

Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee

Meeting held November 18, 2021

A meeting of the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee is held this day commencing at 4:30 o'clock p.m. via Zoom video conference, there being present the following members:

Councillor Chris Holt, Chair
Deputy Mayor Leo Meloche
Deputy Mayor Gord Queen
Kari Banar
Derek Coronado
Katie Kuker
Michael Schneider
Richard St. Denis
Radwan Tamr

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Kevin Webb, Manager Environmental Quality
Karina Richters, Supervisor Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 4:32 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. Minutes

Moved by R. St. Denis, seconded by Deputy Mayor Leo Meloche,
That the minutes of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee of its meeting held June 24, 2021 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

4. Presentation – Alex Simakov, BW Solar

At the request of the presenter, the presentation is deferred to the next meeting.

5. Business Items

5.1 WECEC 2021 Operating Budget

The following expenditures from the WECEC 2021 Operating Budget are proposed:

- Increase the funding for the Pat on the Back Awards from \$2,000 to \$2,500
- University of Windsor guest speaker - \$2,000
- Remaining funds to be equally split for tree planting in Windsor-Essex

K. Richters advises that currently there are four applications for the Pat on the Back Awards. R. Tamr, K. Banar and R. St. Denis volunteer to review the applications.

R. St. Denis indicates that in 2019, the remaining funds were dedicated to ordering trees for Earth Day and he asks if those trees were ordered. In terms of the Pat on the Back Awards, he suggests rather than increasing the prize, to allow an opportunity for more individuals to receive an award.

K. Richters responds that in 2019, WECEC spent \$1,700 for the 2020 Earth Day event, which did not occur due to COVID-19. Currently, there are approximately 277 trees, which reside at the City's horticulture division and they are waiting for an opportunity to do a public planting. In terms of the Pat on the Back Awards, a motion was previously approved by WECEC for \$2,000, and it is WECEC's decision if they wish to increase the budget to support more community groups. She adds that a poster outlining how WECEC funds were utilized in 2021 will be highlighted at the next Earth Day event.

Deputy Mayor Leo Meloche suggests an upset limit be determined for the Pat on the Back Awards. He remarks that he is in favour of tree planting and wants to ensure an equal split of the trees between the City and the County.

Moved by Deputy Mayor G. Queen, seconded by Deputy Mayor L. Meloche,
That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to the following expenditures from the WECEC 2021 Operating Budget:

| | |
|---|---------|
| University of Windsor Guest Speakers | \$2,000 |
| Pat on the Back Awards | \$4,000 |
| Website Domain Renewal and maintenance | \$ 600 |
| Remainder of funds for tree planting in Windsor-Essex | |

Carried.

K. Banar voting nay.

K. Banar remarks that a precedent is being set for future Pat on the Back Awards and notes that as schools are not functioning as before, WECEC will not receive many applications.

D. Coronado refers to his draft motion relating to the 2022 Budget Deliberations of Council as follows:

WHEREAS The U.N. IPCC sixth assessment report has noted that climate change impacts of heat and flooding may be amplified in cities;

WHEREAS The City of Windsor and County of Essex have both declared a climate emergency;

WHEREAS The City of Windsor and County of Essex have not implemented their Community Energy Plan and Regional Energy Plan, respectively;

WHEREAS the City of Windsor has not hired a fulltime administrator for the Community Energy Plan, implemented the Deep Energy Efficiency Retrofit (DEER) component of the plan nor enhanced the Office of Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change to respond to the climate emergency;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Windsor and County of Essex:

1. expand funding for the climate emergency in their 2022 budgets;
2. the City of Windsor hire a fulltime coordinator of the Community Energy Plan;
3. the City of Windsor provide funding to implement the DEER;
4. the City of Windsor expand its Climate Reserve Fund;
5. the City of Windsor expand the funding of the Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change office;
6. the County of Essex provide funding to accelerate the implementation of its Regional Energy PlanEnergy Plan; and,
7. the County of Essex hire a fulltime coordinator of the Regional Energy Plan.

Discussion ensues regarding the foregoing draft motion and K. Richters advises that the Deep Energy Retrofit Program (DEEP) has received grant funding for 2022

Moved by D Coronado, seconded by R. St. Denis,

That the following 2022 budget items **BE SUPPORTED** by City Council:

1. That the City of Windsor provide funding to implement the DEER;
2. That the City of Windsor expand the funding of the Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change office;

Carried.

5.2 WECEC Domain and Maintenance Expenditures

The WECEC domain and maintenance expenditures were approved in Item 5.1.

6 Date of Next Meeting

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

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 5:10 o'clock p.m.

CHAIR

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR