

July 12, 2018

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the July 12, 2018 Parks and Environment Committee meeting on item **2018.PE29.2, A Draft Biodiversity Strategy for Toronto**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this item.

I see that at least two of the already submitted Communications address the point I wanted to make. Please include the theme of protection as an essential pillar going forward with a Biodiversity Strategy for Toronto.

I'm pleased to see ProtectNatureTO's comments include this: "... where residents recognize that interactions with nature enrich their lives on a daily basis." I'm definitely a Torontonian who recognizes this, in fact, I rely on this enrichment daily.

I'd also be pleased if any of the interested parties would contact me as, in my volunteer work, I know of an ever-growing cohort of Torontonians who would likely be very pleased to participate in stewardship roles even though it's something that may not have already occurred to them.

I think you do publicly publish Commenters' names and contact information, but in case not, I hereby give permission to publish those details of mine within the publicized Communication, and please do.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for providing a draft Biodiversity Strategy for Toronto.

I request that the Committee members vote "yes" to the Recommendations in PE29.2 and including an amendment to address the importance of "protection" and including an amendment that when a final recommended Biodiversity Strategy is reported back that that future Committee meeting will require another step, pre-finalization, of consultation with specifically named, local, not-for-profit organizations and volunteers that have proven expertise related to such matters. [I don't know the names of all those organizations and volunteers, and I'm sure the Committee and City Staff and Executives know them well, and I request that the Parks and Environment Committee take suggestions for such a list of organizations from various sources.]

Thank you.

Barbara Payne
22 Baskerville Cres
Etobicoke, ON M9C 1T8
barbpayne@sympatico.ca
416.788.4749