
Parks and Environment Committee

Meeting No. 4
Meeting Date Tuesday, May 8, 2007
Start Time 9:30 AM
Location Committee Room 1, City Hall

Contact Candy Davidovits, Committee Administrator
Phone 416-392-8032
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Councillor Paula Fletcher (Chair) Councillor Raymond Cho (Vice Chair-Parks)	Councillor Gord Perks (Vice Chair-Environment) Councillor Pam McConnell	Councillor Ron Moeser Councillor Michael Walker
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Declarations of Interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act

Speakers/Presentations: A complete list will be distributed at the meeting

Confirmation of Minutes: April 10, 2007

Communications/Reports

PE4.1	ACTION		Transactional	Ward: All
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Parks Renaissance Strategy - Progress Report (Presentation)**(Presentation)**

(April 20, 2007) report from General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Recommendations

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. Council endorse, in principle, the preliminary list of the seven (7) action areas listed below where future investments and activities should be concentrated in order to create a 'Parks Renaissance':
 - (a) Improving the Overall Quality of Parks and Trails;
 - (b) Natural Areas: Education and Stewardship at the Forefront;
 - (c) City-Wide Parks: Management Plans to Maintain a Diversity of Experiences;
 - (d) Local Parks: Create Hubs of Neighbourhood Activity;
 - (e) Trails: Build a Significant Trail System;
 - (f) Engage People: Better Communication and Involvement; and
 - (g) Financing the Renaissance: Increased Funding and Partnership Opportunities; and
2. the General Manager report back on the Parks Renaissance Strategy to the Parks and Environment Committee in the fall, following the public consultation process.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts resulting from the adoption of this report.

Summary

The Parks Renaissance Strategy (PRS) is being undertaken by the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division in order to realize the goals set out in Our Common Grounds, the Division's strategic plan for revitalization of its parks, trails, urban forest and recreation facilities. The PRS will be an action-oriented and creative strategy that sets the stage for a multi-year re-investment program in Toronto's parks and trails.

Work to date has focused on background research, an extensive consultation program and the development of a first draft Strategy. A preliminary list of recommended action areas where future investments and activities should be concentrated in order to create a 'Parks Renaissance' has been identified at this time:

1. Improving the Overall Quality of Parks and Trails;
2. Natural Areas: Education and Stewardship at the Forefront;
3. City-Wide Parks: Management Plans to Maintain a Diversity of Experiences;
4. Local Parks: Create Hubs of Neighbourhood Activity;
5. Trails: Build a Significant Trail System;
6. Engage People: Better Communication and Involvement; and
7. Financing the Renaissance: Increased Funding and Partnership Opportunities.

Next steps in the development of the Parks Renaissance Strategy include delivery of the final draft by the consultant (May 2007), review and consultation with internal stakeholders (Spring 2007), presentation to the public (early Fall 2007) and a report to the Parks and Environment Committee and Council (Fall 2007).

Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-3367.pdf>

Attachment: Report dated April 18, 2006

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-3368.pdf>

PE4.2	ACTION		Transactional	
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Framework for an Integrated Climate Change and Clean Air Action Plan

(March 26, 2007) letter from Executive Committee

Summary

The Executive Committee on March 26, 2007 forwarded a copy of the report (March 22, 2007) from Deputy City Manager, Richard Butts, to the Parks and Environment Committee for consultation with interested stakeholders and the hearing of depositions, with a request that the Deputy City Manager, report thereon to the Executive Committee.

Background Information

Letter from Executive Committee

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-3266.pdf>

Attachment: Report dated March 12, 2007 from the Deputy City Manager

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-3294.pdf>

Attachment: Report dated March 22, 2007 from the Deputy City Manager

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-3265.pdf>

Attachment: Report entitled "Change is in the Air."

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-3315.pdf>

2a Hot Weather Response Plan Update

(April 16, 2007) letter from Board of Health

Recommendations

The Board of Health, on April 16, 2007, forwarded the following Recommendations 4, 5 and 6 in the communication (April 16, 2007) from the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee to the June 6, 2007, Parks and Environment Committee meeting for consideration as part of the City's Climate Change Plan:

- “4. establish ward based ‘cooling centres’ based in City operated recreation/community centres;
5. increase funding to permit expanded drop-in based heat/cooling support response; and
6. provide heat response funding that will support the development of local heat registries and local heat safety networks.”

Summary

Letter from the Board of Health forwarding recommendations from its meeting on April 16, 2007, respecting the "Hot Weather Response Plan Update."

Background Information

Letter from Board of Health

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-3370.pdf>)

Attachment: Report dated April 10, 2007 from the Medical Officer of Health

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-3298.pdf>)

Attachment: Letter from the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-3299.pdf>)

PE4.3	Information		Transactional	Ward: All
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Organizational Structure of the Toronto Environment Office

(April 20, 2007) report from Deputy City Manager, Richard Butts

Summary

This document responds to the request of the Parks and Environment Committee to report on a review of staff and policy coordination structures of the Toronto Environment Office to ensure better focus and coordination of City initiatives and one-stop shopping for the public.

The City of Toronto's new administrative structure that was implemented in 2005 assigned responsibility for the environment to the Deputy City Manager, Cluster B. An informal review

of environmental activities and responsibilities across the City was undertaken in 2006, resulting in the establishment of the Toronto Environment Office.

The Toronto Environment Office's mandate is the management, coordination and integration of environmental issues across the City of Toronto, as well as enterprise-wide environmental planning and policy development. The Toronto Environment Office will be a central point of contact for City Councillors or the public for environmental issues or questions. Other coordinating mechanisms are the Executive Environment Team, project-based staff coordinating teams and the staff review of upcoming committee reports.

Background Information

Staff Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-3257.pdf>)

PE4.4	Information		Transactional	
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Update on Implementation of Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan

(April 17, 2007) report from Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning and Executive Director, Policy, Planning, Finance and Administration

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the implementation of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (November, 2001).

In 2001, Toronto City Council successfully advocated for protection of the Oak Ridges Moraine. Its recommendations to the Province influenced the form and content Bill 122, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. At the time, Toronto City Council also recommended that the Oak Ridges Moraine Plan address the strategic management of how and where growth occurs in the Greater Toronto Area and surrounding region. This recommendation and Toronto's study entitled City and Regional Strategies for Growth that Protect Countryside and Air Quality influenced the Province's subsequent Greenbelt Plan and Growth Plan.

Efforts are well underway to protect the Oak Ridges Moraine. The City has and continues to contribute directly to these efforts through funding of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. The City also contributes indirectly through its leadership actions in protection and enhancement of the natural heritage system and implementation of the Green Development Standard.

Background Information

Staff Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-3258.pdf>)