



## **Minutes**

### **Community Services Committee**

**April 17, 2024, 5:30 p.m.**

**City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers**

#### **MEMBERS**

##### **PRESENT:**

Chair Marion Koepke  
Vice Chair Jon Farmer  
Member Aly Bousfield-Bastedo  
Councillor Travis Dodd (via video)  
Member Morgan Kemick  
Member Lloyd Lewis (via video)  
Councillor Melanie Middlebro'  
Member Lance Thurston  
Member Janet Walker

##### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Tim Simmonds, City Manager  
Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services  
Aidan Ware, Director and Chief Curator - Art Gallery, Culture, Tourism  
Paul McGrath, Manager of Community & Business Development  
Eckhard Pastrok, Manager of Parks and Open Space  
Jacklyn Iezzi, Senior Planner  
Carly McArthur, Communications Advisor  
Andy O'Leary, Facilities Booking Coordinator  
Jennifer Wright, Events and Activation Coordinator  
Nicole Olmsted, Community Services Administrative Assistant

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#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Koepke called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Councillor Dodd joined the meeting via Microsoft Teams.

#### **2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

2.a Member Lewis Re: Commemorative Tree for Sharif Rahman

2.b Chair Koepke Re: Parking for Commercial Garden Centres

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

4.a Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on March 20, 2024

CS-230417-001

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

**"THAT the Community Services Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on March 20, 2024."**

Carried.

**5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

There were no deputations or presentations.

**6. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no questions from the public.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED**

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

**8. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF**

8.a Tourism, Culture and Events

8.a.1 Verbal Report from the Events and Activation Coordinator Re: Special Events Activation Team (S.E.A.T)

The Events and Activation Coordinator, the Facilities Booking Coordinator, and the Communications Advisor provided a verbal report and presentation highlighting the collaboration of City divisions along with external organizations involved in facilitating special events in the City.

CS-230417-002

Moved by Member Thurston

**"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided on April 17, 2024 from the Events and Activation Coordinator respecting the Special Events and Activation Team, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council receive the Verbal Report for information purposes."**

Carried.

8.a.2 Report AG-24-005 from the Director and Chief Curator – Art Gallery, Culture, Tourism Re: Tourism Services Update

The Director and Chief Curator - Art Gallery, Culture, Tourism provided a summary of the report respecting a pilot to locate Tourism Services at the TOM in 2024.

Committee noted their appreciation of the effort and work of staff for implementing the pilot and the new expanded hours of operation for the TOM.

In response to a question from Committee, the Director and Chief Curator - Art Gallery, Culture, Tourism noted that there will be updated signage to ensure clear communications regarding the new location of Tourism.

CS-230417-003

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

**"THAT in consideration of Staff Report AG-24-005 respecting Tourism Services Update, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information purposes."**

Carried.

8.a.3 Report CS-24-028 from the Director of Community Services Re: Agreement with the Marine and Rail Waterfront Museum - 2024

The Director of Community Services provided an overview of the report outlining the agreement and the request to expand their use of the building in 2024.

In response to a question from Committee, the Director of Community Services noted that the revenue from the sixteen Harbour Nights series of concerts includes a presenting sponsor, weekly sponsorships, and donations. Without one of these sources, the event budget could be overspent.

In response to a question from Committee, the Director of Community Services noted that the free bike rentals will be located with Tourism at the TOM for the duration of the pilot.

CS-230417-004

Moved by Member Kemick

**"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-24-028 respecting an Agreement with the Marine and Rail Waterfront Heritage Centre for a proposed 2024 Pilot Project, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a by-law**

**to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a one-year agreement as outlined in the report."**

Carried.

8.b Community and Business Development

8.b.1 Report CM-24-022 from the Manager of Community & Business Development Re: Support for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Economic Transformation

The Manager of Community & Business Development provided an overview of the report.

CS-230417-005

Moved by Vice Chair Farmer

**"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CM-24-022 respecting support for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Economic Transformation, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council:**

- 1. Support the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative on Transforming the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin into a Thriving Blue-Green Economic Corridor While Safeguarding Our Freshwater Resources; and**
- 2. Direct the Mayor to send a letter of support to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and a copy to those listed in the Communication Strategy of the report."**

Carried.

8.c Parks and Open Space

8.c.1 Report CS-24-032 from the Director of Community Services Re: Harrison Park Master Plan - Input on Draft Recommendations

The Director of Community Services provided an overview of the report and the draft Harrison Park Master Plan.

The public feedback, together with the background and best practices, expert advice regarding the waterfowl and avian area, and the operating and capital considerations have been used by a multidisciplinary staff team to inform the draft master plan and recommendations.

The Plan is organized into the following sections:

1. Visions
2. Park History
3. Background

4. Legislative and Policy Framework
5. Current Conditions and Park Use
6. 2002 Master Plan Initiatives and Other Projects Completed
7. Public and Stakeholder Engagement
8. Park Planning Considerations
9. Themes and Recommendations

The Master Plan addresses five overall considerations relating to the development of the actions including:

- a. Conflicting and Competing Use/Overuse
- b. Natural Amenities and Slopes
- c. Accessibility and Inclusion
- d. Cultural Heritage Landscape
- e. Asset Renewal and Rationalization

Because of the size and complexity of the Park, the Plan is organized in nine functional areas. For each area, there are a series of operational/maintenance recommendations as well as capital. The recommendations have been classified into ten themes.

1. Accessibility
2. Environmental Stewardship
3. Parks Management Best Practice
4. Operational Efficiency
5. Safety
6. Infrastructure Investment
7. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
8. Cultural Heritage
9. Communication
10. Implement a Previously Approved Action

The recommendation regarding the avian and waterfowl area has been informed by the advice and recommendation of Christopher Sharp, Population Management Biologist with Environment and Climate Change Canada.

The recommendations provided by Christopher Sharp were:

1. Poultry Focus – This option needs to ensure that there is no intermingling with poultry or wild birds and is likely not compatible with the captive swans as they have different needs than the poultry.
2. Swan Focus – Only maintaining the current captive swans on site, do not intermingle poultry or wild birds in order to reduce the risk of spreading a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) virus.

3. Wildlife and Native Species Focus – Naturalize the site to be used by native species and to not re-introduce any poultry or swans; this will eliminate any chance of HPAI that would require depopulation and will allow an accessible park to interact with nature.

Option three is the top recommendation from Christopher Sharp. Additionally, he recommends keeping the current swans, but he discourages any option of reproduction.

Committee was asked to provide input on the draft recommendations. Staff will bring a report back in May with this input with the final draft Master Plan.

In response to a question from Committee, the Director of Community Services noted that if the Master Plan is approved with option three, outlining wildlife native species with or without the swans, then staff would bring forward a plan providing details on how to naturalize the space which may include collaborating with volunteer groups like NeighbourWoods North and Pollinate Owen Sound to naturalize the space.

In response to a question from Committee, the Director of Community Services noted that by rationalizing the pedestrian crossings, there will be a clearer crossing area for pedestrians and drivers to help make it safer.

In response to a question from Committee, the Director of Community Services noted that with the large number of waterfowl that were in the avian area, the water quality was no longer safe for people to wade in the water. Additionally, water testing could be done to ensure the water quality is safe for water to flow through the channel for wading in the water or having the fountain water feature running again.

In response to a question from Committee, the Director of Community Services noted that staff are looking to improve the signage on trails to strengthen the connection to Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) trails and the Bruce Trail.

CS-230417-006

Moved by Member Walker

**"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-24-032 respecting the Harrison Park Master Plan – Draft Recommendations, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a report on the draft final plan and incorporate the feedback from Committee regarding the draft recommendations."**

Carried.

8.d Facility Bookings and Community Programs

8.d.1 Report CS-24-035 from the Facilities Booking Coordinator Re: Owen Sound Jr. B Northstars 2024 Banner Application

The Manager of Parks and Open Space provided an overview of the report respecting a memorial banner for Tyson Downs.

CS-230417-007

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

**"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-24-035 respecting Owen Sound Jr. B Northstars 2024 Banner Application, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council approve the application from the Owen Sound Jr. B Northstars to place a banner in the arena bowl at the Bayshore Community Centre in memory of Tyson Downs, as outlined in the report."**

Carried.

8.e Planning and Heritage

8.e.1 Report CS-24-034 from the Junior Planner Re: Heritage Conservation Maintenance Agreement Update - 883 2nd Ave E (former Coates and Best)

The Senior Planner provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, the Senior Planner noted that the intent of the by-law is for a Heritage Conservation and Maintenance Agreement (HCMA) to be updated every five years. In order to qualify for the Heritage Property Tax Relief Program, a property must be designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* and needs to have either an HCMA or a heritage easement.

CS-230417-008

Moved by Vice Chair Farmer

**"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-24-034 respecting an updated Heritage Conservation and Maintenance Agreement with the Owner of 883 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue East, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the amended Heritage Conservation and Maintenance Agreement as outlined in the report."**

Carried.

8.e.2 Verbal Report from the Senior Planner Re: Status of Development Projects

The Senior Planner provided a verbal report and presentation respecting the status of development projects in the City and highlighted that since 2019, the City has approved three draft plans of subdivision totalling 1,410 units and an additional 1,420 market rental units and several commercial developments.

Councillor Dodd left the meeting.

In response to a question from Committee, the Director of Community Services noted that staff look to ensure the balance of policies and help with minimizing the impact of off-street parking areas. Additionally, the Senior Planner added that the City's Official Plan has urban design polices, including the location, minimums, and maximums for off-street parking.

CS-230417-009

Moved by Vice Chair Farmer

**"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided on April 17, 2024 from the Senior Planner respecting the Status of Development Projects, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council receive the Verbal Report for information purposes."**

Carried.

8.f Building

None.

8.g Arena Operations

None.

**9. MATTERS POSTPONED**

There were no matters postponed.

**10. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN**

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

**11. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION**

11.a Memorandum from the Chief Building Official Re: March 2024 Update

The Director of Community Services provided an overview respecting the Development Update for March 2024.



**"THAT in consideration of correspondence provided for information purposes listed on the April 17, 2024 Community Services Committee agenda, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council receive Item 11.a for information purposes."**

Carried.

**12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

**12.a Commemorative Tree for Sharif Rahman**

Member Lewis inquired about the opportunity to plant a commemorative tree in memory of Sharif Rahman. Member Lewis suggested a location at the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre. The Director of Community Services recommended that the next step would be to bring forward a staff report on the request.

**12.b Parking for Commercial Garden Centres**

Chair Koepke asked staff about the use of parking spots for commercial garden centres throughout the City and what the requirements are for these businesses. The Director of Community Services noted that depending on the size of the polyhouse and garden centre area, a permit may be required. Staff can review this when updating the City's Zoning By-law.

**13. NOTICES OF MOTION**

There were no notices of motion.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Chair Koepke adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.