

Parks and Environment Committee

Meeting No.	9	Contact	Linda Reid, Acting Administrator
Meeting Date	Wednesday, October 10, 2007	Phone	416-392-0145
Start Time	9:30 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	X
Councillor Ron Moeser	X
Councillor Michael Walker	X

Confirmation of Minutes

On motion by Councillor McConnell, the Parks and Environment Committee confirmed the Minutes of the meeting held on September 14, 2007.

PE9.1	ACTION	Adopted	Ward: All
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Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Corporations and Divisions (ABCCDs) Presentations on Green Initiatives

Summary

Presentations from Toronto Economic Development Corporation (TEDCO), Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas (TABIA), Exhibition Place and Toronto Zoo.

Speakers

Jeffrey Steiner, President and CEO, Toronto Economic Development Corporation (TEDCO)

John Kiru, Toronto Business Improvement Areas (TABIA)

Dianne Young, Exhibition Place

Dr. Bill Rapley, Toronto Zoo

Hon Lu, Toronto Economic Development Corporation (TEDCO)

Chantal Brandage, Toronto Association of Business

Dave Ireland, Curator, Conservation Programs, Toronto Zoo

Committee Recommendations

On motion by Councillor Fletcher, the Parks and Environment Committee recommended that City Council request that:

1. The Toronto Economic Development Corporation (TEDCO), in conjunction with Deputy City Manager Richard Butts, the Medical Officer of Health, and the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation, report back to the Parks and Environment Committee on the renewal of the Environmental Management Program Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between TEDCO, the Ontario Ministry of Environment and the City of Toronto, and the potential of expanding this MOU on a City-wide basis; and
2. The General Manager, Toronto Zoo, provide a supplementary report on renewables and energy efficiencies and include baseline greenhouse gas emissions information and reductions.

Decision Advice and Other Information

On motion by Councillor Fletcher, the Parks and Environment Committee:

1. Requested that the City Manager consider adding green economic development to TEDCO's mandate during the mandate review;
2. Requested that Deputy City Manager Richard Butts, in conjunction with the Toronto Economic Development Corporation (TEDCO) and other appropriate City staff, prepare a detailed City-wide review of potential financial incentive tools to encourage more sustainable redevelopment of brownfields and encourage implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan, and the Environmental Plan and report to the Parks and Environment Committee; and
3. Received the presentations for information.

PE9.2	ACTION	Deferred		Ward: All
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Annual Report (2005) on Toronto's Reported Submissions to the National Pollutant Release Inventory and Related Obligations

(September 26, 2007) Report from Deputy City Manager Richard Butts

Recommendations

The Deputy City Manager, Cluster B, recommends that:

1. Environment Canada's National Pollutant Release Inventory and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment be requested to provide all written comments requested and received from all reporting facilities located in Toronto regarding requested clarifications in respect to apparent anomalies and significant changes from year to year in Toronto to the City of Toronto's Environment Office in order to permit for accurate analysis and understanding of changing emissions in Toronto;
2. Environment Canada's National Pollutant Release Inventory and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment be requested to provide date stamps to all changes to their annual databases, following initial approved web-based publication, to facilitate the recognition of adopted changes over time;
3. the Toronto Environment Office continue to work with Toronto Public Health to assess the magnitude of "unreported" emission sources and the best way to address the issue; and
4. the Toronto Environment Office continue to assess and report on the dispersion and transformation of all emissions to air in Toronto and to provide Toronto Public Health with information as to the resultant ambient concentrations in order to enable an assessment of the impact on human health in Toronto.

Financial Impact

There are no known financial impacts beyond what has already been approved in the current year's budget that result from this report. The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

Summary

This report presents the analysis of the data reported for 2005 to the National Pollution Release Inventory (the "NPRI"), administered by Environment Canada and the additional inventory requirements of Ontario Regulation 127/01, administered by the Ministry of Environment (the "MOE").

Three hundred and thirty four facilities from Toronto reported data to the NPRI as to their estimated emissions for 2005. Four of these are the City's wastewater treatment plants.

The analysis indicates that the “releases” to land are zero and the reported “disposals” to land are minor. The “discharges” to water are more than four times as significant by amount as releases to the land, and they are predominantly comprised of releases from the City’s wastewater (sewage) treatment plants. Discharges from those plants are at concentrations better than required by the applicable standards, but because of the very high volumes of effluent to be treated, this results in large overall discharges offshore into Lake Ontario during the course of the year.

Emissions to air are approximately two-thirds the amount released to water and are of two types: Criteria Air Contaminants (“CACs”), including ozone, oxides of nitrogen, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, fine particulate matter, ammonia and total volatile organic compounds, and Other Reported Substances (or “non-CACs”), such as toluene, benzene and the heavy metals. Though the amount is less, the significance to health is considered to be potentially greater.

The data that were reported to NPRI and Ontario Regulation 127/01 for 2005 by the community and the City in respect to CACs do not indicate significant changes from previous years, but NPRI reports do not include all industrial emitters or all emissions. The CAC contribution from residential and commercial buildings and vehicles in the City are considered to be far greater than the emissions from other “unreported” sources. However, the unreported and “unknown” CAC emissions and especially the impact of non-CAC emissions is of considerable concern.

Emphasis should always be placed on exposure to the concentrations in the surrounding air rather than simply toward emissions into the air, but reduced emissions remain as a key to improvements when needed.

Speakers

Franz Hartmann, Executive Director, Toronto Environmental Alliance

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee:

A. Deferred consideration of the report to the November 6, 2007 meeting;

(Motion by Councillor Fletcher)

B. Requested that Deputy City Manager Richard Butts:

1. a. develop an Executive Summary in simple language and design, possibly in consultation with professionals who specialize in composing documents that are more understandable to the public;
- b. meet with experts and correct technical issues, if any, in the report and report on those matters to the November meeting of the Parks and Environment Committee; and

(Motion by Councillor McConnell)

- c. provide the Committee with a progress report for the January 2008 Parks and Environment meeting;

(Motion by Councillor Perks)

2. The Medical Officer of Health advise if Toronto Public Health requires continued assessment and reporting, and if so in what format, in order to carry out the Toronto Public Health obligations to assess the effects of emissions on human health, as recommended in Recommendation 4 of the report;

- “4. the Toronto Environment Office continue to assess and report on the dispersion and transformation of all emissions to air in Toronto and to provide Toronto Public Health with information as to the resultant ambient concentrations in order to enable an assessment of the impact on human health in Toronto.” and

(Motion by Councillor Fletcher)

3. The Toronto Environment Office work with Public Health, the Canadian Environmental Law Association, and the Toronto Environmental Alliance in the development of the next NPRI report to Committee; and

(Motion by Councillor Perks)

4. that the report include the development of an accessible standardized annual reporting framework which uses plain language and design.

(Motion by Councillor Fletcher)

Links to Background Information

Staff Report

<file:///G:/sec/MMIS-Outputs/PROD/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-7257.pdf>

Figure 1 - Figure 6

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PE9.3	Information	Amended		Ward: All
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Mandate of the Toronto Environment Office

(October 1, 2007) Report from Deputy City Manager Richard Butts

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Deputy City Manager, Cluster B:

1. report back to Parks and Environment Committee in January of 2008 and identify the Toronto Environment Office's achievables for 2008 and associated performance measures.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts in 2007 beyond what has already been approved in the current year's budget that result from this report. Additional staff positions will be deferred for consideration during the 2008 Operating Budgeting process. The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

Summary

This report provides a description of the mandate, organizational structure, development plans, and collaborative partnership building orientation of the City of Toronto's Environment Office ("TEO").

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee requested that Deputy City Manager Richard Butts:

1. Review the Smart Living St. Lawrence model, in consultation with the Toronto Environmental Office, and set up a template for Community engagement and report back in the Spring 2008 on ways the Committee can move forward on that community engagement and action;

(Motion by Councillor McConnell)

2. Report on template options for Community Engagement models on Climate Change, including utilizing expertise from Cluster A Community Development Officers;
3. Review job descriptions for three positions against the three Affordable Housing Office positions prior to sign-off; and

(Motion by Councillor Fletcher)

4. Report back to the Parks and Environment Committee in January 2008 and identify the Toronto Environment Office's achievables for 2008 and associated performance measures.

(Motion by Councillor Perks)

Links to Background Information

Staff Report

<file:///G:/sec/MMIS-Outputs/PROD/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-7303.pdf>

Appendix A

(<file:///G:/sec/MMIS-Outputs/PROD/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-7304.pdf>)

PE9.4	Information	Amended		Ward: All
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Marketing the City's Destination Parks

(Deferred from September 14, 2007 in order that Notice be given for Committee questions and debate - 2007.PE8.3)

(Presentation)

(August 23, 2007) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Summary

This report provides information on current and future marketing initiatives for the City's Destination Parks. Destination Parks have one or more significant attractions, settings or features that would make it appealing and worthwhile visiting on its own. Tourist-oriented promotional material usually lists these parks. Only a small percentage of Toronto parks – out of a total of 1,470 – are Destination Parks. Appendix A lists frequently promoted City parks.

At present, the City's Parks Forestry and Recreation Division (PFR) has no comprehensive marketing plan for the City's Destination Parks. PFR currently prints a limited number of brochures, some annually and some on an irregular basis, for a few key tourist Destination Parks such as Toronto Island, Allan Gardens, golf courses and the Toronto Music Garden. The Fun Guide, PFR's definitive listing of seasonal recreation programs, contains incidental and limited promotional information on Destination Parks.

Other organizations and agencies, such as the City's Tourism Unit and Tourism Toronto, and private travel web sites relay and dispense limited Destination Park information as part of their own initiatives, responsibilities and web design content.

Two ambitious projects currently under development will enhance marketing of Destination Parks. First, PFR's Park Treasures Project will categorize outstanding park features such as flora, fauna, earth science, historical, cultural, natural phenomenon, and sensory experiences. This information will become part of a proposed innovative and interactive website marketed to residents and tourists alike. Second, the City's Tourism Unit is presently spearheading the Premier Ranked Tourist Destination Project. This project summarizes information about all of Toronto's tourist attractions in order to inform an assessment of Toronto's strengths and weaknesses as a tourist destination. The audit includes parks.

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee:

- A. Requested the Executive Director, Tourism, to report on:
 1. the percentage of the Hotel Tax generated from City of Toronto Hotels versus

GTA hotels; and

2. the percentage of the Tourism Toronto Website dedicated to Toronto Attractions related to Parks and Recreation;

(Motion by Councillor Fletcher)

B. Requested the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to:

1. Report on destination parks of other countries, what kind of programs they run and why they are so successful and what kind of financial and other assistance they get from various levels of government; and

(Motion by Councillor Cho)

2. Review the definition of Destination Parks to include ones that are focused on signature tourist parks and review the list of remaining parks to highlight local destination parks;
- C. Received the report (August 23, 2007) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation for information.

(Motion by Councillor Fletcher)

Links to Background Information

Staff Report

<file:///G:/sec/MMIS-Outputs/PROD/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-7176.pdf>

PE9.5	Information	Deferred		Ward: All
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City Owned Tree Pruning and Maintenance Strategy

(September 19, 2007) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide information about how the urban forestry work order system is managed and the approaches being taken to reduce the urban forestry tree maintenance backlog. This report also identifies and summarizes information that has been presented to document Urban Forestry's efforts towards improving key aspects of its service delivery over the past few years.

Decision Advice and Other Information

On motion by Councillor Moeser, the Parks and Environment Committee deferred consideration of the report (September 19 2007) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, to the November 6, 2007 meeting to allow for public presentation and discussion and requested that this report be considered with the Tree Hazard Abatement in Parks and Ravines report which will be on the November 6, 2007 agenda.

Links to Background Information

Staff Report

(<file:///G:/sec/MMIS-Outputs/PROD/mmis/2007/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-7187.pdf>)

Meeting Sessions

Session Date	Session Type	Start Time	End Time	Public or Closed Session
2007-10-10	Morning	9:40 AM	12:50 PM	Public
2007-10-10	Afternoon	1:40 PM	3:15 PM	Public

Chair