

Parks and Environment Committee

Meeting No.	4	Contact	Rosalind Dyers, Committee Administrator
Meeting Date	Tuesday, May 8, 2007	Phone	416-392-8018
Start Time	9:35 AM	E-mail	pec@toronto.ca
Location	Committee Room 1, City Hall		

Attendance

Members of the Parks and Environment Committee were present for some or all of the time periods indicated under the section headed, "Meeting Sessions," which appears at the end of the Minutes.

Councillor Paula Fletcher (Chair)	X
Councillor Raymond Cho (Vice-Chair - Parks)	X
Councillor Gord Perks (Vice-Chair - Environment)	X
Councillor Pam McConnell	R
Councillor Ron Moeser	X
Councillor Michael Walker	X

Also in Attendance:

Councillor Adam Vaughan	
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Confirmation of Minutes

On motion by Councillor Walker, the Minutes of the meeting of the Parks and Environment Committee held on April 10, 2007, were confirmed.

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

Speakers

Anne Marra, Director, Parks Development and Infrastructure Management
 Gary Short, Manager, Park Planning and Development
 Alex Shevchuk, Project Manager, Parks Renaissance Strategy
 Pino Di Mascio, MCIP, RPP, Partner, Urban Strategies
 Franz Hartmann, Executive Director, Toronto Environmental Alliance
 Jutta Mason, CELOS

Committee Recommendations

The Parks and Environment Committee recommends that:

1. Council endorse, in principle, the preliminary list of the following eight action areas, and perspectives which were not included in the previous Parks Renaissance Strategy report, where future investments and activities should be concentrated in order to create a ‘Parks Renaissance’:
 - a. Improving the Overall Quality of Parks and Trails:
 - Expedite the construction of bike trails through the parks system and report back on the establishment of a standard for park bike trails in the City;
 - Create a “City waterfront park” linkage for the City through art and design;
 - b. Natural Areas: Education and Stewardship at the Forefront;
 - c. City-Wide Parks: Management Plans to Maintain a Diversity of Experiences:
 - Identify and recommend strategies for the growth of Arts and Culture taking place in our public parks with special consideration to the promotion of Arts and Culture through co-ordination and collaboration with community partners such as the Arts Council;
 - d. Local Parks: Create Hubs of Neighbourhood Activity:
 - Explore with School Boards development and use of sports fields;
 - e. Trails: Build a Significant Trail System:
 - Establish the Don Green Way as a significant waterfront natural linkage from the Lake to the mouth of the Don River;
 - f. Engage People: Better Communication and Involvement:
 - Identify the role of the Parks, Forestry and Recreation webpage and other internet related marketing opportunities as well as identify the opportunities for collaboration with Tourism Toronto on the promotion of Destination Parks;
 - g. Financing the Renaissance: Increased Funding and Partnership Opportunities;

and

h. Integrating Toronto's Climate Change Operational:

Identify the role of Parks, Forestry and Recreation in meeting the City's Tree Canopy goals including enhancement of current tree planting policies and practices;

Stimulation and support for local food production and consumption initiatives such as community gardens and farmers' markets;

Highlighting opportunities for renewable energy demonstration projects;

Meeting the City's solid waste reduction goals; and

Include ecological function proposals;

(Motion 1a. to 1h. by Councillor Fletcher)

2. the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation:

- a. as part of the community consultation process, hold information meetings in specific wards to gain the perspective of park users preferences; and

(Motion 2a. by Councillor Cho)

- b. report to the Parks and Environment Committee on the Parks Renaissance Strategy, in time for the 2008 budget considerations, and include in the report strategies for engaging marginalized and low-income communities in advisory roles in parks management.

(Motion 2b. by Councillor Fletcher, with amendment by Councillor Perks and Councillor Walker)

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee:

1. recommended that the Executive Committee deem the Sports Framework Strategy to be in the mandate of the Parks and Environment Committee and the Community Development and Recreation Committee;

(Motion by Councillor Moeser)

2. upon the adoption of Recommendation 1. by the Executive Committee, will request the Chairs of the Parks and Environment Committee and the Community Development and Recreation Committee to call a joint meeting to consider the matter of the Sports Framework Strategy;

(Motion by Councillor Moeser)

3. deferred the following motion proposed by Councillor Walker for consideration by the Parks and Environment Committee when it considers the Parks Acquisition Policy:

“That the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation be requested to report on:

1. the allocated funding for the Parks Department (including Forestry) in the City of Toronto since 1998, in terms of City Council approved Capital and Operating budgets, such report to identify funding allocations per capita, by ward and by service district;
2. the collected Parks Levies and/or cash-in-lieu donations received by the City of Toronto since 1998 from approved developments in the City, and such report to provide a ward by ward accounting of this funding, identifying the source of the levy, amount of levy, when it was received by the City, on what project(s) the levy was allocated, if it was spent in part or whole, and if any surplus is left from any specific levy; and
3. the feasibility of implementing an “Adopt-A-Park” program in Toronto, particularly in Ward 22, and that such program is to formalize an arrangement with volunteer residents who assume responsibility for non-intensive maintenance and seasonal plantings for a specific park, parkette, or green space.”

(Motion by Councillor Fletcher)

Motions

Amend motion moved by Councillor Raymond Cho (Lost)

“That staff report further on a business plan to increase revenue for parks development and maintenance.”

Links to Background Information

Attachment: Report dated April 20, 2007

<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>

(Executive Committee – May 9, 2007)

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

(March 26, 2007) letter from the 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 deputations, with a request that the Deputy City Manager report thereon to the Executive Committee.

Links to 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 the 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.”

Decision Advice and Other Information

On motion by Councillor Moeser, the Parks and Environment Committee deferred this matter for consideration and public presentations to a special meeting of the Committee scheduled for June 18, 2007, or an alternative suitable date to be called by the Chair, and requested that an opportunity be provided for speakers to provide comments in an evening portion of this meeting.

Links to 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	Deferred	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 co-ordination structures of the Toronto Environment Office to ensure better focus and co-ordination 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, co-ordination 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 co-ordinating mechanisms are the Executive Environment Team, project-based staff co-ordinating teams and the staff review of upcoming committee reports.

Decision Advice and Other Information

On motion by Councillor Perks, the Parks and Environment Committee deferred consideration of the information report (April 20, 2007) from Deputy City Manager, Richard Butts for consideration and discussion at its next meeting on June 6, 2007.

Links to Background Information

Staff Report

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

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

(April 17, 2007) report from the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning and the 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 of 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.

Decision Advice and Other Information

On motion by Councillor Moeser, the Parks and Environment Committee deferred consideration of the information report (April 17, 2007) from the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning and the Executive Director, Policy, Planning, Finance and Administration for consideration and discussion at its next meeting on June 6, 2007.

Links to Background Information

Staff Report

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

PE4.5	ACTION	Referred	Transactional	
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Tree Planting Request

(May 8, 2007) Member Motion from Councillor Paula Fletcher, Ward 30, Toronto-Danforth.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation report to the next Parks and Environment Committee on the budget requirements that would allow urban forestry to accommodate the current front yard tree planting requests and Park tree planting requests.

Summary

To request staff to report to the next meeting of the Parks and Environment Committee respecting budget requirements to accommodate the current front yard tree planting requests and park tree planting requests.

Decision Advice and Other Information

On motion by Councillor Fletcher, the Parks and Environment Committee requested the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report to the next meeting of the Parks and Environment Committee on June 6, 2007, on the budget requirements that would allow urban forestry to accommodate the current front yard tree planting requests and park tree planting requests.

Motions

Introduce Member motion moved by Councillor Ron Moeser (Carried)

Meeting Sessions

Session Date	Session Type	Start Time	End Time	Public or Closed Session
2007-05-08	Morning	9:35 AM	12:35 PM	Public

Chair