



Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
Committee Room

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Pages

Land Acknowledgement

The City of Oshawa is situated on lands within the traditional and treaty territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Anishinaabeg and the signatories of the Williams Treaties, which include the Mississaugas of Scugog Island, Curve Lake, Hiawatha and Alderville First Nations, and the Chippewas of Georgina Island, Rama and Beausoleil First Nations. We are grateful for the Anishinaabeg who have cared for the land and waters within this territory since time immemorial.

We recognize that Oshawa is steeped in rich Indigenous history and is now present day home to many First Nations, Inuit and Métis people. We express gratitude for this diverse group of Indigenous Peoples who continue to care for the land and shape and strengthen our community.

As a municipality, we are committed to understanding the truth of our shared history, acknowledging our role in addressing the negative impacts that colonization continues to have on Indigenous Peoples, developing reciprocal relationships, and taking meaningful action toward reconciliation.

We are all Treaty people.

Additional Agenda Items

(As may be presented at the meeting)

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

(As may be presented by Members)

Presentations

None

Delegations

None

Referrals from Council and Committees

OEAC-24-16 - Information from Oshawa City Council - February 26, 2024

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[At the February 26, 2024 Council meeting, the following motion was referred to the Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee]

That Item CO-24-11 be referred back to the Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee in order for the Road Salt Working Group to provide a report to Committee and Council on its respective project before presenting to the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee.

Correspondence

None

Reports

OEAC-24- 17 - Tree Giveaway Working Group Report

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That based on Report OEAC-24-17 from the Tree Giveaway Working Group that the Committee approve September 14, 2024 for the date of the tree giveaway.

OEAC-24-18 - Fall Film Night Working Group Report

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That based on Report OEAC-24-18 from the Fall Film Night Working Group that the Fall Film Night Working Group recommends to the Committee that the date of October 24th, 2024 be chosen to hold the Fall Film Night event as per communication between Branden Morris and the Regent Theatre.

OEAC-24-19 - Mind Your Plastic Working Group Report

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That based on Report OEAC-24-19 from the Mind Your Plastic Working Group that the City works with Mind Your Plastic to implement a *Plastic-Free Events Policy*.

OEAC-24-20 - Bloor Simcoe Intensification Working Group Report

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That based on Report OEAC-24-20 from the Bloor Simcoe Intensification Working Group Report that:

1. Bike lanes be installed along Bloor St to support the intensification of the area; and,
2. Conserving the old growth trees that are present at the southwest segment of the vacant lot located at the Northwest corner of Wentworth St W and Simcoe St S.; and,
3. Part of the vacant lot be utilized to create green space and sports/exercise equipment or fields for the community; and
4. The study team considers our comments and questions during the intensification study process; and,
5. A mitigation plan be developed should de-vehicalization in the area be not as

successful as projected; and,

6. The City should continue to promote applicable Community Improvement Plan financial incentives to help grow and support development.

OEAC-24-21 - Road Salt Working Group Report

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That Report OEAC-24-21 from the Road Salt Working Group be received for information.

Items Introduced by Members

Adjournment

Date: February 28, 2024

To: Emily Posteraro, Chair and Members of the Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee

From: Pamela Aguilera, Council-Committee Coordinator

Re: Information from Oshawa City Council – February 26, 2024

At a meeting on February 26, 2024 Oshawa City Council made the following recommendation:

CO-24-11 – Road Salt Working Group Report (All Wards) (previously OEAC-24-05) (All Wards)

Recommendation

That Item CO-24-11 be referred back to the Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee in order for the Road Salt Working Group to provide a report to Committee and Council on its respective project before presenting to the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee.

OEAC-24-17

February 29, 2024

The Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee Tree Giveaway working group report

With a budget of \$6,000.00 we are waiting for Pineneedle Farms to give us a quote on the trees we have requested

They are ...

Sugar Maple

White Oak

White Pine

Paper Birch will be our 4th choice were on of the 3 chosen is not available.

We recommend that September 14th be approved for the date the tree giveaway.

OEAC-24-18

Fall Film Night Working Group Report

Prepared By Members: Gregory Waclawek, Joseph Young, Emily Posteraro, AJ Groen, Tim Spiers

Date: March 5, 2024

Budget Implications: None

Recommendations:

- The fall film night working group recommends that the date of October 24th, 2024 be chosen to hold the Fall Film Night event as per communication between Branden Morris and the Regent Theatre.

OEAC-24-19

Mind Your Plastic Working Group Report for O.E.A.C. Meeting March 5, 2024

Prepared by members: Emily Posteraro (Chair), Gregory Waclawek, Joseph Young

Report:

Background

Mind Your Plastic is a federal not-for-profit organization established in 2016. They initially presented a letter to the Economic and Development Services Committee (EDSC) in June 2023, proposing that the City of Oshawa adopt a plastics-free event policy. This was referred to O.E.A.C. for comment at the June 2023 O.E.A.C. meeting, and a report was submitted by a working group for the September 2023 meeting. A working group was struck up again to provide recommendations to the EDSC after Mind Your Plastic delivered an informational presentation to O.E.A.C. at the February 2024 meeting.

The proposed *Plastic-Free Events Policy* is one of three campaigns led by Mind Your Plastic. The goal of the policy is to reduce waste, introduce benefits of using reusable packaging at municipal events, and for the group to build partnerships with municipalities. As the organization stated in their correspondence with the EDSC, “events are a great opportunity to adopt reusable materials and infrastructure, as [they] typically take place in one centralized location, which allows reusables to be easily tracked and returned throughout an event.”

Within Durham Region, Mind Your Plastic has worked with the Town of Ajax to create a *Plastic Awareness and Reduction Toolkit*. The document offers information for both individuals and businesses to reduce their usage of single-use plastics (SUPs) at events and large gatherings. The Town of Ajax has *not* adopted the *Plastic-Free Events Policy*, which is what is being proposed to the City of Oshawa.

Implications for the City of Oshawa

Oshawa has a number of large public events throughout the summer where this policy could be implemented, such as the Peony Festival, Fiesta Week, Canada Day, and the Oshawa Rotary Ribfest to name a few. The City already has water bottle filling stations and water fountains at Lakeview Park for the Canada Day event. This is a good first step towards reducing waste, beginning with plastic bottles, which are a ubiquitous form of SUPs. The City could go above and beyond by introducing a *Plastic-Free Events Policy*, for example by partnering with a company that provides reusable items (like plates, cups and cutlery) for large public events (examples of this can be found on page 12 of the Town of Ajax’s *Plastic Awareness and*

Reduction Toolkit). This policy would make Oshawa stand out as a leader on sustainability within Durham Region, lessen the burden on our municipal waste system, and set an example for residents to follow in their everyday lives.

Budget implications: None

Recommendations: That the City works with Mind Your Plastic to implement a *Plastic-Free Events Policy*.

OEAC-24-20

Bloor-Simcoe Intensification Study Report

Prepared by: Gregory Waclawek, Joseph Young, AJ Groen, Tim Speirs, Emily Noel

Date: March 5, 2024

Recommendations:

- We recommend that bike lanes be installed along Bloor St to support the intensification of the area.
- We recommend conserving the old growth trees that are present at the southwest segment of the vacant lot located at the Northwest corner of Wentworth St W and Simcoe St S.
- We recommend that part of the vacant lot be utilized to create green space and sports/exercise equipment or fields for the community.
- We recommend that the study team considers our comments and questions during the intensification study process.
- We recommend a mitigation plan be developed should de-vehicalization in the area be not as successful as projected.
- The City should continue to promote applicable Community Improvement Plan financial incentives to help grow and support development.

Comments:

- Vacant Lot @Northwest corner of Wentworth St W and Simcoe St S:
 - Conserve the old growth trees that are present at the southwest segment of the vacant lot
 - Utilizing part of the vacant lot to create green space and sports/exercise equipment or fields
 - We are concerned that there will be sufficient recreational opportunities available to the residents in this area.
- Highway noise mitigation:
 - With the increase in traffic and population, are there plans on implementing strategies to mitigate that increase in sound?
- The environmental condition (i.e., potential presence or absence of subsurface contamination from potentially contaminating activities) of a lot of these properties in the study area are likely unknown. If subsurface contamination was to be identified at properties in the study area there would be delays in redevelopment and the City should promote their financial incentives to help the City to meet the objectives of the intensification program. This could help to avoid certain lands being or remaining underutilized for an extensive period of time.
- Is there a mitigation plan in the event that de-vehicleization is not as successful as projected, given existing constraints on roadways due to the current number of vehicles.

- Are sidewalks being improved?
- Are additional bus lines being implemented?
- Are additional bike lanes being implemented?
 - We can look into how other countries implement bike lanes: The Netherlands paints bike lanes right onto the road, making the road narrower and subsequently the cars slow down. This achieves safer traffic conditions and bike lane allowance.

OEAC-24-21

Road Salt Working Group Report for O.E.A.C. Meeting March 5, 2024

Prepared by members: AJ Groen (Chair), Emily Posteraro, Joseph Young, Tim Speirs

Report:

The working group has begun discussions on its vision and key goals, i.e. articulating why we are trying to reduce road salt use and where we are aiming to have an impact. Some key areas of work that were discussed were public education, networking with other local environmental/climate advisory committees, collaborating with Ontario Tech University, projects that make the business case for road salt reduction, and how the City can set standards and precedents for smarter road salt application. Pending final approval, AJ will be delivering a brief presentation on the impacts of road salt to the Durham Environmental and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC).

Budget implications: None

Recommendations: That the Committee receive this report for information.