
Parks and Environment Committee

Meeting No. 20 **Contact** Dela Ting, Acting Administrator
Meeting Date Wednesday, November 19, 2008 **Phone** 416-397-7769
Start Time 9:30 AM **E-mail** pec@toronto.ca
Location Committee Room 1, City Hall

Parks and Environment Committee		
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 - October 17, 2008

Communications/Reports

PE20.1	Presentation			Wards: All
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Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Corporations and Divisions (ABCCDs) Presentations - Environmental Initiatives

Summary

Presentations from:

- a. Gary Welsh, General Manager, Transportation Services
- b. Ann Borooah, Chief Building Official and Executive Director, Toronto Building

(no written material)

(Deferred from October 17, 2008 - 2008.PE19.5)

PE20.2	Information	Action		Wards: All
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Review of Surplus Sites

(October 1, 2008) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact to this report.

Summary

Staff considered the Committee request to distribute lists of surplus sites to Councillors and to review the sites from an environmental and parks point of view and to report to the Parks and Environment Committee.

The existing process for the circulation of surplus city and school board lands includes agencies, boards, commissions and City divisions (the City ABCDs), as well as the affected Ward Councillor. Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division (PFR) reviews all such circulations in light of the Division's mandate and service requirements.

This report to the Parks and Environment Committee is to provide this information as requested.

Background Information

Staff Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-16325.pdf>

(Deferred from October 17, 2008 - 2008.PE19.6)

PE20.3	Information	Action		Wards: All
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3620 Kingston Road (Cornell/Campbell House - Centre for the Program of Excellence - Horticulture)

(September 17, 2008) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications resulting from the receipt of this report.

Summary

This report provides an overview of some of the programming directions planned for the new Centre for Excellence – Horticulture, to be set up in the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division's newly acquired property at 3620 Kingston Road (Cornell/Campbell House). This facility will be developed into what is hoped to a citywide 'hub' for horticultural education activities. The new facility will allow for horticultural education programs for children, youth and seniors from the surrounding community and will help to engage volunteers and form partnerships with the communities and businesses across Toronto.

Background Information

Staff Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-17231.pdf>

PE20.4	Information			Ward: 37
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Site Selected for the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Capital Project for a Multiplex Sport Pad in the Dorset Park Neighbourhood

(October 29, 2008) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications resulting from the receipt of this report. This report is for information purposes only.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to notify the Parks and Environment Committee within two months after the community consultation on the suitable location selected for the proposed Multiplex Sport Pad in the Dorset Park neighbourhood; one of the thirteen identified priority neighbourhoods.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff were requested to host consultations and work with the local youth, community representatives in the Dorset Park neighbourhood and the local councillor to determine a location for the Multiplex Sport Pad.

The abandoned parking lot for the McGregor Park Library met the criteria developed by the working group and is the site selected for this Parks, Forestry and Recreation capital project.

Background Information

Staff Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-17293.pdf>

PE20.5	ACTION			Wards: All
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Winter Snow Removal on the Martin Goodman Trail

(October 30, 2008) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Recommendations

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

1. Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division work with Transportation Services Division on a pilot project to determine the feasibility of providing winter maintenance on the Martin Goodman Trail; and
2. that the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation report back on the capital and operating cost implications of winter maintenance on the Martin Goodman Trail.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Summary

At its meeting of May 13, 2008, the Parks and Environment Committee requested the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report on the feasibility of removing snow from the Martin Goodman Trail during the winter season. This request originated from a communication by the Toronto Cycling Advisory Committee, which was referred to the Parks and Environment Committee. The Toronto Cycling Advisory Committee's communication requested that that this matter be reviewed by the Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Transportation Services Divisions.

The issue of snow removal along the Martin Goodman Trail has been examined by Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff on more than one occasion. In 2004, at the request of several Councillors in the Toronto East York Community Council District, staff reviewed this matter, including undertaking an analysis of the additional costs required. At that time, it was determined that the additional operating cost of clearing snow along the trail in the winter months, were unaffordable, so the matter was not pursued.

In preparing this report, Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff have consulted with Transportation Services staff who were also requested to report to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee on snow clearing and improvements for bike lanes, laneways, laneway entrances and sidewalks. Both Divisions are reporting to the November Committee cycle, so the two standing Committees – Parks and Environment and Public Works & Infrastructure can consider this matter simultaneously.

Our two divisions are recommending that we work jointly on an effective and practical approach to provide winter maintenance along portions of the Martin Goodman Trail, where feasible, as a pilot project. We are also recommending that the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation report back on the capital and operating cost implications of winter maintenance on the Martin Goodman Trail.

Background Information

Staff Report General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-17294.pdf>)