



Minutes

Community Services Committee

March 17, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

**MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Councillor Marion Koepke

Member Nicole Amos-Uotila

Member Waleed Aslam

Member Mark Barbosa

Mayor Ian Boddy

Councillor Travis Dodd (via video)

Deputy Mayor Brian O'Leary

Councillor Richard Thomas

STAFF PRESENT:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services

Dennis Kefalas, Director of Public Works and Engineering

Kristan Shrider, Senior Manager of Property and Parks and Open Space

Amy Cann, Manager of Planning and Heritage

Brent Fisher, Manager of Community Development and Marketing

Michelle Palmer, Manager of Purchasing, Risk and Asset Management

Adam Parsons, Manager of Parks and Open Space

Carly McArthur, Communications & Strategic Initiatives Advisor

Staci Landry, Community Services Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Koepke called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Chair Koepke introduced the new Committee member, Mark Barbosa, and held introductions.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

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 February 17, 2021.

CS-210317-001

Moved by Councillor Thomas

"THAT the Community Services Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on February 17, 2021."

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 5.a Deputation from Jake Bates & Jim Pearson, Stobbe Park Community Garden Collective Re: Stobbe Park Potential Community Garden

Jake Bates of the Stobbe Park Community Garden Collective thanked the Committee and City staff for their hard work over the past few months. Mr. Bates noted that the responses to Question 5 of the survey provide the best information to help Committee make an informed decision. It is important to note that the majority of survey responses are positive and less than 30% responded that community gardens should not be allowed in Stobbe Park.

Councillor Dodd joined the meeting at this time.

Mr. Bates noted that if Committee and Council approve the community garden, the next step is to sign a license agreement between the Collective and the City. Mr. Bates proposed that the license agreement have a start date of May 2022 to give them 14 months to work to address the concerns outlined in the survey responses and comments. These include the compost design, design and placement of the garden boxes, explaining how gardeners can join the Collective, a process for how complaints will be addressed, and water. Mr. Bates indicated that he would also like to delay the start date to allow time for fundraising for the garden. It has always been the intent of the Collective that the community garden was to be open and transparent and that it would not cost the City nor the gardeners anything.

As a final remark, Mr. Bates reminded Committee that seven (7) out of ten (10) people who took the time to complete the survey also share the Collective's vision of a community garden at Stobbe Park.

Deputy Mayor O'Leary noted that the staff report mentions the Collective's partnership with Hillcrest School and wondered if the community gardens could be located there. Mr. Bates advised that the Collective has not yet established a partnership with Hillcrest due to COVID-19.

5.b Presentation from the Director of Community Services Re: Committee Mandate

The Director of Community Services provided a presentation respecting the mandate of the Community Services Committee. Ms. Coulter advised that City Council has requested that the Culture aspect be removed from the mandate of this Committee and added to the mandate of the Community Development, Tourism and Culture Advisory Committee.

Deputy Mayor O'Leary left the Council Chambers at this time.

CS-210317-002

Moved by Member Amos-Uotila

"THAT in consideration of the Presentation provided March 17, 2021 from the Director of Community Services respecting the mandate of the Community Services Committee, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council approve the Mission and Mandate of the Community Services Committee as presented."

Carried.

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 General

8.a.1 Report CM-21-006 from the City Manager Re: Strategic Plan Refresh: Draft Priorities and Key Results

Deputy Mayor O'Leary returned to his chair.

The City Manager provided a presentation and overview of the report respecting the draft priorities and key results of the Strategic Plan Refresh. There are six key themes or Council priorities in the Strategic Plan Refresh, each with their own key results:

- **Safe City:** We are committed to supporting inclusivity, diversity, and accessibility in our community. We recognize the importance of a safe and secure community.
- **Prosperous City:** Working toward a positive business environment and support initiatives that increase our competitive economic advantages.
- **Green City:** We work to enhance the City's resiliency and capacity for mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change. We support and promote healthy lifestyles.
- **A City that Moves:** We facilitate sustainable transportation options and create community connectivity.
- **City Building:** Planning community amenities that create great places and spaces for community living. Cultivating a vibrant and diverse arts, culture, and heritage environment throughout the City.
- **Collaborative City:** We understand the importance of maintaining and improving key relationships.

There are also two themes for corporate priorities that build the foundation for staff succeeding in developing and achieving the six Council priorities:

- **Clear Direction:** We cultivate an environment to support a common understanding of where the organization is going in the future.
- **Service Excellence:** We are committed to being a modern and efficient municipal government that makes citizens' lives better every day.

The four key results that will be led by the Community Services Committee are:

- **Green City KR 1:** Increase tree canopy by 2%.
- **Prosperous City KR 2:** Increase in active employment gross floor area by 25,000 square feet each fiscal year.
- **Prosperous City KR 3:** 100% of building permits issued within time prescribed.
- **Prosperous City KR 4:** Expend 90% of the community improvement program grant funding allocation to the façade, business start-up, landscape, and accessibility programs each fiscal year.

Staff will also develop a seventh Council priority of 'A City that Grows' and there will likely be three or four key results that will be achievable during this term of Council.

The final Strategic Plan Refresh will be presented to Council in April. The "lead" Committee will receive quarterly updates on the key results and Council will receive a six-month report highlighting the progress across all Council priorities and key results. A public facing dashboard will be designed and launched in the fourth quarter of 2021.

CS-210317-003

Moved by Mayor Boddy

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CM-21-006 respecting Strategic Plan Refresh: Draft Priorities and Key Results, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information purposes."

Carried.

8.b Parks and Open Space

8.b.1 Report CS-21-026 from the Manager of Parks & Open Space Re: Proposed Stobbe Park Community Garden Public Input and Next Steps

The Manager of Parks & Open Space and Manager of Planning & Heritage provided a presentation and overview of the report respecting the policy framework, public input, and potential next steps for the proposed community garden at Stobbe Park.

Chair Koepke asked for clarification regarding the compost. Mr. Parsons advised that this would be determined through the license agreement, but the compost would be located within a screened enclosure in a container. Chair Koepke also inquired about the license agreement. Mr. Parsons noted that the Community Gardens Policy outlines what would be included in a license agreement - it establishes the responsibilities for both the City and applicant, commits the applicant to insurance, and can include any other details that Committee determines is important. The Community Gardens Policy establishes that the community garden is run by an executive committee and the license agreement is signed by a principal person representing the executive committee.

Deputy Mayor O'Leary indicated that he sees children playing in Stobbe Park and questions if there is enough space in this park for a community garden. He supports the concept of community

gardens and Mr. Bates' proposal; however, this may not be the right location to establish a community garden when children play in this park.

Councillor Thomas suggested that this process be paused so that staff can review and update the Community Gardens Policy so that it works for the whole community.

Mayor Boddy would support a trial of the community gardens for one year and then provide an evaluation to Committee. If the results are not positive, then we can remove the community gardens from the park. He would also like the neighbours to receive more information on community gardens so that some of their fears and concerns can be alleviated.

Councillor Dodd agreed with Councillor Thomas that staff review the Community Gardens Policy. There are areas in the community that have changed over the past 11 years. We do not need to change the policy completely but rather get updated park usage data on the parks that might be affected by a community garden. Councillor Dodd believes that more requests will come forward to Committee to establish community gardens in other parks so it would be a good idea to figure out these details and identify them in the policy. Councillor Dodd inquired about the process if a second group comes forward that is interested in running the community gardens in that space. The Manager of Parks & Open Space advised that if this were to happen, the policy has a clause that states the existing licensee has the right of first refusal for agreement renewals; however, within the agreement, the City does still have control of the park and if the gardens were not run in a way that is satisfactory to the City, then the City can terminate the agreement.

Councillor Thomas noted that the current Community Gardens Policy names Stobbe Park as the site of a community garden, so we need to find a better way to deal with this situation as opposed to just denying the proposal. The Director of Community Services wondered if Committee would appreciate an opportunity to review a draft license agreement so they can see how that structure will implement the actions toward mitigating neighbourhood concerns. Mr. Bates did indicate that he has pushed the timeline of his request to the 2022 gardening season, so it gives staff time to review a draft license agreement.

CS-210317-004

Moved by Councillor Thomas

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-21-026 respecting the Proposed Stobbe Park Community Garden Public Input and Next Steps, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council:

- 1. Postpone the report; and**
- 2. Direct staff to bring forward a draft agreement to the Community Services Committee at a future meeting."**

Carried.

Mr. Kefalas left the meeting at this time.

8.c Community Development and Marketing

8.c.1 Report CS-21-019 from the Events Assistant Re: Owen Sound Celebrates Wrap-Up

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

CS-210317-005

Moved by Deputy Mayor O'Leary

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-21-019 respecting Owen Sound Celebrates, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information purposes."

Carried.

8.d Building

None.

8.e Planning and Heritage

None.

8.f Property and Building Management

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: Building Division Update
- February 2021

CS-210317-006

Moved by Mayor Boddy

"THAT in consideration of correspondence provided for information purposes listed on the March 17, 2021 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

There was no additional business.

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 7:25 p.m.