



**ROUNDTABLE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
MINUTES
MEETING 1**

Date of Meeting: January 20, 2005
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Committee Room 2
City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario

Enquiry: Frank Baldassini
Committee Secretary
416-338-5848
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Members

<p>Present: Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone, Chair Councillor Paula Fletcher, Vice-Chair Susan Antler Bob Blazeovski John Cartwright Robert Kerr Kathy Kinnear Mark G. Mitchell Paul Muldoon Steven Peck</p>	<p>Gord Perks Karen Sun Dr. Peter Victor Tim Woods</p> <p>Regrets: Dr. Roger Keil Dr. Lambert Otten Judy Simon</p>
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The meeting convened at 7:10 p.m. with Deputy Mayor Pantalone in the Chair.

There were no declarations of interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

Confirmation of Minutes – October 19, 2004 – *Confirmed.*

Welcome and Introductions

The Members of the Roundtable on the Environment and staff members were welcomed and introduced. The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Reports/Communications:

1. Appointment – Toronto Board of Trade

Communication (November 12, 2004) from Philip R. Evans, Chair, and Dale Richmond, President and CEO (Acting), Toronto Board of Trade, advising that Kathy Kinnear, who is a member of the Toronto Board of Trade's Planning and Development Committee, has been appointed as the Toronto Board of Trade representative to the Roundtable on the Environment.

Minute 1.1

Action:

The Roundtable on the Environment received the communication.

2. Green Roofs Work in the City of Toronto

(Presentation)

Joe D'Abramo, Manager, Policy and Research, City Planning, Urban Development Services, made a five minute Power point presentation on the status of Green Roofs in the City of Toronto.

As part of the presentation, the following documents were provided:

Communication (January 7, 2005) from Deputy Mayor Pantalone, providing a general overview of green roofs put together by Green Roofs for Healthy Cities as well as background information on the City's work on green roofs including:

- (a) communication (January 7, 2005) from the Manager, Policy and Research, City Planning, advising that the City is undertaking a study on the benefits of green roofs;
- (b) Green Roofs Work in the City of Toronto that reviews the need, the intent and funding partnerships for the Municipal Cost Savings Benefits of Green Roofs study;
- (c) the Program Outline and Objectives for the Municipal Cost Savings Benefits of Green Roofs study that sets out the objectives, scope of work, key deliverables and study schedule; and
- (d) report to the May 2003 meeting of the Food and Hunger Action Committee on the status of roof gardens in the City of Toronto;

- (e) Information brochure from Green Roofs for Healthy Cities;
- (f) Green Roofs for Healthy Cities: The Green Roof Infrastructure Monitor (Fall 2004); and
- (g) communication (August 30, 2004) from Councillor Carroll.

Minute 1.2

The Manager, Policy and Research, City Planning, Urban Development Services, advised that the City of Toronto is undertaking a study on the benefits of green roofs to the City in order to identify ways to encourage the construction of more green roofs. The study headed "Municipal Cost Savings Benefits of Green Roofs", will be completed by June 2005 by a team from Ryerson University. A report to City Council in December 2005 will set out the standards for green roofs that best meet the City's objectives as well as ways to encourage their implementation.

The proposed schedule, leading to the presentation of the final report to City Council is as follows:

May/June 2005 - draft report prepared and presented to Roundtable on the Environment for its comments;

September/October 2005 – focus group workshops be held and get feedback

November 2005 – return to the Roundtable on the Environment for review of the final report and prepare recommendations/policies for report to the Policy and Finance Committee. The Policy and Finance Committee will review the report and recommendations/policies from the Roundtable on the Environment and report to City Council.

The Chair requested members of the Roundtable to provide comments and suggestions, which will be used in assisting City staff with the preparation of the draft report for presentation to the Roundtable on the Environment in May/June 2005:.

Action:

The Roundtable on the Environment requested City staff to take the following comments and suggestions into account in the preparation of the draft report and present the report to the Roundtable on the Environment at its May/June meeting:

- (i) *study the impact of stormwater and its potential re-use with green roofs; review data from studies done in other cities and jurisdictions;*
- (ii) *review land use planning policies to ensure rooftops can be used as amenity space in high density areas;*

- (iii) *detail areas of the City where green roofs can be established and the size of such green roofs;*
- (iv) *get input and support from the various trade industries and work with roof contractors, through the Ontario Industrial Roofing Contracting Association (ORICA) and Sheet Metal Workers - Local 30, and any other associations that may be appropriate, to ensure that they are aware of the green roofs report and policies, are in agreement with the same, and support the initiative;*
- (v) *give attention to costs, such costs to detail:*
 - (a) *potential costs associated with existing buildings;*
 - (b) *capital costs;*
 - (c) *20 to 30 year maintenance costs for green roofs;*
 - (d) *provide cost information which will provide data to owners showing the cost benefits which can be realized by having a green roof; and*
 - (e) *breakdown the costs, to a per square foot basis, for each type of building (house, office tower, industrial, commercial, etc.);*
- (vi) *indicate the impact of green roofs on the urban heat island effect, as well as the environmental impact of light and dark coloured roofs, including an evaluation of whether light or dark coloured roofs are preferred;*
- (vii) *provide input about the different types of roofs;*
- (viii) *indicate benefits regarding the different types of plants which can be used – detail the use of native plants to the region;*
- (ix) *evaluate the benefits of using compost as a growing medium in green roofs; and*
- (x) *develop guidelines for the green roof industry on the opportunities to maximize the use of local materials.*

3. Presentation and Discussion on City of Toronto Kyoto Protocol Issues and the City of Toronto Air Quality Strategy

(Presentation)

Karen Clark, Supervisor, Policy and Planning, Toronto Public Health and Co-Project Manager, Air Quality Strategy, City of Toronto Interdepartmental Environmental Team, made a ten minute Power point presentation regarding the City's progress on the Environmental Plan and related initiatives.

As part of the presentation, the following documents were provided:

Communication (January 5, 2005) from Deputy Mayor Pantalone, providing a general overview of the discussion on air quality and Kyoto issues, presenting three questions for consideration as part of the discussion, as well as the following background information on the City's work on air quality and the Kyoto issue:

- (a) Report on Improving Toronto's Air Quality: Areas for Priority Action;
- (b) Summary of Terms of Reference for Implementing the Toronto Air Quality Improvement Strategy; and
- (c) Backgrounder on Kyoto Protocol and the City of Toronto.

Minute 1.3

Robert Maxwell, Acting Director of the Toronto Atmospheric Fund was in attendance and Deputy Mayor Pantalone advised the Roundtable on the Environment, that the Toronto Atmospheric Fund has been and continues to be a very important contributor of resources to help the City meet its greenhouse gas emission targets.

The Chair, in preparing the Roundtable on the Environment to hold a discussion regarding the City of Toronto Kyoto Protocol Issues and the City of Toronto Air Quality Strategy, put forth the following questions for consideration:

- (a) *the report headed "Improving Toronto's Air Quality: Areas for Priority Actions", identifies several areas for priority action. Are there higher priorities for action that you would advise staff to consider;*
- (b) *what are your thoughts on the next steps to implement the priority actions proposed in the report? What are the key steps that could be taken;*
- (c) *at the City, greenhouse gas emissions and other Kyoto-related issues have traditionally been treated as an issue separate from air quality issues. However, the report headed "Improving Toronto's Air Quality: Areas for Priority Action" recognizes that the use of fossil fuels is at the heart of both issues. What, in your opinion, are the policies and strategies that could be put in place to help the City deal with these issues together.*

The Chair also advised that the City staff have proposed the following timetable regarding the development of key components of the strategy:

- (i) *December 2005 - a system to create the data, information and analysis necessary to identify priority air quality and human concerns;*
- (ii) *Mid-2005 – a common communication plan for all City air quality initiatives;*
- (iii) *Mid-2005 – a common monitoring and evaluation mechanism for all City air quality improvement initiatives;*

- (iv) *Mid-2005 – a plan for inter-jurisdictional action; and*
- (v) *Mid-2005 – a plan for community outreach and consultation as the strategy evolves and is implemented.*

The Chair further advised, and members of the Roundtable concurred, that the timetable to implement a system to create the data, information and analysis necessary to identify priority air quality and human health issues, will need to be reported to City Council by September 2005, in order that any required budget allocations can be undertaken for the 2006 City budget. Should the report and City Council approvals not be received until December 2006, and required budget allocations cannot be considered for the 2006 City budget, but would be in place for the 2007 City budget process.

Action:

The Roundtable on the Environment provided the following advice and requested City staff to take the following comments and suggestions into account in the preparation of the air quality improvement strategy and report back to the Roundtable on how the comments are being addressed by June 2005:

- (i) *City staff consider establishing a grand goal for the strategy, such as “the City of Toronto will have the cleanest air in North America” – need to say something simple and bold in order to get the attention of and inspire people, since most have a hard time relating to a deluge of statistical information.*
- (ii) *an extensive amount of research has been done by the three universities in Toronto – would be worthwhile for the City to establish a working relationship with the universities and take advantage of the information they have produced, and explore avenues of funding which may be available to the universities and the City.*
- (iii) *the final report to City Council on the air quality improvement strategy should include a cost/benefit analysis of the major proposals (for example, a financial analysis of the health costs incurred by the City and other health care providers as a result of poor air quality in the City).*
- (iv) *the final report should also provide a cost/benefit indicator directly related to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;*
- (v) *identify resources which can be made available to the City from all levels of government and the private sector and link to funding requests the City may make;*
- (vi) *highlight direct connection between Federal gas revenue funding and the air quality improvement strategy (as part of the City’s sustainability planning)–outline, if required, justification for requesting any further additional Federal funding;*

- (vii) *the report to City Council should identify the strong connection between the air quality improvement strategy and the Kyoto Protocol since reducing the use of fossil fuels is fundamental to meeting objectives and targets in both.*
- (viii) *the report to City Council should focus more on the impact on human health rather than the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions – the public will identify more with the findings if the report deals with the effects on health;*
- (ix) *develop reporting and verification protocol tools – look to the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives(ICLEI) for examples.*
- (x) *address issues relating to the enactment of a Right-to-Know By-law;*
- (xi) *consult with the community on suggested actions to improve air quality in the City;*
- (xii) *indicate how the restriction of automobiles improves the air quality – give transportation policy a central place in the formation of City policy;*
- (xiii) *review the feasibility of increasing parking fees and fines, for example increasing fees and fines based on size of vehicle – monies received from increase to be channeled to improving air quality and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;*
- (xiv) *determine the feasibility of implementing changes in road capacities including reduction in the number of lane kilometres and the narrowing of road widths, using saved space for bicycles and pedestrians;*
- (xv) *identify a major demonstration/signature event, such as the proposed Car Free Day, which will put the City on the leading edge of sustainability – provide data from the event that demonstrates and quantifies the improvement to air quality;*
- (xvi) *assume a risk-based approach directing resources to areas and issues at higher risk. For example, planting trees in high risk level areas such as along major roads.*
- (xvii) *include point source data including ranking of highest to lowest point source emitters.*
- (xviii) *bring forward information tying pollution levels to the number of deaths and provide information on probable reduction in number of deaths linked to improving air quality.*
- (xix) *identify ways to get Toronto gas stations to sell low sulphur gas.*
- (xx) *identify a clear role for members of the Roundtable on the Environment in developing and implementing the air quality improvement strategy; can provide an advocacy role – making views known to all members of Council;*
- (xxi) *determine the feasibility of adopting the R2000 program – energy audit and potential link to tax reduction; and*

- (xxii) *review the work of the Sustainability Roundtable and look for useful information such as how to evaluate the budget from a sustainability perspective- use the approach to highlight budget issues relating to air quality.*

The Roundtable on the Environment requested staff to provide an action report relating to air quality and Kyoto Protocol issues to the Roundtable on the Environment meeting on March 3, 2005, including:

- (i) *circulating a list of potential action items for the consideration to Roundtable members, possibly by e-mail, in advance of the next Roundtable meeting, in order that members may have an opportunity to provide input;*
- (ii) *an update on the status of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1999 report headed "Overview of Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Activities in the City of Toronto (2000)"*
- (iii) *an update on recommendations 21(c), 21(e), 22(b) and 22(c), as contained in the Environmental Task Force report headed "Clean, Green and Healthy – A Plan for an Environmentally Sustainable Toronto";*
- (iv) *an update on the Toronto Bike Plan including a comparison of the recommendations and timelines contained in the Toronto Bike Plan and what has been implemented;*
- (v) *an update on the Pedestrian Charter including identification of actions taken to improve pedestrian traffic – making the City more walkable;*
- (vi) *how much the City allocates in its budget on air quality as a percentage of the total budget;*
- (vii) *update numbers on what the City spends per capita, and a current comparison to other cities, on air quality – the 1999 report from the Toronto Atmospheric Fund advised that the City spent 77 cents per person; and*
- (viii) *the list of potential projects identified by the Toronto Atmospheric Fund related to the City of Toronto's Energy Retrofit program;*
- (ix) *identify actions that the City could do immediately to improve air quality; proposals could include restricting cars entering the downtown; giving transportation a higher profile since it is within the City's jurisdiction; and parking restrictions and parking fees linked to car size; look for fresh ideas linked to reducing car use;*
- (x) *determine how it is possible to accelerate the City's LED traffic light replacement program from an eight-year program to three years; and*
- (xi) *an updated action schedule regarding the implementation of the Toronto Air Quality Improvement Strategy.*

4. Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) Program

Report (December 14, 2004) from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, headed “PCP+5 A Five-Year Plan for Partners for Climate Protection”, and advising that the PCP program is a national capacity-building network that supports municipal efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through sustainable community planning.

Minute 1.4

Robert Kerr, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), provided the following information regarding Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program:

- (a) the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) are requesting that the City of Toronto endorse their request to the Federal Government for \$5 million to continue the Partners for Climate Protection program;*
- (b) the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program is run jointly by FCM and ICLEI and is a network of Canadian cities committed to reducing their emissions of greenhouse gases. Toronto is a member;*
- (c) the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program is not a grant giving program but assists cities by supplying information and technical support including things like helping cities access FCM’s Municipal Green Funds program; and*
- (d) the funding request covers five years of the program.*

Action:

The Roundtable on the Environment unanimously requested the Chair to ask the Policy and Finance Committee to advise City Council that it should endorse the Federation of Canadian Municipalities proposal for renewed investment in the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program of \$5 million over the next five years.

5. Update on the Green Toronto Awards: Toronto’s Environmental Awards of Excellence

Minute 1.5

The Chair presented the following update regarding the Green Toronto Awards: Toronto’s Environmental Awards of Excellence:

- Nominations are now open and everyone is encouraged to visit the web site and nominate people or organizations members think have made a significant contributions to the greening of the City;*
- Nominations end on February 25, 2005;*
- The winner receives \$5,000.00 to give to an environmental organization of their choice;*

- *The awards will be presented in the Council Chambers at Toronto City Hall, the evening of May 2, 2005;*
- *There will be a reception in the Members Lounge for winners, sponsors, members of Council and Roundtable members before the ceremony and a reception for the public in the Rotunda afterwards;*
- *Mayor David Miller will be in attendance;*
- *Organizing staff are now in talks with several well-known Torontonians to have them speak for several minutes at the awards ceremony about why a clean and green Toronto is important to them;*
- *Through the hard work of the partners, the Toronto enviroguide, sponsors for 6 of the 8 awards have been secured;*
- *Members of the Roundtable have volunteered to act as judges. If anyone else is interested, please advise staff; and*
- *A long list of media sponsors including all the major Toronto newspapers and magazines, as well as City-TV and EZ Rock radio, have come on-board.*

A thirty-second television ad, which is being run by City-TV, was shown.

Action:

The Roundtable on the Environment received the verbal update from the Chair.

6. Suggestions from Members to the Chair for discussion items at future meetings

Minute 1.6

The Chair requested Roundtable members to provide him with their suggestions for discussion items at future meetings.

Action:

The following discussion items were suggested to the Chair:

- (a) *Review of the City of Toronto Building Code;*
- (b) *Green Economic Development;*
- (c) *Presentation of how the City's budget is linked to the recommendations contained in the report headed "Clean, Green and Healthy – A Plan for an Environmentally Sustainable Toronto"; and*
- (d) *Presentation from the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI).*

The Chair requested Roundtable members to forward any further suggestions to him.

Next Meeting

Thursday, March 3, 2005

7:00 p.m.

Committee Room 1

Toronto City Hall

100 Queen Street West

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Chair