

The Dundas Community Council met.

There were Present: Russ Powers, Councillor
Bill Kennedy, Environment
Bob James
Stan Nowak, Heritage
Keith Sharp, Sports & Recreation
Maria Antonakos
Fiorigio Minelli
Phyllis Kraemer, Business

Regrets: Patti Cannon
Larry Button
Ted McMeekin, MPP
Jeff Saunders

Also Present: Art Samson
Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Doug Gordon
Mrs. Anna Rose
Ken Roberts, CEO, Hamilton Public Libraries
Arlene VanderBeek, Councillor Powers' Office
Craig Campbell, Dundas Star News

1. Remarks from the Mayor

Mayor Fred Eisenberger offered greetings and thanked Art Samson and the Task Force for their work and efforts in developing the Report on Community Councils in the City of Hamilton.

2. Previous Meeting Report

The report from the November 21st, 2007 meeting was received as circulated and was moved by K Sharp, seconded by F. Minelli to accept the minutes. Carried.

**3. Presentation – Art Samson, Chair,
Mayor's Taskforce on Community Councils**

Art Samson provided background information on how the Taskforce was developed and why, and who the members were: former Mayors Wade (Ancaster & Hamilton) and Shurvin (Flamborough), former councillors Samson (Dundas & Community of Dundas) and Bruckler (Hamilton Ward 9), and a non-political citizen, Hamilton lawyer, Michelle Stark.. Bill 130 provided for Community Councils to have some legislative responsibilities other than the City's Official Plan, taxes, or personnel decisions. It is up to the elected

Municipal Council to decide the powers which might be devolved to a local Community Council. Community Councils provide an additional venue for community input.

The task force solicited input from the public, and met with John Gerritson, former Minister of Municipal Affairs, and determined that the Committee was correct in that the options were unlimited. Members of the task force also met with Dr. Sancton, Professor of Municipal Affairs, who provided insight into what is happening around the Province.

Some municipalities have Community Councils made up of elected Council members, whereas Hamilton is considering Citizen Councils. The committee members met with many groups and citizen associations within the City and visited each of the three existing Community Councils (Ancaster, Dundas and Glanbrook). They also held several Public Meetings in the different areas of the City. Brabant Newspaper's Kevin Werner reported on each meeting.

It was recommended that:

- Community Councils were desirable.
- Every Community Council within the City should have a harmonized mandate and operate with common powers and structures.
- Hamilton's Community Councils should act in an advisory capacity, but in addition they could have legislative powers and duties.
- Would continue to provide the open forum for communication
- Composed of a broad range of selected representatives from the community
- Determined that these members should not be elected. Election sometimes results in a group who are not a broad spectrum of the community; the elections are costly and cannot be run simultaneous with a general municipal election. Also, election requires that the participants spend money and then they might expect remuneration.
- Felt that it would strengthen each community and therefore the City of Hamilton as a whole.
- Should be built around communities of interest. In Dundas, this is simple, however it becomes more complicated throughout the broader city. Therefore community councils may be synonymous with Wards, with the exception of Ward 11 where there are two distinct areas (Winona and Glanbrook) Perhaps, if City Council chooses, some communities could be grouped.
- Minimum of 7 and a Maximum of 11 with the elected City Councillor as an Ex-Officio member. Chair and Vice-chair would be elected from within the Community Council.
- Members would be selected by a committee comprised of Councillors, to which citizens apply. Request that the members of the selection committee should consider the needs in each community, in conjunction with the Ward Councillor, to determine the important groups in each municipality.

- The term of the Community Council will run concurrently with the City Council term.
- Regularly scheduled evening meetings – open and transparent, following the Rules of Order as per City of Hamilton Procedural By-law. A recording secretary will be chosen by the group and Minutes will be recorded and forwarded to the appropriate Standing Committee.
- Community Councils will operate independently from Hamilton City Council and will be self-directed.
- Decisions of the Community Council should be given deference by Council and not be overturned except in exceptional circumstances.
- They will provide advice to the Ward Councillor and Mayor on local issues and liaise with the public.
- Delegated powers could include: commenting on all planning applications within the community; making recommendations to staff on recreation issues in the area; commenting on the issuance and renewal of business licenses, on street naming (in accordance with City guidelines), on street lighting; making recommendations concerning services such as sidewalk snow removal, etc.; commenting on parking/traffic issues and heritage permit applications within their area.

The Mayor commented on the concern he has that there is a difference in what happened in the old City and other areas. His concern is that there may be problems if various councils decide to have differing levels of services. The task force looked at clustering councils, thereby ending up with perhaps 5 total, trying to avoid a service and taxing problem.

This has not yet gone to Council, pending staff comments which are expected to be complete after March. At that time Council will give it full debate at the Council table. Some councillors clearly feel that Community Councils are not necessary. There were Community Councils in the past (inner City and Flamborough). In Halifax, recently, where they have 6 Community Councils within the greater metro area, each area gets to area rate. There was no area rating in the old City and some Councillors do not accept the idea.

The Mayor thanked the Taskforce Committee for their hard work and commended them on the simplicity of the final report, which makes it effective.

Clr. Powers suggested that if there are questions for Art or the Mayor, they should be addressed tonight. If there are things that jump out we will note them tonight, but he will add it to the agenda for next month's meeting. Tonight we can start the dialogue but will have an in-depth discussion next month.

B. Kennedy: Did you hear any negatives in Halifax on Community Councils?

Mayor: No, didn't get a chance to speak to any of the Community Councillors, but felt the Mayor thought that it was working well. They have a prescribed format within which they are allowed to operate.

R. James: Is there a budget associated with the support of the Community Council? i.e. administrative staff

The Mayor said that he expects that there would need to be some limited budget.

R. James: Comment: He would want Community Councils to represent the actual community, so there may be issues that will effect tax basis. He wouldn't want the common mandate to homogenize rather than harmonize the end product.

Mayor: Question is how far can you go? It should reflect the unique identity. He said that he suspects that most councillors do not want Community Councils, but this allows those who do to move forward.

F. Minelli: Concerned that the role of Ward Councillor might be an Ex-officio member. His experience is that ex-officio members don't commit or show up. Ex-officio might not achieve the real flow of information or the desired effect. I would think that the Councillor, if not the chair, should have a defined role of importance.

Art Samson reported that the committee thought long and hard about that. If the Councillor doesn't show up the word would get out. They felt that they wouldn't want the Councillor directing it. They wanted it to be the Community in charge.

F. Minelli commended them on keeping an appointment process, rather than elected Community Council representation.

K. Sharp: Staffing and budgeting will need to be in place for the significant amount of co-ordination in disseminating info to and from City Council.

P. Kraemer: Recording secretary shouldn't be a member, it should be a staff person with experience and knowledge about the processes, etc. in the City.

P. Kraemer: Not sure that it's a good idea if the City Council has no power to overturn decisions of the Com Council.

Art Samson: They would have the final right to overturn, but they are encouraged not to do it unless circumstances are exceptional.

P. Kraemer: Likes the idea of the Councillor being the Chair, not an appointee.

S. Nowak: Agreed. The Councillor has the resources to provide all of the info and thinks that it should be the Councillor's responsibility as the elected person.

Councillor Powers thanked people for their comments and re-iterated that there will be a full discussion next month. Some of the suggestions for devolved powers make all kinds of sense and may influence the decisions of some of the more reticent City Councillors.

Mayor Eisenberger added that it's all about preserving the unique identity and qualities of each area within the City.

Presentation - Ken Roberts – Hamilton Library

Since amalgamation, library card holders and use of the library has increased significantly. Dundas is a big net borrower. The budget for materials has doubled and the expenditure budget has not increased.

Current renovations are minor and installing radio identification in the whole library that will enable self-checkout. Library card on a stack up to 10 items and it will check out all. This process increases the speed of checkout and decreases handling. 25% of their circulation is books being requested and shipped to other libraries. When the item is returned, the system will indicate if that particular book has been requested at another branch.

Increases privacy and provides no information about the borrower. The front street entrance has been a major problem and this technology provides self-check both upstairs and downstairs and a security gate at the front door to prevent theft.

The boarding at the front is because the security system won't work with the metal, so they are moving the front doors out a bit. Upstairs, they are making adjustments to the circulation desk and the staff are enthusiastic about the changes. Reference staff now have more time to help people with the value-added services. This means they will be able to continue to ship books between branches without overstraining staff resources.

S. Nowak inquired about whether or not the changes will result in any staff reduction? Ken Roberts reported that there would not be any reductions in staff. What they did was tackle the issue up front. They went to the staff and discussed the idea. Staff have had the chance to increase their skills to make themselves more marketable, and have agreed to reduce by transfer to better jobs or attrition.

The technology is already installed.

F. Minelli: Dundas branch is a net borrower. Would that not indicate that the collection should be increased?

K. Roberts: There are no individual collections in any branches. When items are transferred to another branch, they stay there until a request is received from another branch..

F. Minelli: What kind of material is available?

K. Roberts: Canada-wide the borrowing of reference materials is down 70%. We provide access to an electronic branch (virtual library branch) – it is our 2nd busiest branch and by the end of the year it will be the busiest. Because it is electronic, all of the material is available to all. We buy materials in the electronic format and point people to public areas. Despite the fact that circulation of children's non-fiction is down, it is being overtaken by fiction lending.

In terms of the future: The Dundas Library is too small, has an aging infrastructure, and is not an efficient design. The Board has a standard: a living room area,, such

as in the Ancaster branch, where use increased 40% when it was renovated. What they want to do is to convert it into a similar mood and feel. The building, itself, is in a good location; has good window areas and is capable of conversion. It has some compelling features: built on a grade with wheelchair access. Hoping to push the building out the back toward the parking lot, which would allow public services on the main floor and create meeting rooms on the lower level, as well as staff efficiencies. No idea of the timeframe. No current money for expansion in Dundas, and have a compelling need to do a building in Waterdown, build a building on the South Mountain and have needs in the rural area for buildings with regard to wheelchair access, etc. Hoping that expansion might happen within 4 or 5 years and include the living room concept.

W. Kennedy: How has technology affected the employees in the system? What did the technology cost?

K. Roberts: In 1987 the former Hamilton Public Library employed more people than the entire system now. The reason is technology. It has been a significant cost saver. The overall cost is under a million dollars. If you view the employees, the cost would have been many million.

P. Kraemer: How much space does the library have to expand.

K. Roberts: Expansion would necessitate taking over some of the parking lot behind the Dundas Library.

Councillor Powers said that he would provide a plot plan of the lot for the next meeting

M. Antonakos: If the community wanted to be proactive in moving the project forward, how would they go about it?

K. Roberts: Not sure where development charges stand for the Library. At amalgamation there were no funds available. The other problems that they face are from within The Ontario Accessibility Act. The Library Board will have to address the legislative requirements at this and other facilities first.

Councillor Powers commented that sometimes circumstances preclude moving forward on a particular project, so a project that may have otherwise been on a back burner can move forward.

K. Roberts: The Library Board is trying to get Dundas into the queue, at this point.

The Hamilton Public Library Board is an autonomous body from City Council. It includes 2 City Council Members and it comes to Council to pitch the budget appropriation, but is, otherwise, autonomous.

Mr. Roberts remarked that the Board works closely with the City, but he is not an employee of the City.

S. Nowak: Asked about microfiche owned by the Library system.

K. Roberts: Eventually all of the microfiche is going to have to be in one central location.

R. James: Will the info now on microfiche be destroyed?

K. Roberts: No... the images on microfiche are hard to read. Many are being converted to digital images for the web site. Library Staff are working very hard to make those images available.

R. James: How does one get development money?

K. Roberts: Development charges are re-opened every 5 years. A community has to have a specific need for a facility to be upgraded: recreation, fire trucks, etc. in a plan. Then each new residence will be assessed. The next time development charges are opened the Library Board can apply. Development charges collected before amalgamation, if available, can be used for upgrading the community's library.

Councillor Powers offered to bring a history on the Dundas development charges to a future meeting.

4. **Updates on Business from Previous Report**

- a. Transit – drivers will announce stops
- b. Waiting for chart from heritage

5. **Information Items**

- (a) **Dundas Driving Park** Concern was raised about the possibility that the contractor of the Memorial Square might be awarded the contract for the Driving Park. Discussion ensued and it was decided that a motion should be forwarded with regard to the Community Council's concerns. Cllr. Powers explained that there are warrants within the Contract to apply penalties for inadequate works.

Keith Sharp questioned whether Council should get involved in the awarding of tenders, because we are asking Council to question the criteria of the purchasing department policies.

All you can do in any contract is lay out the penalties associated with non-completion.

Maria agreed but felt that, under normal circumstances, this might be correct, but she felt that it is important to make the community's concerns known.

It was decided that a motion be forwarded to Council:

In reviewing the proponents for the proposed work in the Dundas Driving Park, the Dundas Community Council respectfully requests that, notwithstanding the elements laid out in the City's tendering process, the appropriate safeguards be in place to assure compliance and urges City Council to consider past performance as part of the decision-making process.

The Councillor explained the process of evaluation for tenders, arriving eventually at price competition. The requirement of the purchasing policies are that price must be made public. The first component is determination of qualification.

(b) Dundas District Playfield

Councillor Powers reported that the School Board will consider it in February.

(c) Development at University/Pleasant Valley School sites

Pleasant Valley: Councillor Powers reported that site grading has begun, with construction of a model home on-site.

University Gardens:

Construction has started. Finally released the development agreement, notwithstanding that 5 houses were started and charges are pending. Court determines fines for contraventions.

(d) Mayor's Task force:

Will be added to next month's agenda for discussion.

(e) Dundas' 10 Year Capital Works Plan/Budget

Aggregate

\$224,000 not being spent in Dundas but, as is the case with rural official plan, is charged off to us. It is expected that there will be an appeal on housing in Copetown at the Lion's Community Centre.

Driving Park: Building and non-building (ball diamonds/trails, etc)

Fire station undergoing renovations.

Town Hall: Work is currently planned to begin this year. The plans are available in the Councillor's office for anyone who wishes to examine them.

Identified Road Work: Stairs on Albert up to Alma and Witherspoon from Market to Melville (sanitary and storm sewers)

(f) Hamilton Health Sciences Plans:

Clr Powers provided copies of the plans and suggested that it will be on the agenda for next month. The thing that is most important to him is the plan to close the Emergency Dept to small children only. Murray Martin or someone from HHS will be invited to attend next month's meeting.

6. Community Reports from Members

(a) Arts and Culture – Patti Cannon

Councillor Powers' office will circulate the report with the minutes of this meeting.

(b) Business – Phyllis Kraemer

City of Hamilton has applications for Tourism Awards and Phyllis distributed copies of the brochure. Actual brochures will be available from the Councillor's office tomorrow. Phyllis encouraged Council members to pass the information along to people within the community to make nominations by the end of January.

Christmas season went well for the BIA and the horse and buggy was a success again this year.

(c) Environment – Bill Kennedy

The Tree count name has changed to the Dundas Valley Tree keepers and they meet once a month. They will be offering a public meeting to present a tree presentation.

They are out again looking at the trees they checked in summer because of the increased visibility in the winter.

Found that there is a lot of work necessary around the bottom of the hill around the cove and that they may approach the proper authorities and perhaps volunteer to do some work next summer.

Within the past month or so the lights at Governors have been changed heading east on Gov's to turn right. Green arrow coincides with the advanced green going left. We need more such lights on Governor's Road.

New no right turn on Red at York and King. It is suggested that an advance green heading North on York, turning right onto King would be helpful.

(d) Heritage – Stan Nowak

Stan passed out a package of upcoming events and announced that the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre is starting their series.

(e) Sports and Recreation – Keith Sharp

Facilities survey coming regarding outdoor facilities in the City and a future presentation is planned. Clr Powers reported that public input will be solicited over the next 6 months or so and a report will be forthcoming. We will provide the staff report tabled on Monday.

(f) Others

7. Other Issues/Questions:

Bob James asked if there was any update on the round-a-bout on Governor's Road. Clr Powers reported that it is part of the overall traffic study for Governor's Rd., so will not be available until that study is completed.

Clr Powers reported on the round-a-bout at Bullock's Corners, and the preliminary evaluation is that it could work and staff will do the due-diligence to see if it can be done.

Stan Nowak asked about the recent story on the Waterdown school that will require busing of students to Dundas. The Councillor will request a report from Jessica Brennan for next month's meeting.

8. Upcoming Meetings/Events

Next meeting Wed, February 13th, 2008 AT 7:00 P.M.

9. Adjournment at 10:00 p.m.

Moved by Maria Antonakos, seconded by Stan Nowak

Respectfully Submitted,

**Russ Powers
Councillor**

Community Council Meeting
Arts Report
Wednesday January 16,2008

At the end of November the City of Hamilton presented the City's Arts Awards to Artists who have show excellence in their field. Dundas resident John Fanning, Baritone Opera Singer was the recipient of the Award in Music. The award was presented by Councillor Powers. John Fanning was recently invested as a Member of the Order of Canada, He has performed titles roles in 12 opera Hamilton productions and has reached international status as an eight year veteran performer at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. He has performed across Canada and the United States.and was featured in the Phantom of the Opera both on the national tour and at the Pantages Theatre. He is the operatic voice on many TV commercials, starred in an episode of CBC's Wind at my Back and was prominently featured in Norman Jewison's film Moonstruck. He is incredibly generous with both his time and talent and his commitment to the arts in Hamilton. He visits schools with the opera's education programs and has performed along side the Members of Buchanan Park Elementary School's Opera Club as well as supporting local fundraising events and activities.

Carnegie Gallery is holding a "Dream" fundraiser for their Capital Building Fund on February 19th at Theatre Aquarius on King William Street in Hamilton. Tickets are \$40.00 There will be tapas, wine and a silent auction from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and a ticket to the Theatre Aquarius Production of Dream Girls starting at 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the Carnegie Gallery.

The current shows in the Carnegie Gallery are "A Retrospective" by founding member Madelaine Ward, incorporating a variety of styles and "A Matter of Metal" by Jane Longstaffe.

Art Gallery of St. James Anglican Church is showing *Monoprints 'The Kiss'* This month's featured artist is parish Deacon, Rob Roi whose art will be on display in the church from January 5 to February 2.

A concert entitled "Songs for a Winter Night" by **The Rainbow Chorus** is scheduled for Saturday: January 26 at 8pm with Robert Miller, Director, and Alison MacNeill, Accompanist. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Tickets are available by contacting the parish office or through Bryan Prince Bookseller's in Westdale or Picones in Dundas,

Dundas Little Theatre's production of "How the Other Half Loves" begins this weekend and runs Jan. 18,19,24, 25, 26,31 and Feb. 1,2.

Later in February they will be auditioning for their next production of Humble Boy.