



# City of Barrie

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

## Minutes - Final Town and Gown Committee

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Wednesday, November 27, 2019

10:00 AM

Sir Robert Barrie Room

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### For consideration by the Finance and Corporate Services Committee on January 21, 2020.

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

- Present:** 5 - Councillor C. Riepma  
R. Cardwell - East End Household Association  
J. Chevrier  
R. Meier - East End Household Association  
B. Muscat - Georgian College
- Absent:** 3 - R. Calvano - Georgian College  
J. Morozuk  
T. Zubyck - Georgian College

#### **ALSO PRESENT:**

A. O'connor, Georgian College  
S. Morrison, Georgian College  
K. McLean, Barrie Police Services  
T. Zivik, Georgian College  
K. Shirakura, Georgian College.

#### **STAFF:**

Supervisor of Administrative Support Services, L. Weiland  
Supervisor of Traffic and Community Safety, J. Sharp  
Zoning Enforcement Officer, M. Gallagher.

The Town and Gown Committee met and reports as follows:

#### **STUDENT ORIENTATION AT GEORGIAN COLLEGE - JANUARY 2020**

B. Muscat advised that the Winter Semester student orientation has been scheduled for January 6, 2020. Councillor Riepma noted that he is planning to attend the student orientation.

R. Cardwell explained that he sought out volunteers within BEEHA that would be willing to connect with students. He advised that six residents have volunteered and will be attending the orientation in January. R. Meier noted that BEEHA is planning on reviving east end Socials that have proven successful in the past with integrating students and residents.

M. Gallagher advised that the City of Barrie has launched a "Discover Barrie" App that has lots of useful information that would benefit students including a list of approved second suites that may help students find housing. He noted that the App does not yet include a listing of approved Boarding, Lodging and Rooming Houses (BLR).

#### **UPDATE REGARDING STUDENT HOUSING - PRESENTATION BY K. SHIRAKURA, INTERNATIONAL HOUSING COORDINATOR**

K. Shirakura, International Housing Coordinator, Georgian College provided a presentation regarding "The Impact of International Students in the Barrie Community".

Mr. Shirakura discussed slides concerning the following topics:

- Georgian College has 3,600 international students enrolled, representing 85 countries and over 110 different languages;
- The support for international students includes orientation, student engagement and various workshops;
- The events and activities are hosted by the College to celebrate and recognize culturally significant days;
- The international students have an economical and cultural impact on the City; and
- The issues facing international students includes unawareness of tenant's rights and responsibilities, landlords not taking responsibility to educate the students, and not being well educated on community respect.

The Committee discussed other challenges for international students that included racial discrimination, profit driven landlords, unclear/complicated lease agreements, and rentals with insufficient parking for tenants. Councillor Riepma noted that the City has received 2,800 complaints in the College neighbourhood, and he indicated that most are related to parking issues. D. Luce noted that some businesses in the Bell Farm

Road/Duckworth Street area are having to hire private security to prevent students from parking in their lots.

The Committee discussed several solutions to help assist international students with navigating challenges. R. Meier suggested that flyers be included with the water bills in the hopes of making the students and landlords more aware of the issues. J. Chevrier suggested including information with the City's Waste Reduction Calendars. D. Luce suggested including information in the Freshman packages. Councillor Riepma suggested reminding students of some of the regulations (i.e. parking, garbage/recycling collection, etc.) after their second or third week and when they are less likely to be overwhelmed with information.

Councillor Riepma noted that many of the issues could be resolved with more on-campus housing. B. Muscat advised that student growth is flat for the time being, that there may be a different mix of domestic and international students and he noted that no significant growth is anticipated. Mr. Muscat commented that it is not likely that there will be any new on-campus housing in the near future.

Councillor Riepma provided a suggestion that the College offer reduced parking fees for some of the more remote lots that currently do not get used to capacity. B. Muscat advised that the lots are close to capacity in all lots, however the College is looking into connecting the parking lots at the ball diamonds to the campus for easier access. R. Meier suggested looking into a bike/scooter share program through Barrie Transit. B. Muscat advised that they are currently looking at a bus hub on campus, and that implementation of the U-Pass has helped with increased ridership.

S. Morrison suggested engaging students in clean-up days in the Spring to get them out and participating in community activities. She also suggested marketing about what is great in the east-end and highlighting on places/activities that are within walking distance.

K. McLean advised that the Barrie Police Service will be rolling out a Deputy Patrol Model and that it will be included in the College area on December 3, 2019. K. McLean noted that it is an important resource for neighbourhoods in getting to know the residents, and will help foster positive relationships between students and Barrie Police.

#### **HOMESHARE FOR STUDENTS AND SENIORS PILOT PROGRAM**

The Committee discussed the Homeshare for Students and Seniors Pilot Program that included similar programs being piloted through the University of Toronto, University of Western Ontario in London, and Queen's University in Kingston. The Committee noted that many seniors in College/University cities have a variety of reasons to share their homes with students.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING A NON-SMOKING POLICY AND THE IMPACT ON NEIGHBOURS**

Councillor Riepma noted that the residents on Cook Street neighbouring the College property are still having issues with smokers congregating beside or in front of their homes. The Committee discussed the College's implementation of a total smoking ban on College property and that it has resulted in students congregating to the closest exit off campus to smoke such as Cook Street. The Committee acknowledged the College's efforts in trying several initiatives that included encouraging students to go out to Georgian Drive, educating them to be respectful of the neighbouring properties, and offering to have maintenance staff periodically attend the locations to clean-up debris. The Committee noted that unfortunately these initiatives have not alleviated the smokers congregating around the resident's homes on Cook Street.

M. Gallagher suggested following up with the Enforcement Services Branch to inquire about options for enforcement of littering or loitering.

The Committee agreed that the item be reviewed again at the next meeting.

**GENERAL UPDATES**

J. Sharp advised that parking restrictions are now in effect on Rodney Street, and speed boards will be installed on Steel Street near St. Monica's Catholic School.

M. Gallagher advised that the second suite by-law update is being considered at the December 10, 2019 General Committee meeting. He noted that the housekeeping amendments to the Boarding, Lodging and Rooming House (BLR) By-law is anticipated to be considered by Council in early 2020.

**MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2020**

The Committee agreed to continue the meeting schedule for 2020 on the fourth Wednesday of every month.

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

CHAIRMAN