
Parks and Environment Committee

Meeting No.	24	Contact	Dela Ting, Acting Administrator
Meeting Date	Tuesday, June 16, 2009	Phone	416-397-7769
Start Time	9:30 AM	E-mail	pec@toronto.ca
Location	Committee Room 1, City Hall	Chair	Councillor Paula Fletcher

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PE24.1	ACTION		Ward: 13
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Donation from Sir Sandford Fleming College to Parks, Forestry and Recreation - The Children's Teaching Kitchen

Committee Recommendations

The Parks and Environment Committee recommends that:

1. City Council accept the in-kind contribution of construction supervision and general labour, valued at \$235,000.00, provided by Sir Sandford Fleming College of Applied Arts and Technology (“Fleming College”) to construct The Children’s Teaching Kitchen in High Park (the “Project”).
2. City Council authorize the selection of Fleming College on a sole source basis as a pre-selected subcontractor on the Project.
3. City Council waive the City’s Fair Wage Policy as it applies to Fleming College as a subcontractor under a City contract; and
4. City Council authorize the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to enter into appropriate contracts with Fleming College in relation to the contribution, on terms and conditions and satisfactory in form and content to the General Manager and the City Solicitor.

Decision Advice and Other Information

Carol Cormier, Manager, Standards and Innovation, Yafit Rokach and Robin Salt, Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division gave a presentation to the Committee.

Origin

(May 21, 2009) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Summary

This report seeks Council approval to accept an in-kind donation from Sir Sandford Fleming College of Applied Arts and Technology (Fleming College) toward building the High Park Children’s Teaching Kitchen, in accordance with the Policy on Donations to the City for Community Benefits. Since the estimated value of this offer exceeds the \$50,000.00 threshold

for donation acceptance established in the policy, the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division requires City Council consent before proceeding with the initiative.

Fleming College is committed to contributing construction supervision and general labour, estimated at \$235,000.00 in-kind donation towards the building of the kitchen. The Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division will oversee the project through to completion. In addition to the in-kind donation, funding for this project was approved in the 2009 Capital Budget. The collaboration will enable significant enhancements to the project, becoming a showcase for green building innovation.

Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-21428.pdf>

Staff Presentation

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-22243.pdf>

PE24.2	ACTION			Ward: All
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Identifying Urban Agricultural Opportunities in the City of Toronto

Committee Recommendations

The Parks and Environment recommends that:

1. City Council support, in principle, the ongoing coordination by the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the Director of the Toronto Environment Office of Interdivisional Strategies and Initiatives that will achieve the overall goal of expanding opportunities for local food production and other urban agricultural activities in the City of Toronto; and
2. City Council request the Interdivisional Working Group, as part of their work plan, to develop an inventory of City lands which could be made available for urban agricultural opportunities.

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee referred the submissions filed by Lauren Baker and Ravenna Barker on June 16, 2009 to the Director, Toronto Environment Office, for consideration.

Origin

(May 28, 2009) Report from Director, Toronto Environment Office and General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Summary

Promoting local food production is an important component of the Climate Change, Clean Air and Sustainability Energy Action Plan, which was unanimously adopted by City Council in

2007. When food is grown and consumed locally, as opposed to food imports that are transported greater distances from the field to the point of purchase, there is a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Public interest in local food and urban agriculture is growing rapidly and there is increasing demand from City park users to allocate additional city lands, particularly parkland, for the purpose of gardening and food production. Community groups and organizations experienced in urban food production have continued to make urban agriculture a valuable community building exercise as well as endeavouring to address the food security issues that are prevalent in Priority Neighbourhoods.

On February 5, 2009, the Parks and Environment Committee heard from a panel of experts in the field of urban agriculture who were invited to make presentations about of urban food production and how the City of Toronto can best support the urban agriculture movement while considering important constraints and opportunities.

This report responds to the issues examined by the expert panel and provides a platform to continue the policy development work needed to support the increase of opportunities for food production in the City, with a focus on maintaining collaborative working relationships among City divisions and community organizations.

Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-21648.pdf>

Appendix A

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-21649.pdf>

Appendix B

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-21650.pdf>

Communications

(June 15, 2009) e-mail from Jutta Mason, Centre for Local Research into Public Space (CELOS) (PE.New.PE24.2.1)

(June 16, 2009) presentation from Lauren Baker, PhD, Director, Sustain Ontario - The Alliance for Healthy Food and Farming (PE.New.PE24.2.2)

(June 16, 2009) presentation from Ravenna Barker, Manager of the Community Gardening and Urban Agriculture Department at FoodShare Toronto (PE.New.PE24.2.3)

Speakers

(June 16, 2009) Lauren Baker, Phd, Director, Sustain Ontario - the Alliance for Healthy Food and Farming

(June 16, 2009) Ravenna Barker, Manager, Community Food Program, FoodShare Toronto

(June 16, 2009) Ian Aley, Board Member, Foodcycles

Submitted Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Councillor Paula Fletcher, Chair, Parks and Environment Committee