



Final
Town and Gown Committee

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

5:00 PM

Sir Robert Barrie Room

TOWN AND GOWN COMMITTEE REPORT
For consideration by the Community Safety Committee on November 8, 2023.

Present: 7 - C. Riepma
D. Abiodun
R. Kumar
J. Morozuk
B. Muscat - Georgian College
D. Truax - Georgian College
J. Weston

STAFF:

Supervisor of Enforcement Services, B. Keene
Zoning Officer, M. Gallagher
Deputy City Clerk, T. McArthur
Legislative Coordinator, S. Drury.

The Town and Gown Committee met and reports as follows:

PRESENTATION CONCERNING ENACTUS GEORGIAN COLLEGE

Members of Enactus Georgian College provided a presentation concerning Enactus Georgian College and its initiatives.

They discussed slides concerning the following topics:

- A summary of the number of International students attending Georgian College and the different languages spoken;
- An overview of Enactus Canada that brings together post-secondary students from across the Country;
- The awards received by Enactus Georgian College;

- An overview of Enactus Georgian College as a student-led club;
- Its mission, vision and value statements;
- The groups' initiatives:
 - *Say My Name* initiative;
 - *Money Matters* initiative;
 - *Give and Get* initiative; and
 - *Empower Her* project.

Members of Committee asked a number of questions of the group and received responses.

GEORGIAN COLLEGE UPDATES

Dave Truax, Executive Director of Campus Safety Services from Georgian College, provided the following Georgian College updates:

- A new parking system on the Barrie campus was implemented in early September;
- An increase in the number of false fire alarms during the commencement of the fall semester was a result of some of the international students thinking that the fire alarm pull resembles a button to open doors. This issue was fixed by adding glass covers to the fire alarm pulls and distributing an information package;
- The Barrie Police have assigned Georgian College a liaison officer with whom they meet on a monthly basis to discuss incidents in the City that may be of concern; and
- Campus Safety Services have been performing emergency response drills such as College lock-downs and Weather Canada alerts.

Brian Muscat, Dean of Students from Georgian College, provided the following Georgian College updates:

- Continuing efforts to address the affordable housing crisis for students resulted in two Housing Coordinators and seven student Housing Champions being hired to welcome students, help them find affordable housing, educate them on their rights and responsibilities as tenants, help them integrate into neighbourhoods, and assist with any housing issues they may have;
- A connecting neighbourhoods event was recently held on the Barrie campus in partnership with the Ward 1 Residents Association;
- A consulting firm was hired to develop a housing strategy for the College in collaboration with the City of Barrie;
- At last year's graduation, Georgian College hit a milestone with its 100,000th graduate;
- The U-Pass contract with Barrie Transit will be up for renewal this year; Georgian College Students Association (GCSA) and the U-Pass Advisory Committee are working on negotiating a new contract; and
- The College continues to work with SpacesShared to connect students with seniors who have rooms to rent.

Members of Committee asked a number of questions of Mr. Truax and Mr. Muscat and received responses.

WORK PLAN

The Committee discussed the items that they would like to work on in alignment with the Committee's mandate and objectives. The Committee agreed with the following work plan items:

- Student Housing;
- Enhancing communication between the College, the City, and the community;
- Anti-racism; and
- Food security.

The Committee discussed food security for students. Mr. Muscat reported that the College operates several services and initiatives that included:

- A food locker program in which students can apply anonymously and receive free food;
- Spaces on campus, such as the Georgian College Student Assistance Office, where students can come and pick food off the shelf;
- Specific fundraising events in the College which are dedicated to food;
- College events are set up to receive non-perishable food items and attendees are invited beforehand to bring food; and
- A number of meals from the Barrie campus onsite restaurants are under \$10.

Mr. Muscat reported that usage of these services has significantly increased, and he explained that Georgian College has an agreement with the Barrie Food Bank which allows the College to purchase food from the Food Bank at a reduced cost.

Mr. Muscat further reported that information on the high cost of living in Canada is sent to all international students before they arrive, but as most international students operate through agents, that message is not always heard.

Councillor Riepma reported that the University of Guelph has had great results from the creation of a series of informational videos for international students that feature international students speaking in their native languages.

Mr. Muscat commented that before students arrive, the College's International Centre hosts a weekly live chat for students to speak with their staff who have the ability to speak multiple languages.

CITY UPDATES

Bryan Keene, Supervisor of Enforcement Services, reported that a survey has been distributed to comparable municipalities to compile information on how the issue of front yard parking is being addressed. He agreed to report back to the Committee once the results are available.

The Committee discussed the enhancement of proactive enforcement concerning yard maintenance and property standards. Mr. Keene explained that yard maintenance and property standards are enforced on a proactive rather than a reactive basis.

Michael Gallagher, Zoning Officer, reported that over 300 zoning complaints have been received with half of the complaints being in the East end of the City, and 65% have been interior related. Mr. Gallagher commented that zoning complaints are dealt with on a reactive basis.

Members of Committee asked a number of questions of Mr. Keene and Mr. Gallagher and received responses.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN