

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Division

Minutes of the Board of Health

Meeting No. 5

Thursday, June 3, 1999

The Board of Health met on Thursday, June 3, 1999, in Committee Room 1, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 2:10 p.m.

Members Present:

2:10 p.m.-3:45 p.m.

Councillor John Filion, Chair	x
Councillor Irene Jones, Vice-Chair	x
Councillor Gerry Altobello	
Ms. Jan Campbell	x
Mr. Robert Davies	
Councillor Anne Johnston	
Councillor Joan King	x
Ms. Gail Lindsay	x
Mr. Brian MacKay	x
Councillor Joe Mihevc	
Mr. Steven Pinnock	x
Councillor Michael Prue	x
Mr. Lee Zaslofsky	x

Observer:

Trustee Gerri Gershon, Toronto District School Board

Members were present for some or all of the time period indicated.

Confirmation of Minutes.

On motion by Councillor Prue, the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Health held on February 22, 1999, were confirmed.

5.1 Renewal of the Ontario Tobacco Strategy.

The Board of Health again had before it a report (April 29, 1999) from the Medical Officer of Health advising the Board of recent steps taken by the Province to strengthen tobacco control and prevention in Ontario; and recommending that:

- (1) the Board write to the Ontario Minister of Health to acknowledge her efforts to renew the Ontario Tobacco Strategy and to urge her to ensure early implementation of the remaining recommendations from the Expert Panel; and
- (2) the Board's position be communicated to City Council, to local MPP's in the Toronto area, and to the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA) in the form of a draft resolution on this matter.

Mr. Vance Latchford, Latchford Associates, appeared before the Board in connection with the foregoing matter.

Councillor Jones moved the adoption of the aforementioned report, subject to amending Recommendation No. (2) to provide that the report also be forwarded to local MP's and incoming MPP's in the Toronto area.

Councillor King moved that the aforementioned report be received.

Upon the question of the adoption of the foregoing motion by Councillor Jones, insofar as it pertains to the words "to acknowledge her efforts to renew the Ontario Tobacco Strategy" in Recommendation No. (1), it was **lost**.

Upon the question of the adoption of the balance of the foregoing motion by Councillor Jones, so that such recommendations read as follows:

- “(1) the Board write to the Ontario Minister of Health to urge her to ensure early implementation of the remaining recommendations from the Expert Panel; and
- (2) the Board's position be communicated to City Council, to local MP's and incoming MPP's in the Toronto area, and to the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA) in the form of a draft resolution on this matter”,

it was **carried**.

Having regard for the action taken by the Board of Health, the foregoing motion by Councillor King was not put to the vote.

(Minister of Health; Medical Officer of Health; Toronto Area MP's and MPP's; c: Mr. Vance Latchford)

Subsequent to the meeting of the Board, the Medical Officer of Health requested that the foregoing matter be forwarded to City Council at such time as the matter of the Environmental Tobacco Smoke By-law is before Council for consideration.

5.2 1999 Operating Budget - Update.

The Board of Health again had before it a report (April 29, 1999) from the Medical Officer of Health respecting the 1999 Operating Budget approved by City Council and the provisional estimates of provincial funding for public health programs and services, which was before the Board at its meeting on May 6, 1999, at which time the Board deferred consideration of the following recommendation:

“(3) the Board express its appreciation to the Minister of Health for her efforts to strengthen public health through a return to cost-shared funding for general programs and for increased support for provincial priorities.”

Councillor Jones moved that the Medical Officer of Health be requested to enquire of the Treasurer whether an advance of funding for the Public Health Unit has been sought from the Province of Ontario, and to report thereon to the Board. **(Carried)**

Mr. Zaslofsky moved that the Board of Health request Council that in future, funds provided to the City for Public Health purposes be first used to accomplish the Public Health goals as set out by the Board of Health, and only secondly to be used for other purposes. **(Withdrawn)**

Councillor Filion appointed Councillor Jones Acting Chair, and vacated the Chair.

Councillor Filion moved that the Chair of the Board of Health be requested to write to the Minister of Health indicating that the Board is somewhat encouraged by the provincial announcement respecting funding for public health, and looks forward to receiving further details regarding the extent of this funding, in order that the Board can comment on how far such funding goes towards meeting the public health needs of the City. **(Carried)**

Councillor Filion resumed the Chair.

Councillor King moved that the Chair of the Board of Health be requested to write to the President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario expressing the Board's appreciation for the efforts taken by AMO in getting the Province to return to cost-sharing funding for public health, and to request AMO to pursue cost-sharing based on 50 percent of the actual cost of the programs. **(Carried)**

(Minister of Health; Medical Officer of Health; President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario)

5.3 Appointment of Board of Health Member to Toronto District Health Council (TDHC).

The Board of Health again had before it a communication (March 22, 1999) from Mr. Michael J. O'Keefe, Chair, Toronto District Health Council, requesting nominations from the Board of Health for membership on the Toronto District Health Council.

On motion by Councillor Jones, the Board of Health recommended to City Council that Councillor Joan King be reappointed as the Board of Health member on the Toronto District Health Council.

(Clause No. 2, Report No. 4)

5.4 Cost of Healthy Eating in Toronto.

The Board of Health had before it a report (May 25, 1999) from the Medical Officer of Health providing an annual update on the cost of a Nutritious Food Basket in Toronto, which is a measure of the cost of healthy eating and meets the energy and nutrient needs of most healthy Canadians at a reasonable cost; and recommending that:

- (1) this report be received for information;
- (2) this report be referred to the Social Services Division of Community and Neighbourhood Services; and
- (3) Public Health work in partnership with the Social Services Division, Community and Neighbourhood Services, as well as with other agencies, to develop advocacy strategies to ensure that Toronto residents have sufficient income to purchase nutritious, affordable and culturally acceptable foods.

On motion by Councillor Jones, the Board of Health adopted the aforementioned report.

(Medical Officer of Health; Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services)

5.5 Child Nutrition Program.

The Board of Health had before it a report (May 25, 1999) from the Medical Officer of Health providing an update on the Child Nutrition Program, as requested by the Board of Health, and advising that this progress report, based upon data from September 1998 to March 31, 1999, shows that municipal funding for the program has already leveraged close to 100 percent in additional contributions, and that future fundraising is projected to cover program costs this year; further advising that approximately 40,000 children now participate in the program, receiving nutritious meals and snacks during their school day and, therefore, increasing their potential for optimal health and effective learning; and recommending that this report be received for information.

On motion by Councillor King, the Board of Health:

- (1) received the aforementioned report;
- (2) rescinded its previous direction requiring that status reports be provided on the Child Nutrition Program every two months, and requested the Medical Officer of Health instead to provide an annual report to the Board; and
- (3) further requested the Medical Officer of Health to include in future reports documentation on the benefits of the program.

(Medical Officer of Health)

5.6 Appointment of Associate Medical Officers of Health.

The Board of Health had before it a report (May 25, 1999) from the Medical Officer of Health advising the Board on recent appointments of Associate Medical Officers of Health to reflect physician turnover within Toronto Public Health; and recommending that:

- (1) the recommended designations of Associate Medical Officers of Health as outlined in this report be transmitted to City Council and to the provincial Minister of Health for approval; and

- (2) the authority be granted to introduce the necessary bill in Council to give effect to the above recommendation.

On motion by Councillor Prue, the Board of Health recommended to Council the adoption of the aforementioned report.

(Clause No. 1, Report No. 4)

5.7 Toronto Inter-Departmental Environment Team Pesticides Subcommittee: Status Report.

The Board of Health had before it a joint report (June 2, 1999) from the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism; the Medical Officer of Health; and the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services, providing a progress report setting out the status of the work of the Toronto Inter-Departmental Environment Team (TIE) Pesticides Subcommittee in assisting the City of Toronto to phase out its use of pesticides on public green spaces in 1999; and recommending that:

- (1) the Toronto Inter-Departmental Environment Team (TIE) adopt this report;
- (2) the Toronto Inter-Departmental Environment Team (TIE) endorse the revisions to the phase-in plan outlined in this report to achieve an end to applying pesticides on public green space in 1999, except in emergency situations or other exceptions; and
- (3) the Toronto Inter-Departmental Environment Team (TIE) forward this report with the reports noted below as attachments to the Board of Health, the Works Committee, the Economic Development and Parks Committee, the Policy and Finance Committee for consideration, and to the Environmental Task Force (ETF) and the Works and Emergency Services Stormwater Group for information:
 - “Toronto Inter-Departmental Environment Team (TIE) Pesticides Subcommittee: Terms of Reference” (Medical Officer of Health, February 15, 1999); and
 - “A Phase-in Plan to Achieve an End to Applying Pesticides on Public Green Space in 1999, Except in Emergency Situations or Other Exceptions” (Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, February 15, 1999).

The following staff members gave a presentation to the Board of Health on the foregoing matter:

- Ms. Connie Clement, Director, Public Health Planning and Policy, and Co-Chair, Toronto Inter-Departmental Environment Team Pesticides Subcommittee;
- Mr. Doug McDonald, Operations Support Co-ordinator, Toronto Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, Parks and Recreation Division; and
- Ms. Siu Fong, Research Consultant, Toronto Community and Neighbourhood Services, Public Health Division.

On motion by Councillor King, the Board of Health endorsed the aforementioned report.

(Toronto Inter-Departmental Environment Team; c: Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism; Medical Officer of Health; Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services)

5.8 Appointment of Members of Council to Board of Health.

The Board of Health had before it a communication (May 21, 1999) from the City Clerk advising that City of Toronto Council on May 11 and 12, 1999, appointed the following Members of Council to the Toronto Board of Health, for a term of office commencing the effective date of the new governance structure, i.e., June 14, 1999, and expiring November 30, 2000, and/or until their successors are appointed:

Councillor John Filion;
Councillor Anne Johnston;
Councillor Irene Jones;
Councillor Joan King;
Councillor Joe Mihevc; and
Councillor Michael Prue.

The Board of Health received the aforementioned communication.

**5.9 Environmental Tobacco Smoke By-law -
Ventilation System Demonstration.**

The Board of Health had before it a communication (May 28, 1999) from Mr. Terry Mundell, President, Ontario Restaurant Association, advising that the Ontario Restaurant Association would be conducting a demonstration of the indoor air quality initiative on June 8, 1999, at a venue to be confirmed; and inviting all Councillors to the demonstration.

Councillor Filion appointed Councillor Jones Acting Chair, and vacated the Chair.

On motion by Councillor Filion, the Board of Health adopted the following motion:

“WHEREAS the hospitality industry has proposed that ventilation technology be considered as an alternative to a 100 percent smoke-free by-law, it is requested that the Medical Officer of Health report back to the June 28 and 29, 1999 meeting of the Board of Health with details of a health-based evaluation protocol that could be used to assess any ventilation system put forth by the hospitality industry to achieve the equivalent of a smoke-free indoor environment.”

Councillor Filion resumed the Chair.

The Board of Health adjourned its meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Chair.