



MINUTES

Environmental Action Committee Meeting

4:30 PM - Wednesday, March 6, 2024

MacBain Community Centre - Boardroom

The Environmental Action Committee of the City of Niagara Falls was called to order on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 4:30 PM, in the MacBain Community Centre - Boardroom, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Councillor Mike Strange, Sheila DeLuca, Paisley January-Pool, John Anstruther, John Brucato, Jennifer Baldinelli, Frank Fohr, Paul Bongers, Debbie Cank-Thatcher, Patricia Mascarin, Carly Milani, Pat Futino, John Morocco, and Tina Overstrom

EXCUSED: Councillor Victor Pietrangelo, Aniko Bzdyl, and Thomas Mingle

STAFF: Jeff Guarasci, Community Development Coordinator

1 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:30PM

2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

a) Committee Minutes from January 10, 2024

Moved by Pat Futino

Seconded by Jennifer Baldinelli

That the minutes of January 10, 2024 are approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously

4 DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

5 BUSINESS ARISING

a) Walker Industries Tour - Update

Confirmed Walker tour for this spring. Members are to confirm their intention of attending. Staff will connect with Walker to confirm date and time.

b) EAC Memorial Fund Allocation - Discussion

Item deferred for discussion until the May 8th, 2024 Environmental Action

Committee.

6 EVENTS & PROGRAMS

a) Review of Up-Coming Spring Events - Update

1. Earth Hour

Saturday, March 23, 2024 from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Online information available for the public to view. All non-essential lighting at municipal facilities will be off for the duration of this event.

2. Curbside Give-A-Way

Staff requested that members volunteer to install lawn signs for the event. A sign-out was made available at the conclusion of the meeting.

3. Solar Eclipse

Staff requested that members consider volunteering for this event that will take place on Monday, April 8, 2024. Details of volunteer tasks and timeframes will be released shortly. Members are to email Staff directly if interested.

4. Clean-Up Events

The Earth Day Clean-Up will take place on Monday, April 22, 2024 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Members were asked by Staff to volunteer for this event. An additional clean-up will be administered by Cemetery Service and will take place on Saturday, April 27, 2024.

5. Community Garden Program

The MacBain Community Centre community garden will be installed on Saturday, May 4, 2024. The garden will be developed and maintained by the Links for Greener Learning group.

6. Mother Earth Day

Pat Futino, Pat Mascarin and Leslie Laan have volunteered to host a promotional booth on behalf of the Mother Earth Day event during the March 29th, 2024 SCVFA Easter Egg Hunt. Staff will provide members with supplies. Currently all demonstrators have been secured and 40 vendors for the Mother Earth Day event. Staff requested for all members to confirm their intentions to volunteer for the event.

7. Up-coming Tree Planting Events

- The NPCA will be planting 900 trees in the Mewburn Park area this spring. Details on the planting and any support that will be needed have not been confirmed to date.
- A tree planting event to celebrate Ontario's Arbor Week (pending grant approval) is being planned at Preakness Park on Tuesday, April 30, 2024. A total of 35 native trees is expected to be planted by volunteers. Residents who live surrounding the park will be notified in advance of the event.
- TD Tree Days have reached out to Staff to indicate that they would like

to partner again in 2024 to plant over 400 trees within the city. Details will be finalized shortly.

- OPG has provided \$10,000 to help develop a tree planting event that will take place in early October, 2024. This event will be coordinated by the EAC and Staff, utilizing OPG Staff to plant the trees.

7 NEW BUSINESS

a) Bird City

Leslie Lann requested that the committee consider recommending that the city apply to become a Bird City. Currently the city is a Bee City (2018 and Bicycle Friendly City (2016). After discussion it was recommended that Leslie approach Bird City representatives to ask them to participate as a vendor at the up-coming Mother Earth Day event.

b) Natural Gas Alternatives

Frank Fohr brought forward examples of policy that other municipalities and American states are introducing to help steer utility usage to electric. After discussion, it was suggested that Staff connect with NPEI to ask if they will feature advantage of using electric utilities during the up-coming Mother Earth Day event.

8 ADJOURNMENT

a) Meeting adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Chair

Staff Liaison