

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Division

Minutes of the Economic Development and Parks Committee and the Works Committee

Meeting No. 1

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

A special joint meeting of the Economic Development and Parks Committee and the Works Committee was held on Wednesday, May 5, 2004, in Committee Room 1, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 9:35 a.m.

Members Present:

9:35 a.m.-12:25 p.m. 2:10 p.m.-6:50 p.m.

Economic Development and Parks Committee:

Councillor Brian Ashton, Chair	-	-
Councillor Gloria Lindsay Luby, Vice Chair	x	x
Councillor Maria Augimeri	x	x
Councillor Mike Feldman	x	x
Councillor Suzan Hall	x	x
Councillor Peter Li Preti	x	-
Councillor Case Ootes	x	x
Councillor Kyle Rae	x	x

Works Committee:

Councillor Jane Pitfield, Chair	x	x
Councillor Sandra Bussin, Vice-Chair	x	x
Councillor Bas Balkissoon	-	-
Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker	x	x
Councillor Mike Del Grande	x	x
Councillor Paula Fletcher	x	-
Councillor Adam Giambrone	x	x
Councillor Michael Thompson	x	x

Also Present:

Councillor Joe Mihevc
Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong
Councillor Frances Nunziata

Members were present for some or all of the time period indicated.

Councillor Lindsay Luby and Councillor Pitfield co-chaired the meeting.

1.1 Implementation of the City's Pesticide By-law

The Economic Development and Parks Committee and the Works Committee had before them a communication (February 24, 2004) from the Secretary, Board of Health, advising that the Board of Health on February 23, 2004, recommended to the joint meeting of the Economic Development and Parks Committee and the Works Committee the adoption of the following reports:

- (I) (February 10, 2004) from the Chief Administrative Officer, presenting the findings and recommendations of the Pesticide By-law Advisory Committee to assist in the implementation of the City's Pesticide By-law; and recommending that:
 - (1) the definition of infestation as previously adopted by City Council be maintained;
 - (2) the eleven principles for establishing action thresholds as identified by the Pesticide By-law Advisory Committee be adopted and applied to the selection process for developing specific action thresholds applicable to Toronto;
 - (3) the Medical Officer of Health in consultation with the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism report back to the Board of Health by April 2005 on specific action thresholds for the most common weeds and insect pests. This report to consider seasonal factors and any newly developed amendments to action thresholds. Further, that a review of action thresholds proposed or in use in other jurisdictions including Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF), be conducted and consolidated into the range of existing action thresholds;
 - (4) the Medical Officer of Health and the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism in their development of specific action thresholds include options related to exceptional circumstances such as summer drought conditions, the emergence of new species of pests, or any other circumstances they deem appropriate;
 - (5) the Medical Officer of Health continuously review new products that could be added to the exempt product list in the Pesticide By-law, taking into account any

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products that Health Canada deems as reduced risk and make recommendations to the Board of Health if appropriate, as they emerge or on an ongoing basis;

- (6) the City's Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Departments, as well as pest control and horticultural industries, golf clubs, lawn bowling greens and cemeteries (either individually or through provincial associations) be requested to submit to the Medical Officer of Health by January 31 of each year a written report of measures which have been taken to reduce the use of pesticides and produce a detailed inventory of all pesticides applied in the previous year;
- (7) the Commissioners of Works and Emergency Services and Economic Development, Culture and Tourism implement an operational policy that there be no application of pesticides within two metres of the perimeter of City-owned golf club property lines and five metres of any open watercourses on City-owned land and report to the Medical Officer of Health any exceptional circumstances that may exist. It is further recommended that the privately owned golf clubs, lawn bowling greens and cemeteries be requested by the Medical Officer of Health to do the same;
- (8) the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism develop an evaluation mechanism to annually review any use of non-exempt pesticides for infestations in City-owned and operated sports areas (e.g., golf courses, playing fields) and make possible adjustments to the landscape and maintenance practices to further reduce such use;
- (9) the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism report to the Economic Development and Parks Committee on the cost of implementing a full Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program for City parklands within six months and any recommendations be included in the 2005 budget submission;
- (10) the Provincial Minister of the Environment be requested to amend the Pesticides Act to require retailers to report on annual sales of pesticides by product-type and municipality, and that this information be made publicly available;
- (11) the Board of Health request retailers, manufacturers and distributors of lawn care products to voluntarily commit to sell and preferentially promote pest control products exempted under the Pesticide By-law. Retailers be requested to place non-exempt pesticides behind the counter. It is further recommended that the

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Medical Officer of Health explore a partnership with the lawn care industry and retailers of pest control products to distribute information and educational resources on the By-law through retailers, manufacturers and distributors of lawn care services and products;

- (12) in the evaluation of the Pesticide By-law to be submitted to the Board of Health in 2006, the Medical Officer of Health in consultation with the Commissioners of Works and Emergency Services and Economic Development, Culture and Tourism include an analysis of the value of the key principles, the volume of public complaints regarding the quality of lawns, the frequency of use of non-exempt pesticides, the public education campaign, the reduction in pesticide use by sector, the impact of enforcement, and whether there should be mandatory reporting of the use of non-exempt pesticides;
 - (13) City Council thank the members of the Pesticide By-law Advisory Committee for their participation on the Committee and their advice relative to the five tasks as directed by Council; and
 - (14) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto; and
- (II) (February 6, 2004) from the Medical Officer of Health, reporting on the activities of the Medical Officer of Health to prepare for implementation of the Pesticide By-law as directed by Council; and recommending that:
- (1) the \$450,000 (gross)/\$225,000 (Provincial subsidy) and \$225,000 (net) required for the implementation of the Pesticide By-law in 2004, be approved;
 - (2) the Board of Health forward this report to the Toronto Interdepartmental Environment Team (TIE), Works Committee, Economic Development and Parks Committee and City Council for information and appropriate action;
 - (3) the Board of Health forward this report for information to the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Association of Public Health Agencies and the Ontario Public Health Association;

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- (4) the Board of Health request that the Ontario Ministry of the Environment adopt a Pesticides Management Code, as is in place in the Province of Quebec, in order to restrict public access to pesticides by prohibiting the retail sale of some pesticide products and restricting the sale of other pesticides in the province of Ontario; and
- (5) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto;

and further advising that the Board of Health also requested the Acting Medical Officer of Health to report back on:

- (1) options for requiring users of non-exempt pesticides to post signs detailing the use of such pesticides 24 hours prior to, and four days after, application of the pesticide; and
- (2) options for a notification system requiring owners to notify the City of their intention to apply non-exempt pesticides.

The Economic Development and Parks Committee and Works Committee also had before them the following communications and submissions:

- (i) (February 23, 2004) from Lynne Raskin, Executive Director, South Riverdale Community Health Centre;
- (ii) (April 19, 2004) from Mae Lee, Special Assistant – Community Outreach, Mayor David Miller's Office, forwarding a communication from Darlene Lipman;
- (iii) (April 16, 2004) from W.A. Sexsmith, Acting Executive Director, Pest Management Regulatory Agency, Health Canada;
- (iv) (April 22, 2004) from Norris P. Zucchet, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries;
- (v) (April 27, 2004) from Melissa Medaglia;
- (vi) (April 27, 2004) from Stephanie Woodward;

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- (vii) (April 27, 2004) from Elizabeth Charles;
- (viii) (April 27, 2004) from Holly N. Tyson;
- (ix) (May 3, 2004) from Victoria Foote, Editor, ON Nature Magazine, Ontario Nature – Federation of Ontario Naturalists;
- (x) (May 3, 2004) from David Robinson, Mountain Equipment Co-op, Social and Environmental Responsibility Co-ordinator;
- (xi) (May 3, 2004) from Terry Rees, Executive Director, FOCA;
- (xii) (May 3, 2004) from Peter Carr-Locke;
- (xiii) (May 3, 2004) from Minaz Asani-Kanji;
- (xiv) (May 3, 2004) from Deborah Dale, President, North American Native Plant Society;
- (xv) (May 3, 2004) from John Routh;
- (xvi) (May 3, 2004) from Sarah Raymond;
- (xvii) (May 3, 2004) from Darcie McKelvey;
- (xviii) (May 3, 2004) from Valerie Palda, MD, MSc.;
- (xix) (May 3, 2004) from Deborah Vona;
- (xx) (May 4, 2004) from Mike Christie;
- (xxi) (May 4, 2004) from Mae Lee, Special Assistant – Community Outreach, Mayor David Miller’s Office, forwarding a communication from Harry Simpson;
- (xxii) (May 4, 2004) from Monica Dennis;
- (xxiii) (April 30, 2004) from Teri Yamada, Managing Director, Golf Programs and Services, Ontario Allied Golf Association;

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- (xxiv) (May 4, 2004) from Lynne Raskin, Executive Director, South Riverdale Community Health Centre;
- (xxv) (May 4, 2004) from Cynthia Fell;
- (xxvi) (May 5, 2004) from Doris Grinspun, Executive Director, Registered Nurses Association of Ontario;
- (xxvii) (May 5, 2004) from Joanne Rosenberg;
- (xxviii) (May 5, 2004) from Lawrence N. Shapiro, Chairman, Beth Tzedec Cemetery Committee;
- (xxix) (May 5, 2004) from Bruce H. Lofquist, International Institute of Concern for Public Health; and
- (xxx) from the Partnership for Pesticide Bylaws.

The Chief Administrative Officer and Jim Hart, Director, Executive Office, gave a presentation to the Economic Development and Parks Committee and Works Committee in connection with this matter.

The following persons appeared before the Economic Development and Parks Committee and Works Committee in connection with the foregoing matter:

- Mary Margaret McMahan;
- Gideon Foreman, Vice-President, Strategic Communications;
- Richard Tighe, President, Grass Roots;
- Kim Galley;
- Debra Conlon, Urban Pest Management Council, and submitted material from the Pest Management Regulatory Agency;
- Paul Gaspar;

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- Norris Zucchet, President, Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries;
- Sandy Bentley;
- Mike Budgell, Maintenance Supervisor, Lawrence Construction Co. Ltd.;
- Vince Kashimoto, National Golf Course Owners Association;
- Sari Merson, and submitted written material;
- Doug Counter, and submitted a written brief;
- John Ladds, Turf Management Systems;
- Larry Boland, Vice-President, Park Lawn Co.;
- Grif Cunningham;
- Lorraine Van Haastrecht, Dr Green Lawncare Services and Toronto Environmental Coalition;
- Jason Kohn;
- Kyle Tobin, LawnSavers Plant Health Care;
- Darlene Litman and Mark Allan;
- Amy Halliday;
- Joanne McKinlay;
- Pat McGuire;
- Tony DiGiovanni, Landscape Ontario;
- Frank Vandermeij, Beth Tzedec Memorial Gardens;

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- David Kerr;
- Don McFarlane;
- Rick Johnston;
- Dan Rocha;
- Jill Fairbrother, Scotts Canada;
- Larry Dykun;
- Margo Boyd;
- Jen Dwight;
- Kirk Matthews;
- Ann Hagedorn;
- Robert Hanulak;
- Darcy Olds, IMP Council of Canada;
- Michael Wong;
- Robert Fisher;
- Kris Wolford;
- Danny Passmore, Frechette Lawncare;
- Richard Rieger;
- Ken Pavely, Landscape Ontario;
- Roger Mongeon, Weedman;

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- David Broome;
- Linda Brager;
- Alice Fox;
- Rob Crysdale, Landcare;
- Andrew Roy, North Toronto Green Community;
- Zoe Dalton;
- Janet Patterson;
- Alison Cooper;
- Christina Sharma;
- Nathalie Karvonen, Executive Director, Toronto Wildlife Centre;
- Margaret Harrington;
- Janet May, Pesticide Free Ontario;
- Katrina Miller, Toronto Environmental Alliance;
- Gavin Dawson;
- Patrick O'Toole, Landscape Ontario;
- Councillor Joe Mihevc, Ward 21 – St. Paul's; and
- Councillor Frances Nunziata, Ward 11 – York South-Weston.

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- (A) Councillor Hall moved that the report (February 10, 2004) from the Chief Administrative Officer be amended as follows:

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- (1) the guiding principle (1) be amended by adding the words “with the inclusion of dandelions”;
- (2) the guiding principle (3) be amended by adding the words “except for dandelions”;
and
- (3) Recommendation No. (3) be amended by adding, after the words “in consultation with the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism”, the words “and Pam Charbonneau, Turfgrass Specialist for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, University of Guelph”.

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(B) Councillor Ootes moved that:

(1) Recommendations Nos. (2), (3) and (4) of the report (February 10, 2004) from the Chief Administrative Officer be struck out and replaced with the following:

“(2) the action thresholds for weeds be those established by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food in its Publication 816, “Turf IPM Manual”, specifically:

- (a) home lawns, golf and bowling greens and irrigated sports fields: 5 percent to 10 percent weed cover, usually treated when 10 percent to 15 percent weed cover reached (spot spray only);
- (b) sports fields, commercial lawns: 20 percent to 50 percent weed cover, as long as function of site is not compromised; and
- (c) passive park areas, golf course roughs: 50 percent weed cover in the interest of public safety (sight lines, noxious weeds, etc.);

(3) the action thresholds for insect pests be those established by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food in its Publication 816, “Turf IPM Manual”, specifically:

- (a) grubs: 15 to 20 grubs per square foot on irrigated turf, and 5 to 10 grubs per square foot on non-irrigated turf;
- (b) chinch bugs: 20 chinch bugs per 6 inch diameter circle; and
- (c) sod webworms: 2 to 3 sod webworms per square foot on irrigated turf, and 1 sod webworm per square foot on non-irrigated turf; and

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- (4) the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, in consultation with the Acting Medical Officer of Health, monitor the action thresholds established by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and in the event of any changes by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food report such changes to the Economic Development and Parks Committee with recommendations;" and
- (2) Recommendations Nos. (5) and (11) be struck out.
- C. Councillor Del Grande moved that the City Solicitor be requested to prepare and introduce the necessary Bill in Council to amend Chapter 612, Pesticides, Use of, to add the following to the list of exempt products in Subsection B of Section 612-1:
- “(3) Any biological pest control products approved for use by the Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency.”
- D. Councillor Augimeri moved the adoption of the recommendations of the Board of Health.
- E. Councillor De Baeremaeker moved that motion C. by Councillor Del Grande be referred to the Medical Officer of Health, in consultation with the City Solicitor, for a report directly to Council for its meeting on May 18, 2004.
- F. Councillor Lindsay Luby moved that the report (February 10, 2004) from the Chief Administrative Officer be amended to provide that cemeteries be placed in the same category as golf courses and bowling greens.

Upon the question of the adoption of motion F. by Councillor Lindsay Luby, it was carried.

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Upon the question of the adoption of motion E. by Councillor De Baermaeker, it was carried.

Upon the question of the adoption of motion B. by Councillor Ootes, it was carried on the following recorded vote:

FOR: Del Grande; Feldman; Lindsay Luby; Ootes; Pitfield; Thompson.

AGAINST: Augimeri; De Baermaeker; Fletcher; Giambrone; Rae.

Upon the question of the adoption of parts (1) and (2) of motion A. by Councillor Hall as they pertain to the inclusion of dandelions in the action thresholds for weeds, they were carried.

Upon the question of the adoption of motion D. by Councillor Augimeri, as amended by motion B. by Councillor Ootes, motion F. by Councillor Lindsay Luby and parts (1) and (2) of motion A. by Councillor Hall, it was carried on the following recorded vote:

FOR: Del Grande; Feldman; Lindsay Luby; Ootes; Pitfield; Thompson.

AGAINST: Augimeri; De Baermaeker; Fletcher; Giambrone; Rae.

Having regard for the action taken by the Committees, part (3) of motion A. by Councillor Hall was redundant.

The following is the action therefore taken by the Economic Development and Parks Committee and the Works Committee:

The Economic Development and Parks Committee and the Works Committee:

(A) recommended to Council the adoption of the recommendations of the

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Board of Health contained in the communication (February 24, 2004) from the Secretary, Board of Health, subject to amending the report (February 10, 2004) from the Chief Administrative Officer as follows:

- (1) striking out Recommendations Nos. (2), (3) and (4) and replacing them with the following:
 - “(2) the action thresholds for weeds, including dandelions, be those established by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food in its Publication 816, “Turf IPM Manual”, specifically:
 - (a) home lawns, golf and bowling greens, cemeteries and irrigated sports fields: 5 percent to 10 percent weed cover, usually treated when 10 percent to 15 percent weed cover reached (spot spray only);
 - (b) sports fields, commercial lawns: 20 percent to 50 percent weed cover, as long as function of site is not compromised; and
 - (c) passive park areas, golf course roughs: 50 percent weed cover in the interest of public safety (sight lines, noxious weeds, etc.);
 - (3) the action thresholds for insect pests be those established by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food in its Publication 816, “Turf IPM Manual”, specifically:
 - (a) grubs: 15 to 20 grubs per square foot on irrigated turf, and 5 to 10 grubs per square foot on non-irrigated turf;
 - (b) chinch bugs: 20 chinch bugs per 6 inch diameter circle; and
 - (c) sod webworms: 2 to 3 sod webworms per square foot on irrigated turf, and 1 sod webworm per

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square foot on non-irrigated turf; and

- (4) the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, in consultation with the Acting Medical Officer of Health, monitor the action thresholds established by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and in the event of any changes by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food report such changes to the Economic Development and Parks Committee with recommendations;” and
- (2) striking out Recommendations Nos. (5) and (11); and
- (B) referred the following motion to the Medical Officer of Health, in consultation with the City Solicitor, for a report directly to Council for its meeting on May 18, 2004:

Moved by Councillor Del Grande:

“That the City Solicitor be requested to prepare and introduce the necessary Bill in Council to amend Chapter 612, Pesticides, Use of, to add the following to the list of exempt products in subsection B of section 612-1:

- ‘(3) Any biological pest control products approved for use by the Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency.’”

(Medical Officer of Health; c: City Solicitor; Chief Administrative Officer; Jim Hart, Director, CAO’s Office – May 5, 2004)

(Clause No. 1, Joint Report No. 1)

The Economic Development and Parks Committee and the Works Committee adjourned their joint meeting at 6:50 p.m.

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Chair.