



Community Advisory Panel

MINUTES

February 23, 2005

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Dofasco – First Floor, Conference Room E

Present: Jessica Aird, Ann Buckle, Tina Brajic, Bill Hostiue, Karen Logan, Sandra Rogers, Andy Sebestyen, JoAnn Simpson, Wayne Simpson, Pat Thiessen, Stephen Toplack, Anne Turner

Regrets: Martha Allen, Marianne Aird, Marilyn Baxter, Dale Brown, Ed Cocchiarella, Ellaline Davies, Bill Gair, Gord Gilmet, Carol McNeil, Carol Riddell, Scott Morrison, Peter Kaszuba, Shawn Selway, Brian Young

- 1. Welcome** – Introductions were made around the table for our guests, Bill Hostiue, JoAnn and Wayne Simpson and our speakers, Brenda Johnson and Julie Fleming.
- 2. Presentation** – Brenda Johnson from Environment Hamilton gave an overview of her position with Environment Hamilton. She was hired through a grant from the Hamilton Community Foundation. Brenda assists citizens in Hamilton (specifically in the area from Parkdale to Bay Street) identify and address their environmental issues. She has assisted citizens with concerns around the Certificates of Approval and Mandatory stack testing and has helped identify potential problems with some recent construction and proposed facilities. Environment Hamilton has helped identify the need for local community parks, trails, sport/recreation facilities. There is a huge need for facilities in these neighbourhoods including possible physical sites for recreational and community events.

Some of the issues they identified were; Globe Park is not accessible – it is always locked – so the city put in a pedestrian entrance to allow access; 2 proposed incinerators – Liberty Energy and the proposed residual incinerator for the city – they are seeking full environmental assessments; demolition and compacting of the property for the Biox plant caused serious damage to surrounding properties – citizens had input into the Certificates of Approval and Mandatory stack testing and odour emissions for the property; Central Park across from Robert Land School was purchased with the help of HCF grant – it is right next to a scrap metal yard so they are working with the owners to address the dangers; Bitumar – Beach Road community complained of odour problems – through input into the Certificate of

Approval the company was required to establish a Community Liaison Committee and install a negative vacuum system.

Environment Hamilton is working toward: a project to dredge and naturalize Windemere Basin to include 3,500 trees and trails that could link to the Waterfront and Rennie trails; developing a Community Liaison Committee for the Red Hill Creek residents; discussion around Randal Reef – dredge or contain? The annual general meeting – March 30, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Central Library, trees count

Julie Fleming, from Environment Hamilton, outlined the Hamilton Eat Local Produce (HELP) project she is coordinating. The project originally got its' start with the trees count project when it was noted that a number of fruit trees in the area were not being picked. Julie coordinates the volunteers who pick the fruit that is then distributed between the homeowners and local food banks and community kitchens. In the first year of the project the group picked 1,279 lbs. of fruit from 23 trees.

They hope to develop this project to include youth who are working on their volunteer community hours. The goal is to engage the youth and their families to help educate people on healthy eating habits and encourage the planting and maintaining of fruit trees while encouraging people to eat local produce and learn about gardening. The group is considering ways to develop raised bed gardens. There are a number of issues they are addressing including their need to improve structure within the group, insurance costs and the need for additional funding. Julie distributed materials outlining her program.

3. Discussion – Participant feedback

There was a very interesting discussion for both presentations. This was a great opportunity to share how our organizations work.

4. New Business

- Earth Day will possibly be at the RBG on April 22
- March 4 – BARC annual meeting
- HIEA Annual Meeting – Tuesday April 18 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 at the Chamber of Commerce.
- Responsible Care meetings at VFT in March
- Steven Toplak shared information about his next two breakfast meetings
- Pat Thiessen asked about information on the Red Hill expressway
- Andy Sebestyen briefly explained about the withdrawal of overload permits and what impact this will have on truck traffic in the area

5. Other Business

There were a number of issues brought up at the last meeting including posting the CAP minutes on the website. Karen is looking into having this done.

There was discussion around how to encourage new participation. The possibility of hosting another Open House was discussed and there was good feedback on how and where this could be done. Possibly running it on a Saturday or an evening at Jackson Square would provide better exposure. There are also a number of festivals

throughout the summer – could we consider setting up a booth. Stelco is sending out some material to the neighbours and could add information about HIEA. Having a central registration or directory of all environmental agencies would be helpful but this needs to be maintained and there would be costs involved – they could also be linked to the website.

There was some discussion about the upcoming Upwind Downwind conference.

The meetings will be held on the 2nd Thursday of the month starting in May - Jessica Aird will make the presentation on May 11.

Citizens still have concerns about the Biox plant. Biox staff will not meet with the citizens. The Certificate of Approval is not for rendered fat – it is for processed fat. They expect to start up within a month.

There was interest in having a presentation on the Red Hill expressway – possible contact is Chris Murray. There will also be some public meetings on the Randal Reef ECF – environmental containment facility.

6. Next Meeting

Date: Thursday March 23, 2006
Place: Dofasco first floor conference room F
Speaker: Lara Helfer – Liberty Energy
Gord Gilmet - VFT
Ed Cocchiarella – Upwind/Downwind Conference

Reported by Karen Logan