ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019
City Hall, Charlie Ward Room

Ken Burns in the Chair

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Jonathan Jorna, Mark Steinacher, Ken Burns, Karleigh Csordas
Councillor Antoski

Regrets: Sujata Singh, David Takacs, Nicole DiFilipo

Also Present: M. Figueiredo, D. Hodgins

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None

3. PRESENTATIONS / DELEGATIONS (list, if any, available at meeting)

None

4. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

4.1 Reducing Litter and Waste in Our Communities: Discussion Paper from the Ministry of the Environment

The Committee expressed that the discussion paper covered a lot of good information, however were more supportive of the AMO report regarding the discussion paper that was going to be included as an appendix to the staff report. D. Hodgins, a staff member from Environmental Services, was present to answer the Committee questions regarding the report and supporting documents and provided clarifying information. This included information regarding the proposed new blue box/recycling program.

Moved by Jonathan Jorna
Seconded by Councillor Antoski

WHEREAS one of Brantford’s strategic objectives is Environmental Leadership; and

WHEREAS being a leader means supporting leading and transformative positions; and
WHEREAS the AMO response paper on waste takes a strong leadership position on waste reduction and waste diversion; and

WHEREAS the AMO paper, included as Appendix A of Report No.2019-278, connects the importance of increasing waste diversion targets and providing the development of a fully-funded EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) program for the Provincial Blue Box plan;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

A. THAT the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee recommends that Recommendation B of Report No. 2019-278 BE AMENDED to remove the words “and most importantly increase the financing to operate these programs, in particular the provincial Blue Box Program Plan”; and

B. THAT Recommendation D of the report BE AMENDED by repealing the current wording and replacing it with the following:

“THAT the City of Brantford VERY STRONGLY SUPPORTS the AMO response to the Discussion Paper for Reducing Litter and Waste in Our Communities, as outlined in Appendix “A”, to increase waste diversion within the Province and mostly importantly increase the financing to operate these programs, in particular the provincial Blue Box Program Plan, and these comments supporting a local and broader municipal perspective from across the province, also BE SUBMITTED in response to the request for input into the Discussion Paper for Reducing Litter and Waste in Our Communities as posted on the Environmental Registry (posting # 013-4689); and”

CARRIED

4.2 EPAC Mandate Review and Revision

The Committee discussed revising its mandate as outlined in Chapter 26, Schedule 11. Committee members were interested in seeking external funding for various projects and initiatives including hiring public speakers and hosting community events. Members noted that the mandate did not specifically include public education or fundraising, and would like to see these components added. Committee members also suggested that the name of the Committee should be revised to reflect a focus on sustainability in addition to general environmental issues.

The Committee requested that the Clerks department provide feedback on suggested changes.
4.3 Climate Change Reality Canada

Chair Ken Burns shared videos with the group regarding climate change and activism, as well as documents relating to the Climate Change Reality Canada Initiative.

Committee members suggested that, in the future, it would like to host a public education event regarding this initiative. This event would be pending a mandate revision approval from City Council, as the Committee would need to raise money to rent an event space and hire a speaker.

The Committee would like this item to be added to a future meeting agenda.

4.4 Corporate Energy Management Plan (CEMP)

Chair Ken Burns requested that Committee members prepare some discussion points for the next Committee Meeting, in which staff and the consultants would return to receive further feedback from the Committee regarding the CEMP. These discussion points should specifically include an aspirational reduction target and a short-term reduction target.

5. CONSENT ITEMS

5.1 Minutes

5.1.1 Environmental Policy Advisory Committee - Minutes - March 28, 2019

Moved by Mark Steinacher
Seconded by Jonathan Jorna

THAT the minutes of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee Meeting held on March 28, 2019 BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5.1.2 Environmental Policy Advisory Committee - Private and Confidential Minutes - March 28, 2019

Moved by Mark Steinacher
Seconded by Karleigh Csordas

THAT the private and confidential minutes of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee Meeting held on March 28, 2019 BE APPROVED.

CARRIED
5.2 Updates

5.2.1 GreenER Awards

Vice-Chair Jonathan Jorna provided the Committee with updates regarding the Awards. Bios for the recipients had been prepared, and recipients had been contacted. Vice-Chair Jonathan Jorna suggested that, for the next awards cycle, planning begin 5-6 months in advance, and a summary report of the nominees should be prepared to better help Committee members select recipients.

5.2.2 Website Review

Chair Ken Burns reminded Committee members to continue working on the reviews of the EPAC-related webpages.

5.2.2 Green Team – Canada Day Waste Diversion Subcommittee

Karleigh Csordas provided the Committee with updates regarding the Canada Day Waste Diversion Initiative. Stone Straw will be the sponsor for the Busch System bins.

Moved by Jonathan Jorna
Seconded by Mark Steinacher

THAT Karleigh Csordas BE RECOMMENDED for appointment as Vice-Chair of the Canada Day Waste Diversion Subcommittee.

CARRIED

6. RESOLUTIONS

None

7. NOTICES OF MOTION

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.