

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ECCAC)

Meeting held December 4, 2024

A meeting of the Environment and Climate Change Advisory Committee is held this day commencing at 5:30 o'clock p.m. in Room 140, 350 City Hall Square West, there being present the following members:

Councillor Kieran McKenzie, Chair
Councillor Angelo Marignani
Maria Boada
Frank Butler
Masoumeh Mazandarani
Jennifer Nantais

Regrets received from:

Glory Aimufua
Mike Fisher

Guest in attendance:

Philippa von Zeigenweidt

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Jelena Payne, Commissioner, Economic Development
Matthew Johnson, Executive Director, Economic Development, Climate Change and Development
Nolan Lachance, Environmental & Sustainability Coordinator
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 5:30 o'clock p.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule A, attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

2. Declaration of Conflict

None disclosed.

3. Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by Councillor Angelo Marignani, seconded by Maria Boada,
That the minutes of the Environment and Climate Change Advisory Committee of
its meeting held July 30, 2024 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

Addition to the Agenda

Moved by Councillor Angelo Marignani, seconded by Maria Boada,
That the Environment and Climate Change December 4, 2024 Agenda **BE
AMENDED** to add the “Sandwich South: Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan”.
Carried.

Jelena Payne, Commissioner, Economic Development and Matthew Johnson,
Executive Director, Economic Development, Climate Change and Development are
present to provide an overview. The document entitled “Sandwich South: Sustainable
Neighbourhood Action Plan – Summary Report” or SNAP report is **attached** as Appendix
“A”.

Jelena Payne advises that the SNAP Report has tight deadlines related to the FCM
Grant that funded this work. The intent of this Grant was to proactively work with the
community, work with consultants and stakeholders to create and identify best practices
as this new area is developed. She adds that the document will be going to Council on
December 9, 2024.

Matthew Johnson provides the following remarks:

- The SNAP Summary report covers the process that the team went through as well as a vision for the site including the major themes for SNAP.
- The process included a three-phased approach where it included public consultation, and engagement with subject matter experts and looking how to have sustainable development within the Sandwich South area.
- The 5 themes that are outlined in the report have several goals and actions that are linked to those goals.
- Themes include:
 - Theme #1 Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure
 - Theme #2 Green Jobs and Economy
 - Theme #3 Climate Leadership and Green Energy
 - Theme #4 Sustainable Transportation and Mobility
 - Theme #5 Community, Land use and Design

Jelena Payne and Matthew Johnson advise they will come back at a future date to
ECCAC and will present an overview on the 92 action items. She states once the plan is

endorsed by City Council, and is presented to FCM, it will be shared with all relevant City departments and developers who may be developing in the Sandwich south area.

Frank Butler requests that the 92 best practices be provided to the Committee prior to the next meeting of the ECCAC. Jelena Payne advises that a link will be provided.

Councillor Angelo Marignani advises that education relating to Sandwich South Neighbourhood Action Plan is important. Jelena Payne responds that the entire Report will be on-line (on the website and FCM's website).

Maria Boada asks if this is something the ECCAC can recommend to Council in terms of budget. She adds it is important to keep Council and our government accountable due to the climate emergency.

Matthew Johnson responds that they are currently going through a Community Improvement Plan review in the Planning Department, and this process involves considering incentivizing of various green issues and actions. From an economic development lens, we are attracting and targeting companies to the area that support the green economy. Jelena Payne responds that updates will be reported to Council. Maria Boada states that the city is not doing enough as they have less than 5 years to meet the environmental goals.

The Chair advises that the 92 recommendations can be reviewed by the Committee. If the city follows what has been presented, the city will build the most sustainable and environmentally progressive neighbourhoods that the city has ever built.

Councillor Angelo Marignani suggests that a "Windsor Communication Clerk App" be developed for the residents and to promote the developers.

Jennifer Nantais remarks if there are recommended best practices with no real requirements for minimum standards, she asks how we will measure in the future whether this neighbourhood is any more sustainable than any other neighbourhood as the recommendations do not have to be adopted. She questions if ECCAC could provide some goals in terms of how much green space, etc. to be able to see some measure of success. Jelena Payne responds that some of that may come from the Secondary Plan process and notes that "green space" can be integrated into the Secondary Plan as a measurable requirement. The Chair asks if that would form part of the recommendations that will come from the plan that would be developed. He notes there is no strategy in the plan for metrics.

Maria Boada questions if there will be an opportunity after viewing the plan to provide recommendations as to how things will be measured and implemented. Jelena Payne responds that is the role of the Committee.

The Chair thanks Jelena Payne and Matthew Johnson for their presentation.

Moved by Councillor Angelo Marignani, seconded by Maria Boada,
That the Sandwich South: Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan presented by Jelena Payne, Commissioner, Economic Development and Matthew Johnson, Executive Director, Economic Development **BE RECEIVED** and further, that Administration **BE REQUESTED** to report back on an implementation strategy including all of the documentation for a full review.

Carried.

4. Business Items

4.1 WIFF Environment Movie

The Chair states that the screening recently shown at the Capitol Theatre dealt with algae being added to the water in some parts of the country because of the impact of the invasive species. He adds that two film makers were present, and the event was a great success with approximately 150 people in attendance. He indicates that a comment board was available for the public to offer feedback on the film which will be consolidated and provided at the next meeting.

Frank Butler expresses concern that the booklet available at the showing was not done in an environmentally friendly way. The Chair suggests correspondence can be sent to WIFF to request that more sustainable materials be utilized in their handouts.

Councillor Angelo Marignani advises that there are three episodes of “All Too Clear” available on TVO which refers to the poisonous algae in Lake Erie and the St. Clair River.

Moved by Maria Boada, seconded by Frank Butler,

That the report regarding the screening of an environmental film at the Capitol Theatre on October 29, 2024, **BE RECEIVED** and further, that the Chair **BE DIRECTED** to correspond with WIFF to express gratitude and to suggest that environmental sustainability be considered in future festivals.

Carried.

4.2 Election of a new Chair for the Youth Subcommittee

Maria Boada reports that she and Kiemia Rezagian (no longer a member) make up the subcommittee. The Chair states that the Public Engagement Subcommittee is equipped to take on the work of the Youth Subcommittee. It is generally agreed that that membership of the Youth Subcommittee will remain vacant at this time.

Moved by Frank, seconded by Councillor Angelo Marignani,

That the election of a new Chair for the Youth Subcommittee **BE REFERRED** to the next meeting of the ECCAC.

Carried.

4.3 Earth Day Planning to Commence

Nolan Lachance remarks that Earth Day will be held on April 27, 2025 at Malden Park. The Committee agrees to participate in the 2025 Earth Day event.

Moved by Frank Butler, seconded by Maria Boada,
That the Environment and Climate Change Advisory Committee **BE INVOLVED** in the 2025 Earth Day event to be held at Malden Park.

Carried.

4.4 ECCAC 2024 Operating Budget

The Chair suggests the creation of an ad hoc subcommittee to meet and make recommendations regarding the allocation of the 2024 Operating Budget in the amount of \$11,974.56. Councillor Angelo Marignani proposes using some of the funds for an ad campaign or a video to promote the environment.

Moved by Maria Boada, seconded by Councillor Angelo Marignani,
That an Ad Hoc Subcommittee **BE CREATED** to review various options to invest the available 2024 Operating Budget funds for environmental initiatives.

Carried.

5. Subcommittee Reports

5.1 City of Windsor Bird Team

Jennifer Nantais, Chair provides the following update:

- The Bird Team Subcommittee met this month. A general template from Nature Canada is used which involves all the priorities that they have to connect on.
- In terms of the species at risk monitoring, they did some work towards chimney swifts and collected data in the city relating to roofing and nesting sites which can be viewed by all city staff.
- In terms of window collisions, briefs can be requested for Official Plan Amendments, Zoning By-law Amendments and Draft Plans and Site Plan Control. She suggests making recommendations to new developments for bird friendly windows.
- They participated in the global bird rescue for the first time and the building was monitored by City staff. Some of the buildings with the most collisions were recorded.
- Filling out the terms of reference provided by Nature Canada to solidify the team to be opened to public members.

Massoumeh Mazandarani asks if data is available regarding how many birds are killed due to window collisions in the City of Windsor and what can be done to minimize this problem. Jennifer Nantais responds that one of the things that we can do is to notice where the problem areas are and to record those numbers. The City of Windsor has to count the collisions to know the extent of the impact.

The Chair suggests that Jennifer Nantais provide initiatives to be funded from the 2025 operating budget.

The Chair proposes at the next meeting, that consideration be given to send a recommendation to Council regarding the dedication of resources to this initiative, how we are engaged in these processes, and what are the recommendations coming forward from various organizations.

Moved by Councillor Angelo Marignani, seconded by Frank Butler,
That the update by Jennifer Nantais, Chair, City of Windsor Bird Team
Subcommittee **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

The Chair requests that information be provided for the next meeting relating to what are the bird friendly initiatives that the city is currently undertaking, what is the status on that front, and a report on how well the city is doing.

Moved by Jennifer Nantais, seconded by Councillor Angelo Marignani,
That a report on the City of Windsor's status as a bird friendly community **BE PROVIDED** for the next meeting.
Carried.

5.2 Planning and Environment Subcommittee

No report.

5.3 Public Engagement and Education

Maria Boada refers to the WIFF movie, previously discussed and adds they will be meeting to discuss a "youth mock Council," climate change cafes, and building more awareness on compost. In terms of the mock council, the Chair advises he has reached out to a few high school contacts and reports that École Secondaire de Lamothe-Cadillac is interested in this initiative. He envisions 5 or 6 schools to propose an environmental initiative for the city to consider. The committee would then stage a mock council in the Council Chambers and allow them to present, to debate, and to make recommendations that would go forward to Council.

Maria Boada advises that the logo for the Committee is not a high-resolution image. The Chair suggests hiring a professional to do a refresh of the logo.

Moved by Councillor Angelo Marignani, seconded by Jennifer Nantais,
That the update by Maria Boada, Chair, Public Engagement and Education **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried.

5.4 Youth Subcommittee

No report.

5.5 Budget Subcommittee

Frank Butler, Chair submits the following budget items for consideration:

- **Red light cameras and enforcement of lower speed limits near schools.** Suggestion to double the red light cameras to twenty (20).
- **Naturalize city-owned parks** Planting more shade trees and incorporating features like berms and swales in parks will reduce maintenance costs and improve resilience in the event of extreme weather conditions.
- **Let grass in city-owned parks grow higher** – Increasing the time between mowings and allowing grass to grow several inches higher will save labour costs. It will also support biodiversity in city-owned parks.
- **Improve Windsor Police Services (WPS) stolen bicycle recovery by signing into Garage 529.** WPS currently does not have dedicated staff to actively manage bicycle registration. This makes it complicated to track down stolen bicycles. Garage 529 is an international online platform that provides bike registry services, costing much less than managing a city-owned registration and tracking system.
- **Streamline Property Standards By-law** – Updating and streamlining the Property Standards By-law to meet current environmental best practices will enable responsible land stewardship practices and reduce enforcement costs.
- **Lean on environmental non-governmental organizations (NGO's) and engaged citizens**
- Windsor's current hiring freeze has made staffing of important environmental positions difficult. Yet, many engaged citizens through volunteer NGO Boards have expertise that can make it easier for the city to meet its environmental and active transportation commitments.
- **Fluoride** – Annual cost of \$150k for community water fluoridation can be saved by ending community water fluoridation. These indirect cost savings would impact Enwin's bottom line and the utility's dividend to the city.

The Chair states that currently all of the revenue generated from red light cameras because it is administered through Provincial Offences, is shared 50% with the County. The Committee is in support of increasing the number of red light cameras.

The Chair advises in terms of the suggestions to “naturalize city-owned parks’ and to “allow grass in city-owned parks to grow higher”, he proposes that this matter be referred to Parks and to ask Administration to attend the next meeting.

Jennifer Nantais remarks that conversation has been held regarding updating bylaws to support native plant gardening. She adds if Parks is present at the next meeting; it would provide an opportunity to discuss this matter.

As it relates to streamlining the Property Standards By-law, the Chair suggests that Administration from Building be invited attend the next meeting.

The Chair asks how the elimination of fluoride fits into climate change. Frank Butler responds that it is harmful to the environment and presents health issues. The Chair responds this is an issue for the Health Unit.

Moved by Frank Butler, seconded by Councillor Angelo Marignani,
That an increase in the implementation of red light cameras **BE SUPPORTED**
across the community.
Carried.

In terms of the suggestion to “improve the stolen bicycle recovery by signing onto Garage 529”, the Chair recommends inviting Lori Newton, Executive Director, Bike Windsor Essex and a representative from Windsor Police to attend the next meeting.

Maria Boada suggests that protected bike lanes be a topic of discussion at the next meeting.

Moved by Councillor Angelo Marignani, seconded by Maria Boada,
That Council **BE REQUESTED** to consider better leveraging the community’s
environmental knowledge with greater stakeholder engagement.
Carried.

Moved by Frank Butler, seconded by Jennifer Nantais,
That as fluoride is an environmental hazard, that the City of Windsor **BE
REQUESTED** to eliminate the use of fluoride in city water.
Carried.
The motion is put and is lost.

Councillor Angelo advises that the Windsor Essex County Health Unit recommends the use of fluoride due the positive dental results.

The Chair remarks this is not the work of ECCEC, but rather the work of the Health Unit.

6. New Business

None.

7. Relevant Public Engagement Opportunities

No discussion.

8. Confirm and Ratify E-mail Poll

8.1 That the following motion BE CONFIRMED AND RATIFIED:

Moved by Councillor Angelo Marignani, seconded by Maria Boada,
That the motion to approve an expenditure in the upset amount of \$1,500 BE
AMENDED to \$2,000 in order to guarantee a prime time viewing spot for the showing of
an environmental film at the Windsor Film Festival.
Carried.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the call of the Chair.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 7:40 o'clock p.m.