



City of Barrie

70 Collier Street
P.O. Box 400
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Minutes - Final Active Transportation and Sustainability Advisory Committee

Tuesday, July 6, 2021

10:00 AM

Virtual Meeting

For consideration by the City Building Committee on September 21, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Councillor, K. Aylwin at 10:04 a.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

- Present:** 6 - Councillor K. Aylwin
Councillor A. Kungl
A. McNair - Nature Barrie
E. Jacoby-Hawkins
K. Patterson-McGrath
W. Steimle
- Absent:** 4 - E. vanWesenbeeck
J. Northcote
M. Kavanagh
S. Diaz - SMDHU

STAFF:

Committee Support Clerk, B. Thompson
Infrastructure Planning Engineer, B. Gratrix
Landscape Architectural Planner, W. Loevenmark
Transit Operations Planner, M. McConnell.

The Active Transportation and Sustainability Advisory Committee met and reports as follows:

SECTION "A"

CROMPTON PARK SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Councillor Kungl extended an invitation to the Committee to do a walk-through of Crompton Park.

BUS STOP POLLINATOR GARDENS

Mike McConnell, Transit Operations Planner provided the Committee with an update regarding the bus stop pollinator gardens. He advised that talks with the shelter suppliers confirmed that the bus stop pollinators on top of the shelters were quite rare and very expensive, which would mean less shelters to provide for riders. Mr. McConnell suggested the possible use of boulevard green space.

Al McNair, Nature Barrie voiced some concerns, such as snow and ice build-up on top of the shelters in the winter. He indicated that he liked the idea of turning green space next to a bus stop into pollinator gardens but raised the concern about the weeds and appearance around the City.

Councillor, A.M. Kungl inquired if there was something that can be done as a pilot that supported the current, older infrastructures that have the flat roof.

Mr. McConnell clarified that the flat roof shelters around the City are slowly being replaced. He advised that it is not the roof, sloped or flat, that is needed, but rather the structure to support the dirt necessary to keep plants on the shelters. He indicated that it was a cost prohibitive problem.

The Committee discussed several ideas, concerns, and items for future meetings.

REVIEW/UPDATE - THE CITY OF GUELPH'S LANDSCAPE PROGRAM

Councillor Kungl mentioned that Karen McKeown, Outside Water Use Program Coordinator for the City of Guelph's Environmental Services, was going to be presenting to the Barrie Urban Gardeners (BUGS) to help create and share ideas to bring forward with her practices and approach in the City of Guelph.

Kelly Patterson-McGrath explained to the Committee that Karen McKeown created the City of Guelph's Landscape Program which works to help people with their gardens, making living spaces greener, and provides advice for free.

PARKS PASSPORT - POLLINATOR GARDEN PROMOTION

Wendy Loevenmark, Landscape Architectural Planner discussed how this item is still in the early stages with the Communities in Bloom Committee and items, such as mapping, and identification of pollinator gardens need to happen before the promotion is launched.

The Committee discussed numerous suggestions on the Passport Program and steps in order to move forward.

REVIEW OF CIP PLANNING ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION WEBINAR

Kelly Patterson-McGrath indicated to the Committee that she had attended an Active Transportation webinar through the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) on May 21, 2021 and wanted to share some of the key points provided by: the moderator, Member of Parliament for Halifax and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, Andy Fillmore, as well as by the panellists Armi De Francia from the Town of Ajax, Dr. Ahmed El-Geneidy from McGill University, and Chris Bruntlett from the Dutch Cycling Embassy. Ms. Patterson-McGrath further provided points on steps that need to be taken next:

- Need short-term action - using Federal money;
- More development of Coulter Street cycling/pedestrian bridge;
- Create safe passage over 400 from NE St. Vincent Street; and
- Recommend - Hire full-time Active Transportation Coordinator to begin education/engagement.

Brett Gratrix, Infrastructure Planning Engineer indicated that a staff report could be ready by June 2022, which would also include any recommendations for additional staff.

Councillor Aylwin indicated that it is important that the Committee be able to view the staff report, acknowledging the timing issues, as soon as a draft is available.

Brett Gratrix mentioned a Public Information Centre (PIC) in the fall would enable the Committee to have a look before the public, followed by a spring PIC which would include the Committee.

The Committee asked questions and discussed other potential funding opportunities.

Councillor Aylwin inquired about the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals; Brett Gratrix informed the Committee that he is a member.

Councillor Kungl inquired if it would be beneficial for the Committee to pay the \$80 fee to register to have membership access to their resources.

The Committee discussed the NRCan Zero Emission Vehicle Awareness Initiative for funding to create an education and awareness program to promote ZEV use, including, but not limited to the promotion of electric bicycles in partnership with a community organization, like Living Green Barrie.

Note: The recommended motion in Section "B" of this report, concerning the Letter of Support - Zero Emissions Vehicle Awareness Initiatives is being brought forward as an item for discussion at the August 9, 2021 General Committee meeting, due to the timing of the next City Building Committee meeting of September 21, 2021 and the deadline of submission is August 16, 2021.

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

SECTION "B"

REVIEW OF CIP PLANNING ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION WEBINAR

That staff in the Development Services Department provide links to webinars from the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals and, if necessary, purchase an annual advocate membership for the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals for the Active Transportation and Sustainability Advisory Committee.

This matter was recommended (Section "B") to City Building Committee for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 9/21/2021.

LETTER OF SUPPORT - ZERO EMISSIONS VEHICLE AWARENESS INITIATIVES

That the City of Barrie provide a letter of support for Living Green Barrie in their funding application to the Natural Resources Canada's Zero Emission Vehicle Awareness Initiative.

This matter was recommended (Section "B") to City Building Committee for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 9/21/2021.

The Active Transportation and Sustainability Advisory Committee met and reports as follows:

SECTION "C"

ANNE STREET BUFFERS

Councillor Aylwin provided an update on the Anne Street buffers and the bike lanes on the new overpass. Councillor Aylwin mentioned that there were challenges in retrofitting the cycling infrastructure due to the narrow lanes, numerous driveways, and deep grade. It was further mentioned that staff are looking into alternative, parallel routes as a better solution in the interim at Sunnidale Road and Edgehill Drive, as well as Leacock Drive and Wellington Street.

Brett Gratrix referred to the signs that are being erected south of Edgehill Drive and north of Donald Street. Mr. Gratrix further provided there would be a minimum of two metres of protected space for cyclists on the bridge. He said that nothing will physically change on the bridge, but it will be built to accommodate buffered bike lanes.

The Committee asked questions and were provided answers.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

CHAIRMAN