

**THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEE ROOM #304
CITY HALL**

JUNE 13, 2019

2:00 p.m. The meeting convened.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Councillor J. Herbert, Chair
P. Hontar
B. McClure, Kettle Creek Conservation Authority
A. Solsona
J. Lawrence, Director, Environmental Services
and City Engineer
H. Schraeder

Officials

W. Graves, City Manager
R. Tucker, Director of Parks, Recreation
and Property Management
P. Anckaert, Manager, Capital Works
J. Hindley, Corporate Customer Service
Assistant

Absent

J. Tucker, Urban Forester
D. Tarry, St. Thomas-Elgin Homebuilders

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None.

MINUTES

Motion by B. McClure - J. Lawrence:

THAT: The minutes of the meeting held on March 14, 2019 be confirmed.

Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Update: Shoreline Planting at Lake Margaret

The Chair thanked all those involved for the two shoreline planting sessions that were undertaken.

Ms. McClure advised that 300 shrubs were planted from the boat launch going west and that there were signs of recent mowing right to the water line.

The City Manager advised that City staff would monitor the mowing situation.

Ms. McClure advised that the shrubs are hearty and require minimal maintenance. She further advised that the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority may do an assessment towards the end of summer.

Ms. McClure suggested that an additional 30 shrubs could be planted in this phase and that phase 2 could start next Spring, east of the boat launch.

The members discussed how quickly the areas have been naturalizing once mowing has ceased.

The members discussed the open house that was held in Pinafore Park and the materials displayed for the residents to see what was being planted, including potential to post resources electronically.

Update: Positioned for Growth – Identifying Development Lands on the West Side of City

The City Manager advised that consultants hired by the City have been working over the last number of months to develop a strategic plan for moving forward with new development lands.

CONFIRMED _____ CHAIRMAN

4th Meeting of the Environmental Stewardship Committee - 2

He further advised that the growth forecast through 2041 is forecasting a deficit of 200 acres of development lands and that City Council should be formally authorizing the area of choice.

The City Manager advised that the consultants would be updating Council at the June 17, 2019 Reference Committee meeting, taking place in Room #304, City Hall at 5:00 p.m.

The City Manager suggested that the Committee may have a role in providing comments to Council related to environmental topics of the new development lands moving forward.

The members discussed the table and valley lands on the west side of the City, the use of environmental buffer zones, and the opportunity to collaboratively discuss with stakeholders at a high level before individual subdivisions are discussed.

Update: Parks By-law

The Director of Parks, Recreation and Property Management provided an overview of changes being drafted to the Parks By-law, including increasing set fines for environmental issues, such as encroachment onto City lands.

The Director of Parks, Recreation and Property Management advised that swimming, fishing and watercraft would only be allowed at designated locations and that it would be Council's decision as to whether fishing and watercraft will be allowed at Lake Margaret.

Mr. Schraeder suggested that bodies of water can be spatially separated, with a specific part designated for fishing and watercraft, while another part is not.

The members discussed the importance of outdoor family activities such as fishing and public education around wildlife conservation.

Promoting the City's Natural Environment

The City Manager advised that Communications and Information Technology staff would work on ways to engage people and advertise the City's natural environment through electronic means.

Lake Margaret – Turtle Pond and Old Parkside Dock Location

The Director of Parks, Recreation and Property Management advised that the turtle ponds are working well hydrologically and that they are checked almost weekly.

The members discussed the erosion scar on the southwest side of the lake where the old Parkside dock was located and the potential for a boat launch and/or viewing platform.

Willows on East Side of Lake Margaret

The Director of Parks, Recreation and Property Management advised that he had received a call from a resident looking for permission to trim willows on City property in order to improve the view, and that he would be declining the request.

CORRESPONDENCE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Parkside Water Taking

The Director of Environmental Services and City Engineer advised that Parkside had disconnected the water taking system.

The Director of Parks, Recreation and Property Management advised that the pumphouse had been removed.

4th Meeting of the Environmental Stewardship Committee - 3

Water Sampling

Ms. McClure advised that water sampling had been conducted in April and May and that nothing out of the ordinary has been noted thus far.

Mr. Schraeder inquired about reviewing oxygen levels at the end of the dark cycle, as there is a lot of aquatic vegetation and there could be concerns about lack of oxygen.

Fish Survey

The City Manager advised that follow up comments had been received from some members and that an update would be brought back at a future meeting.

St. Thomas Field Naturalists

The members agreed to leave St. Thomas Field Naturalists on the agenda as they would like their attendance at a future meeting.

Ms. McClure advised that the group is working on a presentation and will let the Committee know when it is ready.

Lake Margaret Management Area Management Tasks

The City Manager advised that many tasks had been completed and that this would be re-evaluated for the July meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on July 11th, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in Room #304, City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned.