
Parks and Environment Committee

Meeting No.	18	Contact	Dela Ting, Acting Administrator
Meeting Date	Friday, July 4, 2008	Phone	416-397-7769
Start Time	9:30 AM	E-mail	pec@toronto.ca
Location	Committee Room 2, 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	R

Also in Attendance

Councillor Adam Giambrone, Ward 18 - Davenport
Councillor Howard Moscoe, Ward 15, Eglinton-Lawrence
Councillor Anthony Perruzza, Ward 8, York-West

Confirmation of Minutes

On motion by Councillor Perks, the Parks and Environment Committee confirmed the Minutes of the meeting held on June 11, 2008.

Chair's Announcement

The Chair introduced the following Council Members visiting from the City of Johannesburg:

- Councillor Solomon Mogase, Chairperson, Finance and Economic Development, City of Johannesburg; and
- Councillor Nkele Ntingane, Council Speaker, Office of the Council Speaker, City of Johannesburg

PE18.1	Information	Received		
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Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Corporations and Divisions (ABCCDs) Presentations - Green Transportation

Summary

Presentations from:

1. Toronto Transit Commission; and
2. Toronto Parking Authority

Speakers

Susan Reed Tanaka, Manager, Engineering, Toronto Transit Commission
Gwyn Thomas, President, Toronto Parking Authority

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee received for information and with thanks, the presentations from:

- Susan Reed Tanaka, Manager, Engineering, Toronto Transit Committee; and
- Gwyn Thomas, President, Toronto Parking Authority

(A copy of their presentations is on file with the City Clerk's Office and is available upon request.)

Motions

Motion to Receive Item moved by Councillor Raymond Cho (Carried)

Links to Background Information

TTC Presentation

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-14566.pdf>

Toronto Parking Authority Presentation

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-14589.pdf>

PE18.2	ACTION	Adopted		Ward: All
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Undertaking Shade Audits at Parks, Forestry and Recreation Playgrounds and Waterplay Facilities

(June 19, 2008) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Recommendations

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

1. the approach to conducting shade audits, developing standards for shade provision and the criteria for selecting pilot project sites, as outlined in this report be adopted;
2. staff proceed with the selection of pilot project sites and report back on any additional resources that may be required to complete the shade audits; and
3. staff continue to work with the Shade Policy Committee led by Toronto Public Health and build on knowledge gained from the pilot projects to confirm standards for shade provision, to be used on future shade projects.

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 is to outline the proposed process for conducting pilot project shade audits at a number of Parks, Forestry and Recreation playgrounds and waterplay facilities (wading pools and splash pads). The report will identify the process to be carried out, how standards for shade provision will be applied and criteria to be used in selecting project sites across the City.

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. Pilot projects will allow staff to develop a consistent set of standards and guidelines to apply to future projects, confirm a shade audit process and anticipate capital and operating costs required to plan, implement and maintain additional plantings and shade structures.

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. The provision of shade, either natural (trees) or constructed (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 Parks, Forestry and Recreation playgrounds and waterplay facilities conducted in 2008 indicated that most of the facilities need significant improvements in the level of shade provided.

Committee Recommendations

The Parks and Environment Committee recommends to City Council that:

1. the approach to conducting shade audits, developing standards for shade provision and the criteria for selecting pilot project sites, as outlined in the report (June 19, 2008) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation be adopted.
2. staff proceed with the selection of pilot project sites and report back on any additional resources that may be required to complete the shade audits; and

3. staff continue to work with the Shade Policy Committee led by Toronto Public Health and build on knowledge gained from the pilot projects to confirm standards for shade provision, to be used on future shade projects.

Decision Advice and Other Information

Alex Shevchuk, Acting Supervisor, Area Landscape and Planning Initiatives, Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division, gave a Powerpoint presentation.

Motions

Motion to Adopt Item moved by Councillor Ron Moeser (Carried)

Rulings

Ruling by Councillor Paula Fletcher

The Chair ruled the following motions placed by Councillor Moeser (on behalf of Councillor Karen Stintz) out of order given that City Council, on March 3, 4 and 5, 2008, previously considered similar motions and referred them to the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the Shade Policy Committee, for consideration:

Motion by Councillor Moeser (on behalf of Councillor Karen Stintz):

“That the Parks and Environment recommend to City Council that:

1. Toronto Public Health and the Shade Policy Committee develop a Shade Policy Guide for the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division that includes guidelines and standards for existing playgrounds and waterplay facilities.
2. The guide be made available to City staff who supervise waterplay facilities so that the staff can review the guidelines and make recommendations to senior staff on possible shade enhancements.
3. The Shade Policy Committee be requested to submit an information bulletin to the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation on the importance of protecting children from UVR exposure to be included in the Spring/Summer 2009 The Fun Guide; and
4. The Shade Policy Committee develop an information bulletin that can be posted on the City of Toronto’s Website and can be used by Councillors who wish to include such information in their constituency newsletter.”

The foregoing motions were therefore not considered.

Links to Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-14285.pdf>

Staff Presentation

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-14559.pdf>)

PE18.3	ACTION	Deferred		Ward: 8
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Amendment to Municipal Code, Alternative Parkland Dedication

(June 13, 2008) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Recommendations

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that the City Solicitor be authorized to introduce a Bill to amend Municipal Code, Chapter 415, Development of Land, Article III, Conveyance of Land for Park Purposes, Schedule A, Maps 1(a), A-1 and A-4, to include the area in the vicinity of Black Creek, Finch Avenue and Keele Street as shown on Attachment 1.

Financial Impact

The Alternative Parkland Dedication By-Law allows the City to require additional parkland dedication on applicable residential developments in identified areas of the city, including cash-in-lieu of parkland dedication payments. Financial impacts relate to cash-in-lieu parkland dedication payments through the alternative rate structure. The magnitude of this financial impact is being assessed and will be included in a report to the Parks and Environment Committee in the fall of 2008.

Summary

This report recommends amending Municipal Code Chapter 415, Development of Land, Article III, Conveyance of Land for Park Purposes, Schedule “A”, Maps 1(a), A-1 & A-4, to include an area in the vicinity of Black Creek, Finch Avenue and Keele Street that was mistakenly omitted from the 2007 by-law.

Communications

(July 4, 2008) memo from Councillor Anthony Perruzza, Ward 8, York-West (PE.New.PE18.3.1)

Speakers

Kim Kovar, Aird & Berlis

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee:

1. deferred consideration of the report (June 13, 2008) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to its meeting on October 17, 2008; and
2. in the interim, requested the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning and General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to meet with El Ad Group to discuss the proposed changes to the Alternative Parkland Dedication By-law.

(Note: City Council on July 15, 16 and 17, 2008, adopted a procedural motion to remove, from the Parks and Environment Committee, Item PE18.3, headed “Amendment to Municipal Code, Alternative Parkland Dedication”, which was deferred by the Committee on July 4, 2008, and bring the Item forward to City Council for consideration. Council subsequently adopted the staff recommendation in the report.)

Motions

Motion to Defer Item moved by Councillor Gord Perks (Carried)

Links to Background Information

Staff Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-14286.pdf>)

PE18.4	Information	Received		Ward: All
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Emerald Ash Borer - Quarantine and Control

(June 19, 2008) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services

Financial Impact

Urban Forestry anticipates a cost of approximately \$101,600 in 2008 including:

- \$30,000 (year to date cost) to double tub grind all stockpiled (pre ministerial order) wood and wood chips in yards;
- \$16,600 (year to date cost) for forestry staff to inspect and segregate regulated ash material from non-regulated yard waste material prior to June 2nd;
- \$35,000 for a pesticide injection program;
- \$20,000 to double tub grind wood waste containing ash. This cost is based on the estimate that ash trees make up about 6% of out total street tree population and on a modest increase in ash removals over time.

In order to comply with the Minister’s order, there will be a financial impact of approximately \$101,600.00 for this additional work.

Solid Waste Management anticipates an additional year end cost of approximately \$1,741,000 for 2008 for the processing and segregating of regulated wood products in the Leaf and Yard Waste Collection program. Costs include the following:

- \$326,000 for transfer;
- \$690,000 for grinding;
- \$280,000 for site and equipment rental;
- \$420,000 for urban forestry inspections in the transfer stations;
- \$25,000 for required site upgrades and maintenance.

Costs will be a result of the haulage and grinding of the material identified as ash material by urban forestry staff. Unless additional funding is provided, additional costs incurred in 2008 will be charged to the 2008 Solid Waste Management Services operating budget.

Financial impacts of emerald ash borer (EAB) have been outlined in the two previous reports as

noted in the Decision History section of this report. However, future financial impacts of EAB are dependent on rate of spread and mortality of ash trees and therefore costs will be variable.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the changes to business processes that are being implemented to comply with the Ministerial Order which regulates the treatment and movement of wood from ash trees inside and outside the City of Toronto and to explain the actions that are being taken by the City, the Canadian Forestry Service and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to contain the spread of emerald ash borer (EAB).

The financial costs associated with additional processes that are required to comply with the order, and of treatments that are being undertaken to slow the spread of EAB in Toronto are discussed.

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee received for information the report (June 19, 2008) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services, on Emerald Ash Borer - Quarantine and Control.

Motions

Motion to Receive Item moved by Councillor Ron Moeser (Carried)

Links to Background Information

Staff Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-14288.pdf>)

PE18.5	Information	Received		Ward: All
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Managing Dog Waste in Parks - Update

(June 19, 2008) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Financial Impact

The cost to supply the 20 park pilot green bin locations with green bins, paper bags and dispensers is estimated at \$5,000 which is within the existing Waste Diversion budget. No additional funds are required for 2008.

The cost of collecting the green bins contents will be minimal and can be absorbed within the Solid Waste budget.

The implementation of green bins throughout the parks system is expected in 2010. The costs for installation and implementation including capital and operational costs, as well as a critical path leading to 2010 implementation, will be discussed in a report to Parks and Environment Committee in November 2008.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

Summary

Parks, Forestry and Recreation in partnership with Solid Waste Management Services will be implementing as an interim solution, 20 park pilot green bin locations in 2008, in addition to the 5 parks that were launched in 2007 to address dog waste in park litter bins. The parks are being selected based on their accessibility by Solid Waste Management Services trucks, as well as their features to support a green bin, such as existing and new application parks for dogs off-leash and picnic areas.

Due to processing issues with plastic, paper products are being recommended for pick-up of dog waste. Dog owner associations will be engaged in this pilot initially through a focus group setting out to provide feedback on the process and proposed products and later to promote and educate park users about the pilot. Solid Waste Management Services will test and advise on the best type of paper product for its organic processing operations. Paper dispensing machine companies have been contacted; however, the type of dispenser will be dependent on the final paper product.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in consultation Solid Waste Management Services, will develop a summary of steps involved in implementing a City-wide green bin program, including capital and operational costs, as well as a critical path leading to 2010 as part of the longer-term solution to be presented to Parks and Environment Committee in November when the pilot outcomes are reported.

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee received for information the report (June 19, 2008) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation on Managing Dog Waste in Parks-Update.

Motions

Motion to Receive Item moved by Councillor Raymond Cho (Carried)

Links to Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-14289.pdf>

PE18.6	Information	Deferred		Ward: 19
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June Callwood Park Design Competition - Update

(June 18, 2008) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Financial Impact

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

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide a background and update on the progress and timing of the two-stage, international design competition for June Callwood Park in Ward 19.

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee deferred consideration of the report (June 18, 2008) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation on June Callwood Park Design Competition - Update to its September 15, 2008 meeting, for a staff presentation.

Motions

Motion to Defer Item moved by Councillor Ron Moeser (Carried)

Links to Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-14290.pdf>

PE18.7	ACTION	Referred		
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Notice of Motion - Parks Dedication for Retirement Residences

Summary

Motion from Councillor Howard Moscoe requesting that this issue be referred back to the Parks and Environment Committee for discussion and submitting motion for the Committee's consideration.

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee:

1. re-opened discussion of Item PE17.4 - Application of Parkland Dedication By-law previously considered at its meeting on June 11, 2008;
2. referred the notice of motion (June 12, 2008) submitted by Councillor Moscoe and the following motion to the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation for consideration as part of her forthcoming report on the harmonized Parkland Dedication By-law:

Motion by Councillor Perks (on behalf of Councillor Moscoe):

"That the Parks and Environment Committee direct staff in the matter of interpretation of the parks dedication and cash-in-lieu provisions of the Official Plan in the North District, to consider retirement homes to be the equivalent of senior citizens residential apartment buildings."

Motions

Motion to Re-open Item moved by Councillor Gord Perks (Carried)

Motion to Refer Item moved by Councillor Gord Perks (Carried)

Motion to Extend the Meeting moved by Councillor Ron Moeser (Carried)

Links to Background Information

Motion from Councillor Moscoe

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-14307.pdf>

Meeting Sessions

Session Date	Session Type	Start Time	End Time	Public or Closed Session
2008-07-04	Morning	9:40 AM	10:50 AM	Public
2008-07-04	Morning	10:50 AM	11:00 AM	Public
2008-07-04	Morning	11:00 AM	12:15 PM	Public
2008-07-04	Afternoon	12:15 PM	12:20 PM	Public
2008-07-04	Afternoon	12:25 PM	12:30 PM	Public
2008-07-04	Afternoon	12:30 PM	1:00 PM	Public

Chair