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Windsor, Ontario June 25, 2015

A meeting of the **Windsor Essex County Environment Committee** is held this day commencing at 5:30 o'clock p.m. at the Ojibway Nature, 5200 Matchette Road, there being present the following members:

Councillor Fred Francis, Acting Chair
Joe Bachetti, Deputy Mayor, Town of Tecumseh
Derek Coronado
Jesse Gardner Costa
Mike Nelson
Joe Passa
Edwin Tam (arrives at 5:40 p.m.)

Absent:

Councillor Bill Marra
Gary McNamara, Mayor, Town of Tecumseh
Debby Grant
Radwan Tamr

Guests in attendance:

Claire Ferris, Blue Dot Windsor
Brenda Biekx
Lauren Nantais

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Karina Richters, Supervisor, Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change
Andrew Dowie, Policy Analyst
Averil Parent, Environment & Sustainability Coordinator
Phil Roberts, Executive Director, Parks
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Moved by M. Nelson, seconded by Deputy Mayor J. Bachetti,
That Councillor F. Francis **BE APPOINTED** Acting Chair for the June 25, 2015 meeting
of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee.
Carried.

The Acting Chair calls the meeting to order at 5:31 o'clock p.m.

2. **ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Moved by M. Nelson, seconded by Deputy Mayor J. Bachetti,
That the election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee **BE DEFERRED** to the July 30, 2015 meeting to allow all elected officials to be in attendance.

Carried.

3. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT**

None disclosed.

5. **MINUTES**

Moved by J. Gardner Costa, seconded by M. Nelson,
That the minutes of the Windsor Essex County Committee of its meeting held May 28, 2015 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.

Carried.

6. **PRESENTATIONS**

6.2 **The Blue Dot Windsor: The Right to a Healthy Environment Campaign**

Claire Ferris, Blue Dot Windsor organizer is present and provides the following as it relates to the “Right to a Healthy Environment Campaign”:

- More than 110 nations recognize their citizens’ right to a healthy environment – but not Canada
- The Blue Dot Movement began by the David Suzuki Foundation with the idea that Canadians deserve the right to clean air, healthy food, and fresh water.
- The Windsor chapter is educating school children on the movement and the importance of a clean environment.
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Moved by D. Coronado, seconded by J. Gardner Costa,
That the following recommendations **BE APPROVED** by City and County Councils:

1. Officially recognize the “Right to a Healthy Environment through a Municipal Declaration” (*attached*), or equivalent measure;
2. Respect, protect and fulfill the right to a health environment within municipal boundaries, and
3. Encourage provincial and federal action to protect the right to a health environment for all Canadians

And further, that the following proposed amendments to the Municipal Declaration (*attached* as Appendix “A”) **BE ADDED** to:

- Include a concrete action that the Federal government can strive towards; and
- Include interim targets and timelines for implementation within the 20 year strategic plan.

Carried.

6.1 Central Box Environmental Assessment

The document entitled “Central Box Environmental Assessment – Andrew Dowie, Corporation of the City of Windsor” is *attached* as Appendix “A”.

A. Dowie provides the following highlights relating to the Central Box Environmental Assessment:

- The City of Windsor has initiated a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment to provide short and long-term transportation network improvements to the Central Box Study Area to serve the needs of the transportation system, related infrastructure and area growth for a 20 year period.
- The study area is bounded by Eugenie Street (north), Howard Avenue (east), West Grand/South Cameron Boulevard (south) and Dominion Boulevard (west).
- Public Information Centre #1 – The “Ideas” Meeting was held on May 6, 2015.
- Public Information Centre #2 – The “Vision” Meeting – Date to be determined.
- The key issues include:
 - CP Railway corridor acts as a barrier between neighbourhoods and destinations;
 - Road safety at collision prone intersections and mid-block locations;
 - North-south roadway capacity requirements;
 - A lack of connectivity and capacity for east-west travel;
 - Gaps in the active transportation network as well as design deficiencies;
 - Safety and efficiency concerns related to grade-separated and at-grade rail crossings;
 - Inconsistencies between the operating characteristics of roadways and their functional classifications according to the Official Plan.

A. Parent invites A. Dowie to attend a future meeting of WECEC following the Public Information Centre #2 – The “Vision” meeting.

The Acting Chair thanks A. Dowie for his presentation.

7. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

7.1 **WECEC Terms of Reference and Mandate**

The WECEC Terms of Reference and Mandate document is reviewed and the following amendments are suggested:

- Remove the specific members' names (as membership may change over the next four years)
- Remove the phrase "conduct an annual performance evaluation of the WECEC Coordinator"
- To add the phrase "All recommendations will be approved by City/County Council prior to making any recommendations to a third party and/or private agency".
- To add the phrase related to absenteeism – "Any member who is absent from 3 consecutive meetings without expressing regrets will be deemed to have resigned from the Committee"
- Add the phrase "Meetings will be held bi-monthly".
- Add the phrase – The Windsor Essex County Environment Committee reports to the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee" *and Essex County Council*"

The Revised Terms of Reference/Mandate will be reviewed at the July 30, 2015 WECEC meeting.

7.2 **WECEC Priorities and Subcommittee**

It is generally agreed this matter will be discussed at the July 30, 2015 meeting.

8. **COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

A. Parent provides names of potential Green Speakers such as Sarah Elton, Journalist and Author of *Locavore* and *Consumed*, David Noble, Witness to Environmental Leadership, Founder of *2degreesC*, Author, Gianni Kovacevic, Realistic Environmentalist, and Peter Corbyn, Special Advisor for Climate Project Canada, Environmentalist, Innovator. Additional suggestions include Steve Marshall, Biologist and Chris Early University of Guelph.

A. Parent reports approximately 160 guests attended the Open House held at the Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant. She notes an Open House of the Little River Pollution Control Plant may be scheduled for 2016.

M. Nelson suggests providing themes for discussion for the Green Speaker Series, i.e. phragmites control, biodiversity, blue green algae in the Great Lakes, and health themes including links between the environment and cancer rates.

A. Parent states the Green Speaker budget will be approximately \$3,000. The Acting Chair requests members provide any further speakers' names for consideration.

9. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Air

D. Coronado provides the "WECEC Air Subcommittee –June 2015" Report, attached as Appendix "B". The salient points of discussion are provided as follows:

- A recent demonstration against school bus idling in Windsor prompted a request for a status update regarding Windsor By-law 233-2001 *Idling of Vehicles and Boats*.
- Earlier in June, Ontario began a phase-in of the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI). Windsor-Essex County now has the AQHI instead of the Air Quality Index. The formula developed to calculate the AQHI is based on research conducted by Health Canada using health and air quality data collected in cities across Canada.
- Ontario has also begun to implement an Air Quality Management System (AQMS). It is a cross Canada framework developed through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. Through the AQMS, provinces and territories are responsible for delineating and managing *air zones* based on environmental conditions and regional/local circumstances.

K. Richters advises there is currently a "draft" Anti-Idling By-law that limits idling to one minute. She notes enforcement of idling is be difficult, however she is working on an update to the by-law.

Moved by J. Gardner Costa, seconded by E. Tam,
That the verbal report by Derek Coronado, WECEC Air Subcommittee **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

10. NEW BUSINESS

None.

11. COMMUNICATIONS

Moved by J. Gardner Costa, seconded by D. Coronado,
That the following communications **BE RECEIVED**:

11.1 The Windsor Star: Project Administrator Defends New City Hall

11.2 Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee Agenda – June 17, 2015

- 11.3 2015 Hometown Hero's Award Program
11.4 Citizens Environment Alliance – State of Detroit River Boat tour 2015

Carried.

12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on July 30, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at the Ojibway Nature Centre.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 6:55 o'clock p.m.

ACTING CHAIR

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR