Ken Burns in the Chair

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Jonathan Jorna, Ken Burns, Sujata Singh, Councillor Antoski, Nicole DiFilipo, David Takacs

Regrets: Mark Steinacher, Karleigh Csordas

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None

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

None

4. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

4.1 Corporate Energy Management Plan

Patrick Belina, Facilities Management Coordinator provided an overview of the proposed 2019-2024 Corporate Energy Management Plan. P. Belina communicated that they were seeking comments from the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee.

The Environmental Policy Advisory Committee provided the following comments:

- EPAC recommends that Brantford establish science based, long term carbon reduction targets in addition to the specific five year targets. Specifically, EPAC recommends that Brantford commit to reducing GHG 40% from 1990 levels by 2030 and 80% from 1990 levels by 2050. We discussed that we may not have data for 1990 in order to measure this appropriately. If that is the case, we would propose that estimate 1990 levels by comparing the provincial GHG emissions in 2012 to Brantford’s emissions in 2012, and use that ratio to estimate Brantford’s 1990 emissions based to the data on the provincial GHG emissions in 1990. We need to have guide by which we can measure that what we are doing will get us to where we need to be.
- EPAC recommends that Brantford require that every presentation to Council, from staff reports to citizen delegations, address how that proposal, development, or initiative supports Brantford’s GHG reduction efforts and/or achieving the GHG reduction targets. The intent of this recommendation is that every Council decision going forward should include a consideration of the impact that decision will have on GHG reduction. The city we plan today is the city we will inhabit in 2050 when we aim to have achieved our GHG reduction goals.

- EPAC proposes that Brantford take a leadership role by encouraging innovative climate action, by fostering a greater risk tolerance for pilot projects on climate action. The urgency of GHG reduction necessitates speeding up the process by which we pilot new ideas to see how they will work, and determining which actions will produce the most effective results. In addition to replicating what works in other municipalities, Brantford should be willing to pilot more new, innovative ideas, recognizing that not all of them will succeed. Be bold as well as prudent.

- EPAC recommends establishing a measurable target for renewable energy generation, in consultation with Brantford Power. The goal would be that, over the next phase of the CEMP, to develop ###MW of renewable energy projects. The action can include working with community partners (business, co-ops, other municipalities, etc) to develop these projects as well. The point is to have a specific capacity target to be shovel ready, or at least well in the works, by 2024.

- EPAC proposes that Brantford avail itself of opportunities to electrify the transit fleet. Specifically, the cost of carbon emissions should be considered when determining operational costs of the current fleet, and Brantford should begin planning to replace the current fleet of combustion vehicles with electric buses. Brantford should also explore the opportunity to consider smart technology to increase the efficiency of the transit system as well as improving the rider experience.

- To the extent possible over the course of the 2019-2024 plan, Brantford build toward increasing opportunities for transparency to the public in the ongoing reporting and monitoring of municipal progress toward GHG reduction targets. We recognize that this cannot require additional staff resources to facilitate, and that there are currently many areas where even data is recorded manually. However, as we work toward timely reporting to decision makers and build the various dashboards, EPAC proposes that we keep in mind how we could simultaneously make such data available to the public in future. The intent of this recommendation is that we build the foundation today which will support the bricks tomorrow, so that we don’t find ourselves tomorrow with a foundation that only supports framing, and a barrier to using the bricks when we otherwise could.

- Along the same lines, to the extent possible for internal reporting, to provide comparative data of other portfolios, departments, business units, so that this information is visible to senior management, and can generate positive, internal motivation to improve performance and achieve goals.

- Along with the current recommendation (#34) that staff be well trained by having access to attend relevant trade shows and conferences, EPAC requests that
when staff attend a trade show or conference, they be required to provide a report summarizing the takeaways and how they apply to Brantford, along with any potential recommendations for action. If this is adopted, EPAC would request that this information also be shared with EPAC.


The committee felt that it would be beneficial to review the updated Corporate Energy Management Plan with the committees incorporated comments. The committee agreed to hold a Special EPAC Meeting on May 23, 2019 to formally pass a motion of support.

Nicole DiFilipo left the meeting.

4.2 EPAC Mandate Review and Revision

Moved by J. Jorna
Seconded by D. Takacs

THAT the following be REFERRED to Staff:

A) THAT the title of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee BE CHANGED to the “Environmental and Sustainability Policy Advisory Committee”; and recommend

B) THAT Article 3 of Schedule 11 – “The Environmental Policy Advisory Committee” of Chapter 26 – Boards – Advisory Committees – Duties – Functions BE REPEALED AND REPLACED with the following:

The mandate of the Environmental and Sustainability Policy Advisory Committee is to:

i. advise Council on environmental and sustainability issues,

ii. assist municipal staff with:

(a) the development of a natural assets inventory; and
(b) any other environmental and/or sustainability related initiatives as directed by Council or requested by staff

iii. conduct research and assist in the completion of research and inquiries as are necessary for the development and maintenance of a comprehensive integrated community
sustainability plan, including but not limited to detailed strategies, goals, actions, action-plans, priorities, and other pertinent matters

iv. administer the City of Brantford Green Environmental Recognition Awards Program (GreenER) (the “Awards”) as approved by Council, with authority to select Award recipients to be recognized at a meeting of Council

v. fundraise for community based programs promote and undertake educational and outreach activities in the community

Moved by J. Jorna
Seconded by D. Takacs

THAT items 4.3, 5.1, and 5.2 BE REFERRED to the next regularly scheduled EPAC meeting.

CARRIED

4.3 GHG Climate Communication at the Pumps – Campaign Discussion

5. CONSENT ITEMS

5.1 Minutes

5.1.1 Environmental Policy Advisory Committee - Minutes – April 25, 2019

5.2 Updates

5.2.1 Green Team – Canada Day Waste Diversion Subcommittee

5.2.2 Website Review

6. RESOLUTIONS

7. NOTICES OF MOTION

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.