

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Office

Minutes of Board of Health

Meeting 4

May 9, 2005

The Board of Health met on Monday, May 9, 2005 in Committee Room 1, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 1:10 p.m.

Attendance

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

	1:10 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Councillor John Filion, Chair	X
Trustee Sheila Cary-Meagher	X
Cathy Crowe	X
Councillor Janet Davis	X
Councillor Paula Fletcher, Vice-Chair	X
Nathan Gilbert	X
Brian Hyndman	X
Councillor Joe Mihevc	X
Fiona Nelson	X
Rhonda Roffey	X
Valerie Sterling	X
Councillor Karen Stintz	
Councillor Michael Thompson	

Councillor Filion in the Chair.

Confirmation of Minutes

On motion by Valerie Sterling, the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Health on April 4, 2005, were confirmed.

Chair/Medical Officer of Health Announcements:

The Chair of the Board of Health, Councillor Filion, announced National Nursing Week, May 9 to 13, 2005, and presented Toronto Public Health staff, Mary-Anne McBean and Ethylene Villareal, who represent the diverse roles of nurses at Public Health, with books to commemorate Nursing Week.

4.1 Pandemic Influenza Planning in the City of Toronto

The Board of Health considered a report (April 21, 2005) from the Medical Officer of Health, providing an overview of the pandemic influenza planning that has occurred in the City of Toronto and to identify current issues and future directions.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Board of Health forward this report to City Council for information.

Dr. Barbara Yaffe, Director and Associate Medical Officer of Health, made a presentation before the Board of Health.

On motion by Councillor Filion, the Board of Health:

- (1) recommended that City Council request the City Manager to direct all relevant City Divisions to do business continuity planning to ensure the continued delivery of essential services;
- (2) endorsed Toronto Public Health's pandemic influenza planning efforts;
- (3) requested the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada to accelerate the development of policy and implementation details for pandemic influenza preparedness and response;
- (4) requested the Medical Officer of Health to update the Board on progress made with respect to pandemic influenza planning prior to the 2005/2006 influenza season; and
- (5) decided to monitor Toronto Public Health preparedness for pandemic influenza as part of its annual budget exercise and to continue to advocate for a strong and stable public health infrastructure for the City of Toronto as a critical component of an effective emergency response.

Motion by Councillor Filion, **Carried.**

(Report 4, Clause 1)

4.2 The SARS Commission Second Interim Report

The Board of Health considered a report (April 25, 2005) from the Medical Officer of Health, providing the Board of Health with the executive summary and recommendations from the SARS Commission Second Interim Report – SARS and Public Health Legislation.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the Board of Health reconvene its task group on public health renewal to assess the implications of the SARS Commission recommendations for the Toronto Board of Health and to develop recommendations for the Board; and
- (2) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Filion, the Board of Health:

- (1) adopted the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report (April 25, 2005) from the Medical Officer of Health; and
- (2) re-established the Board of Health/Toronto Public Health Working Group, as recommended in Recommendation (1) of the report (April 22, 2005) from the Medical Officer of Health, with the following members:
 - Councillor Janet Davis
 - Councillor John Filion; and
 - Fiona Nelson

Motion by Councillor Filion, **Carried.**

4.3 Role of the Board of Health in Emergency Response

The Board of Health considered a report (April 25, 2005) reporting back to the Board of Health on its role in emergency response.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

The Board of Health received the report (April 25, 2005) from the Medical Officer of Health.

4.4 Communicable Diseases in Toronto, 2003

The Board of Health considered a report (April 25, 2005) from the Medical Officer of Health, providing incidence rates and updates to trends of reportable communicable diseases in Toronto for 2003.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

On motion by Trustee Sheila Cary-Meagher, the Board of Health received the report (April 25, 2005) from the Medical Officer of Health. **(Carried)**

4.5 Response to Internal Audit Division Review of Toronto Public Health's Tuberculosis Program

The Board of Health considered a report (April 25, 2005) from the Medical Officer of Health, responding to the recommendations contained in the Internal Audit Division's Review of Toronto Public Health's Tuberculosis Program.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) this report be forwarded to the TB subcommittee of the Board of Health; and
- (2) the Medical Officer of Health report to the Board of Health in one year on the status of action taken to address Internal Audit recommendations regarding the TB program.

On motion by Cathy Crowe, the Board of Health:

- (1) adopted Recommendation (1) in the Recommendations Section of the report (April 25, 2005) from the Medical Officer of Health, as follows:

"this report be forwarded to the TB Subcommittee of the Board of Health";
- (2) amended Recommendation (2) in the Recommendations Section of the report (April 25, 2005) from the Medical Officer of Health, by deleting the words "one year" and replacing it with the words "six months" instead, so that the Recommendation now reads as follows:

“the Medical Officer of Health report to the Board of Health in six months on the status of action taken to address Internal Audit recommendations regarding the TB program.”

Motion by Cathy Crowe, **Carried.**

(TB Subcommittee of the Board of Health – May 12, 2005)

4.6 Toronto Public Health 2005 Operating Budget – Adjustments to 100% Funded Programs

The Board of Health considered a report (April 25, 2005) from the Medical Officer of Health, requesting budget adjustments to fully provincially funded programs in the Toronto Public Health (TPH) 2005 Operating Budget that reflect additional one-time funding confirmed from various ministries of the Province of Ontario.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) adjustments to the Toronto Public Health 2005 Operating Budget totaling an increase of \$510.2 thousand gross and revenue / \$0 net, be approved;
- (2) this report be forwarded to the Policy & Finance Committee for its consideration; and
- (3) the appropriate city officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Mihevc, the Board of Health:

- (1) recommended to the Policy and Finance Committee that adjustments to the Public Health 2005 Operating budget totaling an increase of \$510.2 thousand gross and revenue / \$0 net, be approved; and
- (2) adopted the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report (April 25, 2005) from the Medical Officer of Health.

Motion by Councillor Mihevc, **Carried.**

(Policy and Finance Committee – May 9, 2005)

4.7 Environmental Funding in the 2005 Federal budget and a Clean Air Perspective on the Toronto Transit Commission 2003-2007 Bus Fleet Plan

The Board of Health considered a report (April 25, 2005) from the Medical Officer of Health, reviewing environmental initiatives contained in the 2005 Federal Budget and provides comment on Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) purchases of new buses and fuel technology options from a clean air perspective.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the Board of Health forward this report to the Federal Minister of the Environment for his consideration, and encourage the Minister to develop a comprehensive policy framework for aggressively reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from all sources including each industrial sector and to establish clear implementation targets, timelines and a monitoring strategy to ensure that target GHG reductions are achieved; and
- (2) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

The Board of Health adopted the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report (April 25, 2005) from the Medical Officer of Health.

(Ministry of Environment – May 12, 2005)

4.8 Performance Appraisal - Medical Officer of Health

The Board of Health considered a memorandum (May 4, 2005) from Lawrence Keen, Human Resources Manager outlining steps for completing the MOH performance appraisal for 2004 (September to December).

On motion by Councillor Filion, the Board of Health appointed Councillor John Filion, Councillor Paula Fletcher, Nathan Gilbert and Brian Hyndman to the Medical Officer of Health Performance Appraisal Subcommittee of the Board of Health.

4.9 Air Emissions and Health Status Studies for South Riverdale and The Beaches Communities – Ward 30 – Toronto-Danforth and Ward 32 – Beaches-East York

The Board of Health considered a report (April 29, 2005) from the Medical Officer of Health, reporting on the findings and conclusions of the Air Emissions and Health Status studies undertaken for South Riverdale and The Beaches communities in fulfillment of the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant Environmental Assessment.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the Board of Health request the Ontario Minister of the Environment to consider the cumulative impact of emissions from any new or modified industrial facility on adjacent residential areas with elevated burden of illness/mortality, or that have a disproportionate share of pollution point sources, such as in South Riverdale, prior to issuing a Certificate of Approval;
- (2) the General Manager of Toronto Water:
 - (a) continue to monitor chemical levels in the water entering and exiting the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant (ABTP) to gain a better understanding of potential release of these chemicals from the plant to the air through evaporation and other processes;
 - (b) periodically update the emission inventory of the ABTP to reflect new information regarding on-site new and existing equipment or changes to the wastewater;
 - (c) conduct analytical testing for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in air emissions at large release points at the ABTP; and
 - (d) test the final clarifiers at the ABTP using an appropriate and approved method to determine the potential emissions of sulphur-bearing substances;
- (3) the Executive Director of Technical Services Division examine the air quality impact of emissions of sources in these communities, including the ABTP; and
- (4) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

The Board of Health also considered a communication (May 6, 2005) from Karen Buck, President, Citizens for a Safe Environment, Dr. Stephen Connell, Physician and Karey Shinn, Chair, Committee for Safe Sewage.

A presentation was made by Dr. David McKeown, Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. Lou Di Gioronimo, Director, Wastewater Treatment, Toronto Water, also addressed the Board of Health to answer questions from the Board members.

Councillor Sandra Bussin, Ward 32 – Beaches-East York, appeared before the Board of Health.

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- A. Councillor Fletcher moved that the report (April 29, 2005) from the Medical Officer of Health be deferred to its meeting on July 11, 2005.
- B. Councillor Fletcher moved that:
- (1) in view of the public meeting being held on May 11, 2005 to discuss the results of three Public Health studies, including the two studies released on May 9, 2005 (Board of Health Agenda Item 9), that the Medical Officer of Health be requested to report back on the studies, taking into consideration comments received through the public consultation process, to the July 11, 2005 meeting of the Board of Health; and only thereafter, forward the reports to the Works Committee; and
 - (2) the Medical Officer of Health be requested to provide an update at the July 11, 2005 Board of Health meeting on the Ministry of the Environment revisions to their Emission standards.
- C. Councillor Fletcher moved that the Board of Health direct that the following recommendations being suggested by Councillor Bussin be considered during the Board of Health's deliberations on this matter on July 11, 2005:

"It is recommended that:

- (a) the Board of Health reiterate to the Provincial Minister of the Environment its firm position that no re-activation of incineration be considered at Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant should there be a termination of landfill disposal;
- (b) Recommendation (1) in the report (April 29, 2005) from the Medical Officer of Health be amended to add the words, "and City of Toronto" after the words "Environment", so that it reads as follows:
 - "(1) the Board of Health request the Ontario Minister of the Environment and City of Toronto to consider the cumulative impact of emissions from any new or modified industrial facility on adjacent residential areas with elevated burden of illness/mortality, or that have a disproportionate share of pollution point sources, such as in South Riverdale, prior to issuing a Certificate of Approval"; and
 - (c) the Board of Health urge the Provincial Minister of the Environment to complete the review on new standards for Ontario Ambient Air Quality Criteria."

Motions A., B., and C., by Councillor Fletcher, **Carried.**

4.10 Presentation by Dr. Stephen Hwang, St. Michael's Hospital regarding research on Bed Bug infestations

The Board of Health received the presentation by Dr. Stephen Hwang, St. Michael's Hospital, regarding research on Bed Bug infestations.

4.11 Shade Policy and Technical Considerations for the City of Toronto

- A. Fiona Nelson moved that the Board of Health:
- (1) request the Medical Officer of Health to work with relevant divisions and community partners to identify and pilot strategies to increase shade in particular areas where children are most likely to be in attendance; and
 - (2) request the Medical Officer of Health to meet with the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and General Manager, Children's Services to review the Board of Health shade policy as a health issue; and report back to the Board of Health.
- B. Councillor Davis moved that the Board of Health request the Medical Officer of Health to make recommendations to increase the provision of shade in Nathan Philips Square to appropriate staff responsible for coordinating the Nathan Philips Square redesign process.
- C. Trustee Sheila Cary-Meagher moved that Motion A., by Fiona Nelson be amended by adding the words, "and school boards", after the words, "community partners".
- D. Fiona Nelson moved that the above action, (Motion A., Motion B. and Motion C.) be forwarded to the following groups for their information:
- the Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition; and
 - the Children's Working Group of the Roundtable on Children, Youth and Education.

Motion C. by Sheila Cary-Meagher, in amendment to Motion A. by Fiona Nelson; Motion A. by Fiona Nelson, as amended; Motion B., by Councillor Davis and Motion D. by Fiona Nelson, **Carried.**

(Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition; Children's Working Group of the Roundtable on Children, Youth and Education – May 9, 2005)

The Board of Health adjourned at 4:00 p.m.