



TO: Community Development Committee

SUBJECT: Burlington Advisory Committee on Waterfront Access and Protection

Report Number: MO-01-10 File Number(s):

Report Date: January 14, 2010 Ward(s) Affected: 1 2 3 4 5 6 x All

Date to Committee: January 18, 2010 Date to Council: February 1, 2010

Recommendation: Approve a new citizen advisory committee called the Burlington Waterfront Access and Protection Advisory Committee effective immediately; and

Approve an initial annual committee budget of \$5,000; and

Approve the committee's Terms of Reference as outlined in Appendix A of Report M-01-10 dated January 14, 2010; and

That the city clerk report back on the Clerks staff workload associated with the committee and how the workload will be accommodated.

Purpose:

- Address goal, action or initiative in strategic plan
- Establish new or revised policy or service standard
- Respond to legislation
- Respond to staff direction
- Address other area of responsibility

Background: Burlington is fast becoming recognized as one of the top cities on the Great Lakes. A place where values and vision drive progressive planning, a place people are proud to call home. As part of Council's Strategic Plan, we speak to engaging citizens more effectively in City Council's decision-making processes (Future Focus Seven 12.2). Indeed, the purpose of a strategic plan is to create a mandate for the future direction of our city.

Discussion:

We are hearing from our citizens that they wish to be consulted more directly and more frequently on planning matters as they relate to our complete waterfront and sub

watershed. Indeed, the Save Our Waterfront group have been calling for just such an approach but on a more permanent and less ad hoc basis. Since Council has concurred that the future of our waterfront is a city-wide issue, let me share with you my thoughts on this issue.

Council and staff can always benefit from advice and greater input from the community. Currently one of our main arenas to engage our citizens is provided through our citizen advisory committees. This has enabled Council to refer a broad range of issues to citizen committees for advice and direction. It is recommended that we as Council approve the establishment of the Burlington Waterfront Access and Protection Advisory Committee.

It is clear that all the waterfront lands and the connecting sub watersheds are of vital interest to all our citizens. This includes all the waterfront lands between Oakville and Hamilton in our city. No one section of our waterfront is any more or less important than another when it comes to preservation and protection.

The mandate for the committee will be to review and discuss all or any matters relevant to the review area in order to create a cohesive vision for our future development of the waterfront and the adjacent waterfront lands.

The best results come from widely consulting on a broad range of issues with a growing list of stakeholders and public agencies; such as, the Halton Conservation Authority, the Royal Botanical Gardens, LaSalle Park Marina Association, Burlington Green, the Burlington Cycling Committee, Save Our Waterfront, Burlington Downtown Business Association, Hamilton Harbour Commission, Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan, Bay Area Restoration Council, Burlington Sustainable Development Committee and many more.

Although it will be difficult to include representation on the committee from all of these groups, it is important that the committee's mandate ensure that they be kept fully informed in advance of the work of the committee to ensure maximum engagement.

Role of the Committee and the Planning Process:

The establishment of the new committee would not and cannot replace council's obligations under the Planning Act. Decisions on waterfront matters would still be dealt with by council through Official Plan amendments, zoning by-laws and other such mechanisms. However, if the new committee is established as recommended, Council would have the committee's input and advice in addition to the information currently provided on waterfront matters. In practice it is expected that this committee would operate in a similar fashion to Heritage Burlington or the Sustainable Development Committee with matters being referred to and reviewed by the new committee prior to council consideration. In addition, it is anticipated that the work of the committee on a waterfront vision may be of assistance in providing a public consultation framework for the next Official Plan review as well as ongoing policy updates.

Civic Engagement and a Vision for the Future of our Waterfront:

In order to prepare a proper work plan we must undertake an initial public consultation on a vision for our future waterfront. Such an exercise will assist the committee on not only the scope of the work but also to begin the process of reaching out to the broader community for ongoing consultation and reporting.

Initial Public Consultation:

As previously promised by me to the Save Our Waterfront Committee a specific Mayor's Town Hall meeting will be scheduled sometime in March in order to begin the work of developing a broader vision for the future of our waterfront as a first step.

I have been in contact with the Honourable David Crombie as perhaps the very best expert in this field to assist us with the agenda for that evening.

Financial Matters:

It is the recommendation that an initial annual budget be struck in the amount of \$5,000. Budget is to be allocated toward committee meeting expenses, print and promotion costs.

Source of Funding

This budget is to be funded from the local boards and committees current budget. This will be an addition to the 2010 proposed current budget.

Other Resource Impacts

It is the recommendation that the administrative support be provided by the Clerks Department and anticipate that 10 to 20% of a committee clerk's workload be focused on this committee.

Additionally, departmental resources and support will be required from the Planning and Parks and Recreation Departments. Council will formally request that Conservation Halton designate a staff liaison in an advisory capacity and request the support of appropriate Halton Region staff as it relates to Burloak Park, Beachway Park and the Cootes to Escarpment Park system on an as needed basis.

Communication Matters:

The announcement of this committee and recruitment for members will be coordinated by the committee clerk with the assistance the city's community relations staff.

Conclusion:

The formation of an advisory committee on Waterfront Access and Protection provides an opportunity for enhanced citizen engagement, and provides further opportunity for

council, staff and the community to work jointly in the creation of a cohesive vision for the future development of our waterfront and the adjacent waterfront lands.

Respectfully submitted,

Cam Jackson,
Mayor

Appendices:

A. Terms of Reference - Burlington Waterfront Access and Protection Advisory Committee
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Notifications:
(after Council decision)

Name	Mailing or E-mail Address
Halton Region	
Conservation Halton	
Other stakeholders as noted	

Approvals:

Mayor's Office

*City Manager

Note:

The content of this report has been reviewed with members of the Clerks and Planning and Building departments. While the establishment of any committee is the prerogative of council, should council wish to proceed, the report and terms of reference reflect the advice and comments of staff.

To be completed by the Clerks Department

Committee
Disposition &
Comments

01-Approved 02-Not Approved 03-Amended 04-Referred 06-Received & Filed 07-Withdrawn

Council
Disposition &
Comments

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