
Parks and Environment Committee

Meeting No.	26	Contact	Dela Ting, Acting Administrator
Meeting Date	Thursday, October 15, 2009	Phone	416-397-7769
Start Time	9:30 AM	E-mail	pec@toronto.ca
Location	Committee Room 2, City Hall	Chair	Councillor Paula Fletcher

Parks and Environment Committee		
Councillor Paula Fletcher (Chair) Councillor Raymond Cho (Vice Chair Environment)	Councillor Ron Moeser Councillor Frances Nunziata	Councillor Karen Stintz (Vice Chair Parks) 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 - September 23, 2009****Communications/Reports**

PE26.1	ACTION			Ward: All
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Green Initiatives and Activities - Presentations and Accompanying Data**Origin**

(September 29, 2009) Report from Director, Toronto Environment Office

Recommendations

The Director of the Toronto Environment Office recommends that:

1. City Council direct all corporate agencies, boards, commissions, corporations and divisions to track their green initiatives, activities, programs, policies and actions which result in environmental benefits and specifically reductions in air emissions, including greenhouse gases and air pollutants, according to standards and protocols established by the Toronto Environment Office; and
2. City Council direct the Director of the Toronto Environment Office to report bi-annually on both the quantifiable and other environmental benefits of the Corporation's green initiatives and activities from all City of Toronto agencies, boards, commissions, corporations and divisions.

Summary

In response to a request by the Parks and Environment Committee, all City of Toronto Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Corporations and Divisions (ABCCDs) engaged in environmental activities gave a presentation on their 'green initiatives and activities' (programs, policies and actions which resulted in benefits to the environment) to the Parks and Environment Committee between October 2007 and April 2009. These presentations have been compiled and are available on the City's website at:

http://www.toronto.ca/environment/initiatives/presentations_pe_committee.htm

The ABCCDs giving presentations were also requested to report via the Toronto Environment Office on the quantifiable environmental benefits, specifically the air emissions reductions, as a result of their green initiatives and activities to which they presented. Highlights from the presentations as well as the quantifiable environmental benefits and emission reduction/emission savings data they submitted to the Toronto Environment Office are included in this report.

The quantifiable environmental benefits provided in this report are based only on the green initiatives and activities that the ABCCDs presented on and is not a reflection of the total environmentally beneficial activities being conducted across the corporation. That information will be presented through an update of the Greenhouse Gas Inventory previously published in June 2007 (<http://www.toronto.ca/teo/pdf/ghg-aq-inventory-june2007.pdf>).

This report makes recommendations to build on the information received by the Parks and Environment Committee to develop a more comprehensive protocol for the monitoring and reporting of green initiatives and activities throughout the corporation

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts as a result of these recommendations. The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-23951.pdf>

Appendix A

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-23952.pdf>

Appendix B

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-23953.pdf>

PE26.2	ACTION			Ward: All
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Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development

Origin

(September 29, 2009) Report from Director, Toronto Environment Office

Recommendations

The Director of the Toronto Environment Office recommends that:

1. City Council receive the decision of the signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development to suspend, effective May 20, 2009, all further activities, and advise the United Nations University's program for Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development of this decision;
2. City Council extend its sincere appreciation to Dr. Ingrid Stefanovic, Professor and Director, Centre for the Environment, University of Toronto, for chairing on a voluntary basis the Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development; and

3. the Director of the Toronto Environment Office continue to engage the member bodies of the Toronto Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development in the ongoing development and implementation of the City's climate change mitigation programs and related environmental initiatives.

Summary

The United Nations General Assembly designated 2005-2014 as the International Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. As part of this initiative the United Nations University (UNU) established an international network of Regional Centres of Expertise (RCE) on Education for Sustainable Development. Toronto was selected as a Regional Centre of Expertise in 2005.

To facilitate Toronto's participation various organizations, including the City of Toronto, came together and formed the Toronto RCE. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was developed and, in July 2007, City Council endorsed the City's involvement for a two-year period.

Over the last two years, the Toronto RCE initiated work to identify gaps in areas of action on education for sustainable development and identify best practices for sharing within Toronto and the larger international RCE network. One of the outcomes of this work was a conclusion that there is a lot of valuable and innovative work already occurring in Toronto. Much of that work being done collaboratively by the organizations engaged in the Toronto RCE.

In May 2009, the signatories to the MOU identified that the value of maintaining the Toronto RCE as a stand alone formal organization is limited and voted to suspend all further activities and formally withdraw from the UNU's RCE program. It was felt that the goal of the Toronto RCE had been achieved and existing relationships and partnerships had been strengthened and would continue to evolve and develop without the need of a formal organization.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

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

Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-23796.pdf>

Letter from Centre for Environment - Attachment A

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-23797.pdf>

PE26.3	ACTION			Ward: 6, 13, 14, 28, 30, 32, 36, 44
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Dogs on City of Toronto Swimming Beaches

Origin

(September 29, 2009) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Medical Officer of Health

Recommendations

The General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the Medical Officer of Health recommend that:

1. City Council direct the City Solicitor, in consultation with the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Medical Officer of Health, to amend the Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 608, Parks to:
 - a. allow dogs under the control of non-commercial and commercial dog walkers to use all City swimming beaches from November 1 to March 31 while on-leash and prohibit use at all other times; and
 - b. allow working dogs providing a service to the City to use all City swimming beaches and other parklands on- or off-leash at any time,

as outlined in Attachment 1, subject to any necessary minor substantive or stylistic refinements as may be identified by the General Manager and the City Solicitor.

Summary

City Council, in considering the report, “Toronto Beaches Plan” at its meeting of February, 2009, approved an action plan to improve Toronto’s swimming beaches in 2009-10. Council, among other things, requested that staff address the impacts of “Blue Flag” status on dogs, on- and off-leash, on Blue Flag designated beaches, and specifically Kew-Balmy Beach, as this became the City’s seventh such swimming beach in 2009.

The Municipal Code Chapter 608, Parks prohibits all dogs, year-round, on Blue Flag beaches. Staff have considered various options to balance the issues of providing safe, clean beaches for all user groups and the interests of these various constituencies, including dog owners.

Following from our review of various options arising from the Kew-Balmy situation specifically, this report advances a broader management approach that would apply consistently to all 11 of the City’s swimming beaches. This would allow dogs to use all City swimming beaches from November 1 to March 31 while on-leash and prohibit use at all other times. Allowing access to the beaches and other parklands year-round for working dogs in service to the City is also proposed.

It is noted that a companion report, “People, Dogs and Parks Strategy - Off-Leash Policy Review,” is being submitted concurrently to the Parks and Environment Committee.

Financial Impact

The financial impacts arising from the adoption of the recommendations in this report are minimal. Funding required for the replacement or modification of beach regulatory signs (maximum \$5,000) can be accommodated in the 2009 Parks, Forestry and Recreation Operating Budget.

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

Background Information

Staff Report with Attachment 1

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-23817.pdf>)

Communications

(June 10, 2009) Letter from Chris Yaccato, Toronto Beaches Dog Association (PE.Main.PE26-1.1)

PE26.4	ACTION			Ward: All
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Possible Greenbelt Designation for Humber and Don River Valleys**Origin**

(October 6, 2009) Letter from Councillor Paula Fletcher, Ward 30 Toronto-Danforth

Summary

To request a report from the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation on the feasibility and implication of having the Humber and Don River Valley designated as part of Ontario's Greenbelt.

Background Information

Letter from Councillor Paula Fletcher, Ward 30 Toronto-Danforth

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-24121.pdf>)

Attachment 1 - Letter from Franz Hartmann, Executive Director, Toronto Environmental Alliance

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-24122.pdf>)