arin Donnelly, Community Events Coordinator discussed her department's role within the community, such as presenting corporate events, permits, and applications. Ms. Donnelly indicated that she is interested in receiving suggestions to support City initiatives, such as the benefits of active transportation getting to and from events.

Members of the Committee asked questions of Ms. Donnelly and received responses.

TRANSITION DOCUMENT - NEXT TERM

The Committee briefly discussed the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy as an item for the transition document for the next term of Committee.

Adam McMullin, Manager of Energy Management gave an update and provided context on some of the immediate enabling actions identified regarding the Community Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Plan, such as a communication strategy to promote the plan and other actions relating to it.

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

BIKE THE NIGHT UPDATE

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

CHAIRMAN