

MEETING MINUTES



MEETING DATE	River Systems Advisory Committee January 21, 2015
LOCATION TIME	City Hall - Meeting Room "A" 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
MEMBERS PRESENT	Jeremy Shute (Chair), Mariette Pushkar, Nicola Lower, Ian McCormick, Ryan VanEngen, Javier Acosta
STAFF PRESENT	Adele Labbé, Michelle Mercier
MEMBERS ABSENT	Eric Wilson

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM #	DESCRIPTION
1	<p>Welcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roll call and certification of quorum ▪ Introduction of Committee Members, welcome to Javier Acosta ▪ Declaration of pecuniary interest or conflict of interest – None ▪ Review of Agenda <p>Adoption of October 15, 2014 Meeting Minutes:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moved by Mariette Pushkar and seconded by Ian McCormick, “THAT the Minutes of October 15, 2014 be approved as written.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion Carried</p>
2	<p>Agenda:</p> <p>1. 5 Arthur St Environmental Implementation Report</p> <p>Adele Labbé, Environmental Planner with the City of Guelph provided a brief PowerPoint presentation on the 5 Arthur St Environmental Implementation Report and provided some background of the site. Adele highlighted the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The River access will be reviewed in Phase 4 - Tree removal will be evaluated on a phase by phase basis through the Site Plan process - Environmental staff are satisfied with the changes made to the EIR and appendices - The Structural assessment of the retaining wall has been accepted by the City’s Engineer - The educational signage has been submitted and requires some content adjustments and corrections prior to approval.

Ian McCormick asked about the possibility of a heated walkway. Adele responded that further discussions need to take place with the Parks Department and that District Energy is looking at the possibility. Ian asked about the ownership and maintenance of the walkway. Adele responded that the City is taking an easement over the walkway to allow for public access, the condominium will own the walkway but the City will maintain it.

Ryan VanEngen commented that Section 5.1 - fish habitat has been degraded over time and that this is our opportunity to request additional restoration.

Delegations

Pamela Kraft, Fusion Homes

Melissa Strauss, Stantec

Sherry Muscat, Stantec

Melissa Strauss, from Stantec highlighted some of the changes that have occurred since they were last at RSAC including:

- Structural Assessment of the wall
- Additional details on the walkway
- Educational materials
- Access to river will take place in Phase 4
- Meeting with GRCA - GRCA has no additional concerns
- Future pedestrian link across the river is shown on the plans

Mariette Pushkar raised some concerns with respect to the location of the river access including erosion, water coming in outside the bend not inside, more stress on the base of the wall, may create different flow patterns and advised that the location should not be considered final at this point and should be looked at again. Sherry Muscat commented that they will look at the access further during the final design phase, however the location is limited due to the wall, storm outlets and additional site constraints.

Jeremy Shute asked about the pedestrian crossing south of the tracks. Adele advised that this is a separate project to be done by the Parks Department and is not part of this project. Adele added that the crossing is in the works and included in the Capital budget.

Jeremy Shute suggested that the educational signage could include a framework for cell phones. QR codes could be added to the signs to upload photos.

Javier Acosta raised concerns regarding the phasing of the riverwalk and the fencing location as animals may not be able to cross the fencing. Adele noted that most of the animals should be able to cross the fencing.

Moved by Ryan VanEngen and seconded Nicola Lower,

“THAT based on this review, the River Systems Advisory Committee conditionally accepts the Environmental Implementation Report prepared by Stantec Consulting Ltd. provided that:

- Staff comments are addressed to their satisfaction;
- Educational signage materials are adjusted, corrected and improved;

- The proponent continues to work with staff to ensure an appropriate street tree planting plan for the site as phases progress;
- Efforts are made to preserve the White Elm tree near Neeve Street in Phase 4; and
- That further study of the access location and configuration be undertaken at the detailed design stage regarding geomorphic function of the river.”

Motion Carried

2. Presentation from Trout Unlimited

Delegation - Beth Anne Fisher, Trout Unlimited

Beth Anne Fisher provided a brief presentation on the Trout Unlimited work both nationally and locally. Their mission is to conserve and restore freshwater ecosystems and coldwater resources. They have a large volunteer base across the country and some of the work they have been involved in include research, community outreach, education and the yellow fish road program.

In Guelph they have been monitoring creek health since 2006 including sites on the Speed River, Eramosa River, Marden Creek, Clythe Creek and Hadati Creek. They have a Speed Valley Chapter who have done work on Marden Creek with spawning habitat creation, creek narrowing, monitoring and pond mitigation. They were also involved with the 2 Rivers Festival 2014 bioblitz.

Beth Anne advised that in 2015 and moving forward:

- They would like to work closer with RSAC and have a representative on RSAC
- Are looking to extend outreach in Guelph
- Continue monitoring river health
- Re-invigorate the Speed Valley Chapter
- Lead restoration projects

Mariette Pushkar asked about their funding. Beth Anne responded that the funding comes from corporate and private donations, fundraising, grants and memberships.

Ryan VanEngen asked if the monitoring data is available. Beth Anne responded that some of the data is available online and in reports and they could also look at a data sharing agreement. Jeremy Shute noted that he would like to have Beth Anne come back to RSAC and do a presentation on the results from their monitoring.

Beth Anne added that Trout Unlimited would like to partner with RSAC on some events this year, including possibly some creek cleanups.

3. Committee Updates/Other Business

1. Other Business

	<p>Adele Labbe circulated the Skateboard Park package and will be looking for input at the next meeting.</p> <p>Adele Labbe advised that for the York Trunk Sewer Project that the trenchless technology is not working and they are doing an open cut across Gordon Street and through the park.</p> <p>Adele Labbe advised that the Homewood is planning an addition and expansion of the hospital, and it will be coming in as a Site Plan Application. If anyone is interested in further information on this project, please let Adele know.</p>
4.	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>Adjourned 5:45 pm</p>
5.	<p>Next meeting of RSAC will be February 18, 2015</p>