

# **Environment and Climate Change Advisory Committee Meeting**

To be held on Tuesday, July 30, 2024  
at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom video conference

## **1. Call to Order**

### READING OF LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, which includes the Ojibwa, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi. The City of Windsor honours all First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples and their valuable past and present contributions to this land

## **2. Declaration of Conflict**

## **3. Minutes**

Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held May 21, 2024 – ***attached.***

## **4. Business Items**

### **4.1 Black Oak Park Discussion**

Wadah Al-Yassiri, Manager Parks Development, Karen Cedar, Naturalist and Outreach Coordinator and Aaron Farough, Senior Legal Counsel to be in attendance.

## **5. Subcommittee Reports**

**5.1** City of Windsor Bird Team Subcommittee  
Jennifer Nantais, Chair

**5.2** Planning and Environment Subcommittee  
Councillor Angelo Marignani, Chair

**5.3** Public Education and Engagement Subcommittee  
Maria Boada, Chair

**5.4** Youth Subcommittee  
Kiemia Rezagian, Chair

**5.5** Budget Subcommittee  
Frank Butler, Chair

**6. New Business**

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting 'to be determined'

**8. Adjournment**

## **Environment and Climate Change Advisory Committee (ECCAC)**

Meeting held Tuesday, May 21, 2024

A meeting of the Environment and Climate Change Advisory Committee is held this day commencing at 5:00 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  
Glory Aimufua  
Frank Butler  
Mike Fisher  
Masoumeh Mazandarani  
Jennifer Nantais  
Maria Boada  
Kiemia Rezagian

### ***Guest in attendance:***

Giovanni Abari

### ***Also present are the following resource personnel:***

Karina Richters, Supervisor Environment Sustainability & Climate Change  
Barbara Lamoure, Environment & Sustainability Coordinator  
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

### **1. Call to Order**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 5:03 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 Mike Fisher,  
That the minutes of the Environment and Climate Change Advisory Committee of  
its meeting held March 19, 2024 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.  
Carried.

### 4. Business Items

#### 4.1 Committee's 2024 Operating Budget

The Chair advises that the 2024 Operating budget is \$11,974.56.

#### 4.2 Review of Priorities

Barbara Lamoure provides project ideas for the ECCAC to consider as follows:

- Recommend new environmental metrics worth tracking in the ROSE report.
- Share insight on the city's various projects and plans
- Bring forward work that is deemed done by other organizations or municipalities that is commendable or relevant and to determine if can be implemented into city documents.
- Councillor Kieran McKenzie refers to the Ethically Sourced Protection Plan which is an area to review what is being done regionally into the city's focus
- Bring a focus of climate change to city plans and processes.
- Participate in environmental events hosted by the city and other organizations.
- Participate in and inform on subcommittees.

In terms of the sourced protection issue, the Chair remarks that a report came to the Essex County Conservation Authority (ERCA) at a recent meeting and the Board wanted to forward it to the City of Windsor. He adds that what is happening with sourced water protection across the region, this group affiliated with ERCA has been evaluating water quality in Windsor Essex County for many years and have come forward with a number of recommendations that municipalities need to approve in their Official Plan. There is a lot of work in this area that is progressing well. The one area that is not progressing well is the update to the Official Plan in a number of municipalities including the City of Windsor that need to be undertaken. The Chair proposes to review what is in the recommendations from the Sourced Water Protection and to evaluate that against the City of Windsor's Official Plan and for ECCAC to come back with recommendations to essentially update the Official Plan. He adds that this matter can be delegated to one of the subcommittees, i.e. Planning to review with a climate change lens where we are in Official Plan updates.

### 4.3 Potential events/projects

Barbara Lamoure advises that, the City of Windsor will be hosting the Trail Care Day 2024 to be held on Saturday, June 1, 2024 at Dieppe Garden Park.

## 5. Subcommittee Reports

Barbara Lamoure reports that the subcommittees will be less formal working groups that will meet a minimum of four times per year and will report back to the Advisory Committee. At least one member of the ECCAC should be on each subcommittee. The attending subcommittee lead can report back to the Advisory Committee. Meeting minutes will also be brought back to the Advisory Committee. An overview of the various subcommittees are as follows:

### **BIRD TEAM**

Currently have a working Bird Team which was necessary to maintain the City's Bird Friendly status. The Bird Team would work to address and mitigate key threats to birds which includes protecting their natural habitat, increasing climate resiliency and conducting community outreach and education. The subcommittee is also responsible for providing an annual report card. The Bird Team currently has four members.

### **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT SUBCOMMITTEE**

The goal is to bring forward recommendations for the Official Plan and policy documents, i.e.. environment, land use, greenway system.

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE**

The goal is to develop and implement education and engagement, i.e. Pat on the Back Awards, which provides funding for community based projects up to \$1,000 for schools; the Green Speaker Series involving local and regional experts who speak on significant environmental issues in the community (*formerly programs from the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee*).

Kiemia Rezagian asks regarding the turnout for the Green Speaker Series. The Chair responds that the last two series held at Malden Park and had standing room only attendance. She notes she prefers to focus on the policy issues, i.e. the Youth Subcommittee.

The Chair indicates that the chairs of the subcommittees will be members of the Advisory Committee in order to bring that whole strategic piece together.

Councillor Angelo Marignani states as it relates to the Public Education and Engagement Subcommittee, he suggests going to the high schools; their student administrative council and to merge it with the Planning and Environment Subcommittee. He proposes meeting in Council Chambers to allow for the students to engage in conversation and to feel that they are making a difference. Following that, the recommendations provided by the students will be brought back to the Advisory Committee. Frank Butler adds that college and university students should also be included in this conversation.

Maria Boada proposes bringing in the people that are environmentalists and all of the City Councillors so that everyone is on the same page regarding what is happening internationally, regionally and locally in the environment. She agrees with the concept of doing mock council meetings.

Jennifer Nantais suggests instead of revamping the Pat on the Back Awards, think of projects to inspire work which would also tell the story of our city; to perhaps be more intentional rather than giving money away.

The Chair is hopeful that the subcommittees will come back to the Committee with their own workplans and as a committee will endorse that plan. If there is the “model Council” moment that we want to create, we will work towards that. He adds that the committee needs to create that structure and then allow it turn into whatever the people who populate it want it to become.

Kiemia Rezagian suggests that this subcommittee be integrated with the others as maybe it is standing alone independently thinking of education and engagement outside of the rest of the work everyone is doing. The integration of this subcommittee will make all of the work more powerful.

## **YOUTH SUBCOMMITTEE**

The Youth Subcommittee can involve high school eco-teams, youth community sustainability groups and University/College students and will begin in September when classes commence. Barbara Lamoure adds they are envisioning the subcommittee meetings will be held in virtual format to accommodate individuals around the city.

Kiemia Rezagian advises that students councils are elected when the school year starts but the student trustees will have been chosen at this time. The student trustee convenes all of the prime ministers and presidents of all of the high schools in Windsor and Essex County (1 City representative and 1 County representative)

Karina Richters states that every high school has an Eco-Team which are not elected so this would expediate the process of acquiring students for the subcommittee

in September. She adds that a flyer can be sent to both school boards to advise of this initiative.

The Chair suggests perhaps limiting the number of students to just high schools, so the number of students will be manageable. He asks if additional subcommittees are required.

Frank Butler proposes a habitat land use subcommittee, Great Lakes water subcommittee, stormwater infrastructure subcommittee, possibly transportation, and a budget subcommittee. The pre-budget subcommittee would meet and have something ready for November 2024 with the assistance of Councillor Kieran McKenzie and Councillor Angelo Marignani. Following that, information will be provided to Council when budget deliberations begin in January 2025.

Karina Richters sees the budget committee as ad hoc.

The Chair indicates that the land use, Great Lakes and the transportation topics could be captured within the Planning Committee.

Mike Fisher remarks that the Committee has to have a voice at budget. The Chair adds that the budget documents are available for a certain amount of time, however, the budget process is 365 days a year, so if the Committee is working through issues, the recommendations will ultimately land in budget.

Karina Richters asks if the budget subcommittee would review the Council Agenda, keep track and then use that information to inform the budget. If this Committee is going to make a motion to City Council, it would say these are things that are contrary to or support the budget.

The Chair states that the members concur with the formation of the following subcommittees – Bird Team, Planning and Environment, Public Education and Engagement and the Youth Committee. The question is do we create an additional subcommittee.

Jennifer Nantais proposes that the Chairs of the subcommittees be established; determine the members to these committees, and then adopt an accountability lens into each of the subcommittees.

Councillor Angelo Marignani advises that the Planning and Environment Subcommittee will look more at the policies and lean towards the environmental concerns regarding the risk in those policies.

Moved by Mike Fisher, seconded by Councillor Angelo Marignani,  
That the City of Windsor Bird Team Subcommittee, the Planning and Environment Subcommittee, the Public Education and Engagement Subcommittee and the Youth Subcommittee **BE SUPPORTED**.

Carried.

Moved by Frank Butler, seconded by Kiemia Rezagian.  
That the Budget Subcommittee **BE SUPPORTED** for the purpose of dealing with budgetary environmental issues and to work in conjunction with the Bird Team, Planning and Environment, Public Education and Engagement and the Youth Subcommittees.

Carried.

Discussion ensues regarding the subcommittees and the members are asked to Chair or volunteer to be a member of the respective subcommittee. The following represents the results of this exercise

**City of Windsor Bird Team Subcommittee**

Jennifer Nantais – Chair

**Planning and Environment Subcommittee**

Councillor Angelo Marignani, Chair

Kiemia Rezagian

Maria Boada

Frank Butler

Masoumeh Mazandarani

Glory Aimufua

**Public Education and Engagement Subcommittee**

Maria Boada, Chair

Councillor Kieran McKenzie

Frank Butler

**Youth Subcommittee**

Kiemia Rezagian, Chair

Maria Boada

**Budget Subcommittee**

Frank Butler, Chair

Councillor Kieran McKenzie

Mike Fisher



#### 4.4 Designing the ECCAC Logo

In terms of designing the ECCAC Logo, the following options are provided:

**Option 1:** Through a local company/artist, it could be created by the next meeting. Committee members would vote on the final design. There is a moderate cost expected with this option.

**Option 2:** Created by high school students involved in the new Youth Subcommittee, it would likely not be available until late this year. This option is likely less expensive but an award is recommended.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie states that he prefers Option 2 or could take the current logo and replace WECEC with ECCAC.

Councillor Angelo Marignani concurs with replacing WECEC with ECCAC.

Moved by Kiemia Rezagian, seconded by Councillor Angelo Marignani,  
That the existing Logo **BE UPDATED** with the Environment and Climate Change Advisory Committee (ECCAC) and to discuss with the newly formed Youth Subcommittee, and the Public Education and Engagement Subcommittee to determine if there is interest in a process for a new logo.

Carried.

#### 6. New Business

Frank Butler provides the following comments relating to May 4, 2024 article in the Windsor Star regarding “encroaching on Black Oak and the creation of 12 kilometers” by this mountain bike group:

- Damage and illegal activity is being created in a sensitive area.
- The group is called the Windsor Bike Community.
- Significant damage was done in 2018 as are building a mountain track, moving soil, and cutting down trees.

The Chair states this has been an ongoing issue in many of our parks. The decisions that have been made with respect to different types of activities happening in the park specifically with the off-road cyclists, this has been an issue not only with Black Oak Heritage and a number of other parks across the city. The city took the approach to try to build infrastructure to provide a place for these folks to do their activity. The question as to whether or not who will have access in Black Oak, the city still has control over that but is likely to change in the near future when the National Urban Park is created. The idea of allowing for that activity in a somewhat regulated way is the response to they are

going to do it anyway and the City has limited capacity to enforce. He indicates there may be more signage.

Karina Richters advises that she has been involved in the Black Oak cleanups for twenty plus years. Prior to the cyclists getting in, there were ATV's, hummers but the cyclists were doing much less damage than the jeeps, etc. because they pushed those bigger vehicles out.

Frank Butler adds that they are a very aggressive non-profit group who are engaging in illegal activity.

Councillor Angelo Marignani refers to the pump track at Little River and adds there was a bike path there which was torn down which becomes an enforcement issue. He suggests the placement of educational signage.

Mike Fisher advises that the position of Parks Canada is that they do not foresee owning back Black Oaks Heritage Park and remaining the City of Windsor jurisdiction. The challenge with education is that it works if people are interested in it, however, once people are on the front page of the newspaper breaking the law, they are quite content to break the law. The other component is whether there is a Provincial element to it because there is the element of riding the trails, but creating the trails you are destroying species at risk habitat. He asks if the city does not have resources, perhaps the Province can speak up and say you cannot dig up species at risk habitat in a natural area. He is not suggesting changing the law but enforcing or communicating the law.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie asks what the recommendation is if that is the direction. Mike Fisher responds to talk to the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks to get a sense of what their role is in this matter because it is not only city by-laws that are broken when you tear it up; it is violating Provincial Legislation. Jennifer Nantais adds that the City has been fighting this battle for years ; they cut the fence and every Parks Canada sign has been defaced. The City has hired security, they erected fences, repaired fences, put up signage, had staff on site and it has led to a breakdown of that relationship even further.

Frank Butler proposes that Legal review this matter, and to discuss it with the Province. He further suggests that the City contact this group to advise they are engaging in illegal activity and there may be consequences.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie requests that James Chacko, Executive Director Parks and Facilities, and a representative from Legal attend a future meeting.

## 7. Communications

Moved by Councillor Angelo Marignani, seconded by Mike Fisher, that the following Communications **BE RECEIVED**:

- 7.1 Community and Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emission and Energy Monitoring Report – 2022 – City Wide
- 7.2 Windsor’s 2023 Report on the State of the Environment

Carried.

- 8. Date of Next Meeting**  
To be determined.

- 9. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 7:00 o’clock p.m.