



## CITY OF ORILLIA Environmental Advisory Committee MINUTES

**Minutes of the Electronic Meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee,  
Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.**

---

**Present:** Lindsay Telfer in the Chair  
Councillor Tim Lauer  
Tim Adamson  
Jane Bonsteel  
Lee Hanson  
Rick Ruegg

**Absent:** Bob Bowles  
Javier Cappella

**Also Present:** Stephen Gendron, Manager of Environmental Engineering,  
Assets and Capital Projects  
Renee Recoskie, Manager of Property and Environmental  
Sustainability (as EAC Staff Resource)  
Robin Cadeau, Assistant Clerk

### **Call to Order**

1. The meeting was called to order by the Assistant Clerk who proceeded to conduct the Election of a Chair, pursuant to Section 105.2.3. of Chapter 105 of the City of Orillia Municipal Code - Local Board - Procedure.

Moved by Bonsteel, seconded by Ruegg:

THAT the following member of the Environmental Advisory Committee be elected Chair for the remainder of 2021:

- Lindsay Telfer.

**Carried.**

Lindsay assumed the Chair.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Ruegg, seconded by Adamson:

THAT the agenda for the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting held on September 21, 2021 be approved as distributed.

**Carried.**

## **Disclosure of Interest**

None declared.

## **Deputations**

1. Renee Recoskie, Manager of Property and Environmental Sustainability, Mark Buma, Supervisor of Sustainable Operations, and Jasmine Lyn, Sustainability Coordinator, were present to provide information on the Climate Change Action Plan that is under development and seek Committee input for the City and future goals relating to climate mitigation and resilience in the community.

Members being requested to submit Vision Statement ideas, and the feedback provided will be finalized and a copy attached to these minutes.

## **Minutes**

1. June 29, 2021.
1. August 17, 2021 - No quorum roll call.

Moved by Hanson, seconded by Ruegg:

THAT the following minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee be adopted, having been printed and distributed:

- June 29, 2021, and
- August 17, 2021 - No quorum roll call.

**Carried.**

## **Closed Session**

There were no closed session items for this meeting.

## **Correspondence - Information Items**

1. Orillia Matters article dated July 31, 2021 by Sustainable Orillia titled "City's trees are 'real assets to monitor and maintain'".
2. Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks - re #WasteFreeWednesday Litter Clean-ups.

Moved by Bonsteel, seconded by Adamson:

THAT the Correspondence – Information Items listed on the agenda for the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting held on September 21, 2021 be received as information.

**Carried.**

## **Correspondence - Action Items**

1. City of Orillia Notice of Class Environmental Assessment and VIRTUAL Public Information Centre - re 2021 Water Master Plan Update. Stephen Gendron, Manager of Environmental Engineering, Assets and Capital Projects was in attendance for this discussion and to answer members' questions.

Moved by Bonsteel, seconded by Ruegg:

THAT, further to the City of Orillia Notice dated August 11, 2021 regarding the Class Environmental Assessment for the Water Master Plan, the Environmental Advisory Committee provides the following comments:

- The master plan needs to consider water services using a coordinated, integrated and holistic approach with other municipal planning (eg. asset management planning, climate change planning, wastewater and stormwater management planning)
- It should consider establishing conservation goals (i.e. per capita/per day targets/thresholds) and address things like education regarding the efficient use of water, water conservation practices for all users – residential, commercial and industrial/institutional users
- It should plan and prioritize to address and rectify old infrastructure that impacts number of breaks, unaccounted water and ensure the plan references and measures the appropriateness of the existing leak detection program
- The plan should address water quality considerations (i.e. improved appearance, odour and taste)
- Timelines, annual budgeting and rate-setting could be referenced and priorities could be identified within the plan to allow for consideration of the possibility of moving improvements forward more quickly

**Carried.**

### **Reports**

None.

### **Deputation Motions**

None.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. - Electronic Meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Moved by Bonsteel, seconded by Lauer:  
THAT the meeting be adjourned.

**Carried.**

Meeting adjourned - 6:03 p.m.

---

L. Telfer,  
Chair.

# 1) What does a future green and blue Orillia look like? When do you foresee us getting there?

A future green and blue Orillia will have 10-minute walks to any green space for new developments (like in Europe). No more massive suburban developments with no green spaces.

As the population grows, we must consider the mental health of people, because exposure to nature improves mental and physical health as well as quality of life.

Network of green communities connected by a large active transportation network that includes access to the waterfronts.

At least 10 years before things will change towards this future.

A future Orillia will have connected natural spaces that enhance mental health, mitigate flooding and heat islands and clean our stormwater runoff which improves the lake quality. This will happen with progressive leadership that recognizes and values the many co-benefits of natural spaces.

Orillia could be a leading city if we achieve these green spaces sooner than 10 years.

More trees, don't cut down big trees with new developments. Walking or cycling will be the future

Could change the bylaw of approvals to ensure green spaces and the lake has to be opened up.

Orillia's future should not have expanded city boundaries and should instead have more intensification.

The intensification should focus on dense housing developments and making walkable communities.

In order to help shape the City into the green and blue community that we want it to be, people need to speak up at the review of the official plan as that is the key time to provide input.

## 2) What **actions** will we need to take to get there?

(Discussion question)

Is it possible to ban natural gas in new developments in West Orillia?

Other municipalities have established regulations and standards to do so, and the technology exists for it to work in new builds.

This will require new City by-laws and changes to the building approval process.

Example: Holland will not have any natural gas in new developments after 2022.

Current developments in Orillia (ex. Orchard point), are not innovative and don't consider water reduction, better insulation or renewable energy generation such as solar or wind. The city and planning department need to be more forceful on the type of developments that are allowed to be built.

Establish green building guidelines and by-laws. Make the planning and development process more strategic and integrated for coordinated action across the board.

The City should follow the 3-30-300 rule for green space planning. The rule states:

- 3 trees should be visible from every home
- 30% tree canopy cover in every neighbourhood
- 300m from the nearest green space, wherever you are in the community

We need a culture change within Orillia's community and city staff to value sustainability principles in planning and implementation.

We also need an inventory of the City's tree canopy so we can set a target for urban green spaces.

Wholistic approach in planning and in construction timelines.

Green procurement policies by the City staff.

3) Develop a vision statement about Orillia becoming a more green and blue City

This is left for  
homework with the  
EAC

