

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Division

Minutes of Board of Health

Meeting No. 9

Monday, October 29, 2001

The Board of Health met on Monday, October 29, 2001 in Committee Room No. 1, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 1:14 p.m.

Members Present:

Councillor Joe Mihevc, Chair	x
Councillor Sandra Bussin	
Ms. Helen Chan	x
Councillor John Filion	x
Mr. Brian Hyndman	x
Councillor Irene Jones	x
Mr. Brian MacKay	x
Dr. Rosana Pellizzari	x
Ms. Nancy Peters	x
Councillor Jane Pitfield	x
Trustee Mark Stefanini	x
Mr. Lee Zaslofsky	x
Vacant	

Also Present:

Ms. Fiona Nelson

Confirmation of Minutes.

On motion by Mr. Hyndman, the Minutes of the Board of Health meeting held on September 24, 2001, were confirmed, as amended, by removing Motion No. 3 from Minute No. 8.6 and adding it to Minute No. 8.7 and renumbering it as Motion "No. (C)" accordingly.

9.1 Election of Vice Chair.

On motion by Councillor Pitfield, the Board deferred the election of a Vice-Chair to replace Councillor Prue to the first meeting in 2002.

9.2 Harmonization of the Noise By-law and Regulation of Leaf Blowers and Other Lawn Garden Equipment.

The Board of Health had before it the following:

- (i) communication (September 19, 2001) from the City Clerk, Planning and Transportation Committee, forwarding the report (August 16, 2001) from the Commissioner of Urban Development Services on the harmonization of the Noise By-law and the communication (July 19, 2001) from the Secretary, Board of Health, regarding Leaf Blowers and Other Lawn Garden Equipment, to the Community Councils and the Board of Health for their consideration and comment back to the Planning and Transportation Committee;
- (ii) communication (September 10, 2001) from the City Clerk, Works Committee, addressed to the Planning and Transportation Committee, advising that on September 10, 2001, the Works Committee referred the communication (July 19, 2001) from the Secretary, Board of Health, respecting leaf blowers and other lawn garden equipment, to the Planning and Transportation Committee for consideration, with a request that the Planning and Transportation Committee distinguish between electrical and gas-powered leaf blowers during their consideration of this matter;
- (iii) report (October 16, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, providing comments to the Planning and Transportation Committee regarding the draft harmonized Noise By-Law; advising that there are no financial implications arising directly from this report; that the Commissioner of Urban Development Services may report separately on staffing models and resources required to enforce the new harmonized Noise By-Law; and recommending that the Board of Health recommend to the Planning and Transportation Committee that:
 - (1) the Planning and Transportation Committee give consideration to strengthening the provisions of the harmonized Noise By-Law pertaining to the use of a device that blows or vacuums leaves, grass clippings or debris, so that the use is restricted:
 - (a) at all times in Quiet Zones;
 - (b) at all times on residential properties except during the months of October and November for leaf removal, and

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- (c) between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. on weekdays and at all times on Saturday and Sunday on non-residential properties;
- (2) the Planning and Transportation Committee give consideration to strengthening the provisions of the harmonized Noise By-Law pertaining to air conditioning unit noise to reflect the standards in effect under the former City of Toronto Noise By-Law; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto;
- (iv) confidential report (October 1, 2001) from the City Solicitor, regarding regulations and prohibition of leaf blowers within the City of Toronto;
- (v) communication (October 25, 2001) from Judith Deutsch;
- (vi) communication (October 26, 2001) from Brian Maguire, Secretary, North Hill District Home Owners' Association;
- (vii) communication (October 28, 2001) from Eric Greenspoon, President, Noise Watch;
- (viii) communication (October 29, 2001) from Joan Dubros;
- (ix) communication (October 29, 2001) from Rob Witherspoon, Director, Guelph Turfgrass Institute; and
- (x) chart, submitted by Councillor Mihevc, headed "Comparison of Proposed Restrictions on Leafblower Use: UDS and TPH Staff Reports".

The following persons appeared before the Board of Health in connection with the foregoing matter:

- Tony Di Giovanni, Executive Director, Landscape Ontario;
- Larry Cappe, Toronto, and submitted a written brief;
- Greg Quigg, Stihl Limited, and filed videotapes regarding the proper operation of leaf blowers and low noise leaf blowers;
- Steve James, Echo Power Equipment Ltd., and filed videotapes titled "Rake Versus Blower Comparison" and "Quiet 1";
- Helen Armstrong, Toronto; and
- Richard Boehnke, RHB Consulting.

Councillor Mihevc appointed Councillor Pitfield Acting Chair and vacated the Chair.

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The Board of Health:

- (A) on motion by Councillor Mihevc, recommended to the Planning and Transportation Committee, adoption of the following recommendations contained in the report (October 16, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, that:
- (1) the Planning and Transportation Committee give consideration to strengthening the provisions of the harmonized Noise By-Law pertaining to the use of a device that blows or vacuums leaves, grass clippings or debris, so that the use is restricted:
 - (a) at all times in Quiet Zones;
 - (b) at all times on residential properties except during the months of October and November for leaf removal, and
 - (c) between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. on weekdays and at all times on Saturday and Sunday on non-residential properties;
 - (2) the Planning and Transportation Committee give consideration to strengthening the provisions of the harmonized Noise By-Law pertaining to air conditioning unit noise to reflect the standards in effect under the former City of Toronto Noise By-Law; and
 - (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto; and
- (B) on motion by Dr. Pellizzari, requested the Commissioner, Corporate Services, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, to submit a report to the Administration Committee on strategies for

the City to investigate and address occupational health hazards for City employees operating leaf blowers.

Councillor Mihevc resumed the Chair.

(Planning and Transportation Committee; c. Commissioner, Corporate Services; Administrator, Administration Committee; Medical Officer of Health; Jane Speakman, Legal Services; Interested Persons – October 30, 2001)

9.3 2002 Toronto Public Health Operating Budget Submission.

The Board of Health had before it a communication (October 10, 2001) from the Committee Secretary, Board of Health Budget Subcommittee, recommending that the Board convene a special meeting on January 7, 2002 to hear public deputations on the 2002 Toronto Public Health Operating Budget, and advising having requested the Medical Officer of Health to submit a full budget presentation to the Board at its meeting on November 26, 2001.

On motion by Councillor Jones, the Board of Health, adopted the recommendation of the Budget Subcommittee.

(Medical Officer of Health; Members of the Board of Health; c. Jane Speakman, Legal Services – October 30, 2001)

9.4 Hearing and Vision Impairment among School-Aged Children.

The Board of Health, had before it a report (October 10, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health informing the Board of Health about the outcome of a project initiated by the Children and Youth Action Committee (CYAC) and Toronto Public Health, on hearing and vision impairment among school-aged children; advising that there are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report; and recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health endorse the recommendations contained in the attached report on Hearing and Vision Impairment in School-age Children;
- (2) the Board of Health immediately forward this report to the Children and Youth Action Committee for consideration at its October 31, 2001 meeting; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

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

(Children and Youth Action Committee; c. Medical Officer of Health; Jane Speakman, Legal Services – October 30, 2001)

9.5 Children and Youth Action Committee.

The Board of Health had before it a communication (October 3, 2001) from the City Clerk, Children and Youth Action Committee, advising that the Children and Youth Action Committee, at its meeting on October 1, 2001, among other things, directed that copies of the report entitled “Toronto Report Card on Children Update 2000”, and the report (June 19, 2001) from The Children and Youth Advocate regarding the Committee’s Workplan for 2001, be forwarded to the Toronto Board of Health for information.

On motion by Councillor Pitfield, the Board of Health received the foregoing communication.

9.6 Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System.

The Board of Health had before it a report (October 16, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, reporting on Toronto Public Health’s participation in the Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System; advising that there are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report; and recommending that this report be received for information.

The Medical Officer of Health gave a presentation.

On motion by Mr. Zaslofsky, the Board of Health received the foregoing report.

9.7 Public Health Accreditation.

The Board of Health had before it a report (October 16, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, providing information on public health accreditation in general and on the accreditation status of Toronto Public Health; advising that there are no financial implications for 2002 stemming from this report; and recommending that this report be received for information.

On motion by Mr. Zaslofsky, the Board of Health received the foregoing report.

9.8 Member of Council Appointment to the Board of Health Substance Abuse Subcommittee.

The Board of Health had before it a communication (September 27, 2001) from the City Clerk, Substance Abuse Subcommittee, recommending that the Board of Health appoint a Member of Council, who is also a member of the Board of Health, to the Board of Health Substance Abuse Subcommittee, to replace former Councillor Michael Prue for a term to expire May 31, 2002, or until a successor is appointed.

On motion by Councillor Pitfield, the Board of Health deferred this item to its meeting on January 28, 2002.

9.9 Potential Court Application – Restaurant Disclosure Program.

The Board of Health had before it a confidential report (October 9, 2001) from the City Solicitor, regarding Potential Court Application – Restaurant Disclosure Program.

On motion by Councillor Pitfield, the Board of Health adopted Recommendations Nos. 1(b) and (2) of the confidential report.

(Medical Officer of Health; City Solicitor; c. Jane Speakman,
Legal Services – October 30, 2001)

9.10 A Public Health Approach to Marijuana.

The Board of Health had before it a report (October 16, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, seeking Board of Health endorsement of Toronto Public Health's position paper on marijuana entitled "A Public Health Approach to Marijuana" for submission to the Special Senate Committee on Illegal Drugs, advising that there are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report; and recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health endorse Toronto Public Health's position paper on cannabis entitled 'A Public Health Approach to Marijuana' and that this paper be submitted to the Special Senate Committee on Illegal Drugs; and
- (2) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Mr. Zaslofsky, the Board of Health adopted the foregoing report.

(Medical Officer of Health; c. Jane Speakman, Legal Services – October 30, 2001)

9.11 Compliance with the Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines.

The Board of Health had before it a report (October 23, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, advising the Board of Health of the current and projected compliance of Toronto Public Health with the provincial Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines; responding to the Board of Health request for information on the resource implication of proposed new standards for certain mandatory programs; advising that there are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report; and recommending that this report be received for information.

On motion by Councillor Pitfield, the Board of Health received the foregoing report.

9.12 Toronto Public Health 2001 Variance Report.

The Board of Health had before it a joint report (October 23, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health and Acting Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services, reporting on actual expenditures and revenues relative to budget for the first three quarters of 2001, along with estimated projections to year end; advising that there is no direct financial impact stemming from this report; Toronto Public Health predicts a negative variance of \$226,000.00 (net) which can be covered through an internal adjustment in the Community and Neighbourhood Services Departmental Budget; advising that the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and concurs with the financial impact statement; and recommending that this report be received for information.

On motion by Ms. Peters, the Board of Health received the foregoing report.

9.13 Condition Critical: Fixing Our Smog Warning System.

As a report on the above-noted matter was not available, the matter was deferred to the next meeting.

9.14 Emergency Preparedness and Response.

The Board of Health had before it a report (October 29, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, providing the Board of Health with an outline of the Medical Officer of Health's proposal to establish a Public Health Emergency Services Unit for the City of Toronto in order to build capacity for effective emergency preparedness and response; advising that annual operating costs for the proposed Public Health Emergency Services Unit within Toronto Public Health totals \$2.282 million, plus \$1.325 million in contingency funds and \$165,500 for one-time start-up costs, bringing the total to \$3.773 million; funding is being sought from the federal and provincial governments through the Mayor's Office; and recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health endorse the Medical Officer of Health's proposal to establish a Public Health Emergency Services Unit for the City of Toronto and related proposals to improve and sustain the City's emergency readiness;
- (2) the Medical Officer of Health report back to Board of Health within three months on progress to date regarding joint initiatives; and
- (3) the appropriate city officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

The Medical Officer of Health gave an overhead slide presentation.

On motion by Councillor Jones, the Board of Health unanimously adopted the foregoing report as amended, by deleting from Recommendation No. (1) "for the City of Toronto" and "the City's", and, in so doing:

- (1) endorsed the Medical Officer of Health's proposal to establish a Public Health Emergency Services Unit and related proposals to improve and sustain emergency readiness;
- (2) requested the Medical Officer of Health to report back to the Board of Health within three

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months on progress to date regarding joint initiatives; and

- (3) authorized and directed the appropriate City officials to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

(Medical Officer of Health; c. Mayor's Office; Jane Speakman,
Legal Services – October 30, 2001)

The Board of Health adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Chair