

Parks and Environment Committee

Meeting No.	14	Contact	Dela Ting, Acting Administrator
Meeting Date	Tuesday, February 19, 2008	Phone	416-397-7769
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)	R
Councillor Gord Perks (Vice-Chair - Environment)	X
Councillor Pam McConnell	X
Councillor Ron Moeser	R
Councillor Michael Walker	X

Confirmation of Minutes

On motion by Councillor Walker, the Parks and Environment Committee confirmed the Minutes of the meeting held on January 16, 2008 and the special meeting held on January 22, 2008.

PE14.1	Presentation	Received		Ward: All
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Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Corporations and Divisions (ABCCDs) Presentations - Utilities and Infrastructure

Summary

Presentations from Toronto Hydro, Enwave and Facilities and Real Estate Division.

Decision Advice and Other Information

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

1. received, for information, and with thanks, the following presentations, from:
 - David O'Brien, President and Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Hydro;

- Blair Peberdy, Vice-President, Communications, Toronto Hydro;
 - Chris Tyrrell, President, Toronto Hydro Energy Services Inc.;
 - Dennis Fotinos, Chief Executive Officer and President, Enwave; and
 - Kevin Loughborough, Vice-President, Major Projects, Enwave;
2. deferred the presentation from Facilities and Real Estate Division to the next meeting of the Parks and Environment Committee on April 15, 2008.

1a Renewable Energy Initiatives Briefing Note

(February 19, 2008) Briefing Note from Jodie Parmar, Director, Business and Strategic Innovation

Summary

The Energy Efficiency Office, Energy and Waste Management Office and Sustainable Energy Funds of the Business and Strategic Innovation section of F&RE are working in consultation with internal (e.g., TEO) and external (e.g. Ministry of Energy) stakeholders to advance the renewable energy objectives of the City's Climate Change, Clean Air and Sustainable Energy Action Plan.

In addition, various other City divisions, agencies, boards and commissions are independently developing their own renewable energy projects and initiatives.

PE14.2	ACTION	Amended		Ward: All
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Parks Forestry and Recreation Shade Audit Strategy for Playground and Waterplay Facilities

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

Recommendations

The Parks and Environment Committee recommends to City Council that:

1. the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation work with Toronto Public Health and the Shade Policy Committee to adopt standards for shade provision and confirm a Shade Audit Process to guide the preparation of shade audits by staff and consultants; and
2. 'Pilot' shade audits and shade plans be developed for priority playgrounds and waterplay facilities and that staff report back on the plans, including their capital and operating costs. The knowledge gained from the 'pilot' is to serve as a basis for conducting shade audits for the entire system of playgrounds and waterplay facilities.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts resulting from the adoption of this report. Future financial implications may result from consultant or staff resources needed to conduct shade audits and future Capital work required to implement improvements to facilities.

Summary

The purpose of this report to present a strategy for conducting shade audits at Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PF&R) playground and waterplay facilities (wading pools and splash pads). Shade audits will assess existing shade provision and patterns of use at these facilities and make recommendations for the provision of adequate shade and Ultraviolet Radiation (UVR) protection.

Playgrounds, splash pads, and wading pools are areas that can be of high risk for UVR exposure to vulnerable segments of the population such as children, whose exposure to UVR during the early years of life is a major determinant of lifetime risk of skin cancer. Shade is beneficial as well for the comfort of all park and facility users (e.g. provide relief from heat).

The provision of shade, either natural (trees) or constructed (overhead structures), should be an essential element in the planning of new and retrofitted playground and waterplay facilities. These facilities are primarily used during summer when UVR levels are at their highest, users typically wear minimal clothing and there may be high levels of indirect UVR reflected from surfaces.

A preliminary assessment of PF&R playgrounds and waterplay facilities indicates that most of the facilities need significant improvements in the level of shade provided.

Committee Recommendations

On motion by Councillor Walker, the Parks and Environment Committee recommended to City Council that:

1. the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation work with Toronto Public Health and the Shade Policy Committee to adopt standards for shade provision and confirm a Shade Audit Process to guide the preparation of shade audits by staff and consultants; and
2. 'Pilot' shade audits and shade plans be developed for priority playgrounds and waterplay facilities and that staff report back on the plans, including their capital and operating costs. The knowledge gained from the 'pilot' is to serve as a basis for conducting shade audits for the entire system of playgrounds and waterplay facilities.

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee:

(Motion by Councillor Walker)

1. Requested the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to:
 - a. incorporate the Policy for the Provision of Shade at Parks, Forestry and Recreation Sites into existing playground and waterplay projects, where possible, and work into planning and design already being carried out at specific sites;

(Motion by Councillor Perks)

- b. report back to the Parks and Environment Committee meeting, on June 11, 2008:
 - i. with proposed standards for shade provision;

(Motion by Councillor Fletcher)

- ii. on adding shade provision to any requests for proposal for park design and redesign; and
- iii. on including at least two pilot projects per district and proven community involvement in parks or community facilities, on the criteria for the selection of pilot projects to undertake shade audits.

Links to Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-10539.pdf>

Provision of Shade at Parks, Forestry and Recreation Sites Attachment

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-10540.pdf>

PE14.3	ACTION	Deferred		Ward: All
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Waste Audit of City Parks - Supplementary Report

(February 5, 2008) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services

Recommendations

The General Managers of Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Solid Waste Management Services recommend that:

1. Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Solid Waste Management Services work together on the implementation of the green bin program in recreation facilities following final implementation of the residential multi-unit and school green bin program;

2. Parks, Forestry and Recreation issue a request for proposal to study alternate methods to divert dog waste from the Parks litter stream; and
3. The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in consultation with the General Manager of Solid Waste Management Services, report back on methods to divert dog waste from the Parks litter stream, pending the outcome of questions about the feasibility of collecting and processing large quantities of dog waste in parks.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact resulting from this report.

Summary

This report outlines Parks, Forestry and Recreation's (PF&R) and Solid Waste Management Services' (SWMS) efforts to increase recycling and dog waste diversion in parks. It also provides information on the effectiveness of PF&R By-law Enforcement in curbing household illegal dumping and disposal of wastes. In 2007, PF&R launched a public education campaign on waste diversion, including hiring 6 seasonal waste diversion education staff and implementing a TTC advertising campaign on park recycling. Other efforts to increase park recycling have included the purchase of new park recycling bins, the development of new waste and recycling standards and the application of new recycling basket labels. SWMS will also be adding new items to the recycling stream in the near future, to increase material capture rates.

In addressing dog waste in park litter bins, PF&R initiated 3 dog waste pilots based on research on dog waste management in other cities around the world. The pilots included a carry-in, carry-out pilot, a septic waste pilot and a green bin pilot.

PF&R has further reduced household illegal dumping in parks through the actions of its By-law Enforcement Unit. Since the start of 2007, the Unit has issued over 500 tickets or summons for illegal dumping of household waste.

Decision Advice and Other Information

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

1. requested the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services, to work together on the implementation of the green bin program in recreation facilities following final implementation of the residential multi-unit and school green bin program; and
2. deferred consideration of Recommendations 2 and 3 in the report (February 5, 2008) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services Division, to the next meeting of the Parks and Environment Committee on April 15, 2008, with a request that they report further on how other world cities deal with dog waste in parks, including the provision of bags.

Links to Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-10541.pdf>

Waste Audit Fact Sheet

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-11269.pdf>

Meeting Sessions

Session Date	Session Type	Start Time	End Time	Public or Closed Session
2008-02-19	Morning	9:45 AM	11:10 AM	Public
2008-02-19	Morning	11:10 AM	11:15 AM	Public
2008-02-19	Morning	11:15 AM	12:00 PM	Public

Chair