



**City of Kingston  
Environment, Infrastructure & Transportation Policies Committee  
Meeting Number 04-2024  
Unconfirmed Minutes**

**Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.  
Hosted at City Hall in Council Chamber**

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**Committee Members Present**

Councillor Cinanni, Chair  
Councillor Amos  
Councillor Chaves  
Councillor Hassan  
Councillor Stephen  
Councillor Tozzo

**Regrets**

None.

**Staff Members Present**

Jason Hollett, Manager, Solid Waste Operations  
Blair Johnson, Manager, Corporate Records & Information  
Brad Joyce, Commissioner, Infrastructure, Transportation & Emergency Services  
Adam Mueller, Supervisor, Solid Waste  
Karen Santucci, Director, Public Works & Solid Waste  
Iain Sullivan, Committee Clerk

**Others Present**

Councillor Glenn  
Councillor Osanic  
Members of the public were present.

**This is not a verbatim report.**

### **Meeting to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Councillor Stephen  
Seconded by Councillor Tozzo

**That** the agenda be amended to include the addendum, and as amended, be approved.

**Carried**

### **Confirmation of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Amos  
Seconded by Councillor Chaves

**That** the minutes of Environment, Infrastructure and Transportation Policies Committee Meeting Number 02-2024, held Tuesday, February 13, 2024, be approved.

**Carried**

### **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

Councillor Amos declared a potential pecuniary interest regarding Report Number EITP-24-017, Little Forests Pilot Program, as his employer is in partnership with Little Forestsw Kingston.

### **Delegations**

- a) Ron Hartling was present and spoke to the Committee regarding Air Quality in Kingston.

Mr. Hartling conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding air quality in Kingston. A copy of the presentation is available upon request through the City Clerk's Department.

Councillor Stephen noted that fine particulate matter was the focus of the presentation and asked why the focus was on the one type of pollutant. She asked where members of the public would be able to find the information. Mr. Hartling stated that of the six

pollutants in the Air Quality Index, fine particulate was the most dangerous. He noted that he maintains a website where the public can access the information.

Councillor Chaves requested that the presentation be sent to members of the Committee.

Councillor Amos noted that the matter appeared to be a public health issue and asked why the matter had been brought to the attention of the Committee. Mr. Hartling expressed his opinion that Council was the appropriate level to bring the concern to as public health had become more political. He noted that in general the air quality in Kingston is good.

Councillor Tozzo asked for clarification on the status of the issue, noting that it appeared to be more of a provincial and federal issue. Mr. Hartling stated that the upper levels of government were not focused on the issue.

- b) Joyce Hostyn was present and spoke to the Committee regarding the Little Forests Pilot Program Report.

Ms. Hostyn conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Little Forests Pilot Program Report. A copy of the presentation is available upon request through the City Clerk's Department.

Councillor Amos asked what the cost for the trees was and the square footage used. Ms. Hostyn explained that the trees typically cost around \$5 and did not cover a significant amount of space.

- c) Nathan Nездoly was present and spoke to the Committee regarding the Little Forests Pilot Program Report.

Mr. Nездoly spoke to the Committee and urged the Committee and Council to support the pilot project. He noted that many members of the community are aware of the benefits of trees. He further noted the amount of grassland in the city. He stated that he had been involved in previous similar projects and spoke to his work in the field. He explained the information sessions that the group has conducted. He highlighted the community outreach the group has conducted. He stated that three forests would be planted on Kingston & Frontenac Housing Corporation property grounds in the fall.

The Committee did not provide comment.

### **Briefings**

There were none.

## **Business**

### **a) Recycling Transition Update / Cart-Based Waste Collection**

Ms. Santucci introduced the report.

Councillor Chaves asked if there would be an opportunity to change the size of the cart used. He expressed his support for increasing the usage of green bins but noted that many senior citizens and those in single or couple occupied households would not produce a large amount of waste. Ms. Santucci stated that the size of the bin was something that staff would investigate. She noted that the plan for more regular pick up of green bins was hoped to ameliorate the amount of garbage generated. She confirmed that further options would be presented to Council.

Councillor Amos asked for an explanation of a possible timeline for a 'toxic taxi' program. He asked if the routes would be shorter to allow staff to complete the work with larger bins or if additional staff were required. He noted that he had been to a municipality with the proposed system and it appeared to be slower than the one used by Kingston. He expressed hope that efficiencies could be found to speed up collection. Mr. Mueller explained that the 'toxic taxi' was a project developed in Toronto to assist in the collection of hazardous waste but that the implementation in Kingston would take several years. Ms. Santucci confirmed that staff will be able to complete the routes with the new bins.

Councillor Stephen asked when the survey had been conducted, noting the amount of discussion around the recycling of fabrics. She stated that the update to waste collection was a good time to consider waste in a broader sense. She asked if residents who request a larger bin than that to be provided would have to pay an additional fee. Ms. Santucci confirmed that the survey had been conducted in January and February 2024 before the textile recycling bins had been installed. She confirmed that a separate report would be brought to Council regarding options for how larger bin requests would be handled.

Councillor Tozzo asked what the price of the 240 litre bin would be to residents or if it would be distributed in a different manner. Ms. Santucci explained that the City would cover the costs of the new bin and that the costs of additional disposal would be around \$100-200 per year.

In response to a question from Councillor Hassan, Ms. Santucci confirmed that a further report detailing the processes would be brought forward to Council. She further stated that communication regarding the change would be done in January 2025.

Councillor Hassan noted that many residents in the survey were concerned about the smaller bins and asked how much garbage would be collected. He asked for confirmation on whether staff were recommending bi-weekly or weekly collection. Ms. Santucci stated that the 120-litre bin option would be collected weekly while a system using a larger bin would be collected bi-weekly. She confirmed that staff were recommending that collection be weekly with an option to charge for additional garbage pickup.

Councillor Osanic asked for confirmation that the green bins would remain the same. She asked if residents could put out extra bags with the system and what would happen to the bag-tag system in place. She asked for further confirmation that the issues raised in the survey would be addressed. She inquired whether the textile bins accept fabric scraps. Ms. Santucci explained that the green bins would be replaced with larger ones as the new trucks impart significant force on the bins. She stated that the bag-tag system would be wound down and replaced with a separate truck pick-up requiring a fee. She confirmed that staff were reviewing the comments and that the fabric bins accept fabric scraps.

Councillor Osanic noted that the bins require clear bags and asked for clarification on the best practice for the disposal of cat litter. Mr. Mueller stated that several small bags can be added to the bin, as long as the bin is not overfull.

The Chair provided an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions.

Gabriel Alexander Marsh asked if staff were investigating a solution regarding roadside waste. He further asked if the program would be opened up for the collection of garbage from the residents of the city experiencing homelessness. He asked where the waste was being taken to. He asked for clarification on what residents were to do if bi-weekly collection was adopted in the warmer months, noting an issue with smell and insects.

In response to the public questions Ms. Santucci explained the programs the City runs a program to collect waste found on the roadside and the waste drop-off locations in the city. She noted that in 2025 recycling will no longer be handled by the municipality and as such the program does not deal with recycling. She stated that the goal of a bi-weekly system would be greater use of the green bin, which would remain at weekly collection.

Councillor Stephen noted that the changes proposed were significant and an opportunity for residents to change how they view the amount of waste produced. She highlighted a local family that produces only one bag of garbage per year. She noted

that dumping could becoming an issue and asked if staff had investigated the system used by Toronto using different fees per cart size. She noted her support of the proposal. Ms. Santucci stated that the system Toronto implemented is similar to the one that staff have proposed. Mr. Joyce noted that a user-pay model can cause issues with dumping. He stated that staff were looking for a balance.

Councillor Tozzo noted his interest in where this project would go. He expressed his support for the recommendation.

Councillor Hassan noted his own issues with dumping at his restaurant. He expressed concern that the proposal may not be fair for those with larger families. He asked staff to look into the issues before the project is rolled out. He stated his support for the recommendation.

Councillor Osanic noted her agreement with Councillor Chaves's comment. She spoke to her own experience using green bins.

Moved by Councillor Amos  
Seconded by Councillor Chaves

**That** the Environment, Infrastructure and Transportation Policies Committee recommend to Council:

**That** Council direct staff to implement a weekly cart-based collection system for Garbage and Source Separated Organics, based on ~120L carts for each residential unit; and

**That** Council direct staff to offer, at a cost or through exemptions, 240L carts for garbage collection for each residential unit; and

**That** Council direct staff to investigate the potential to create a program for bulky item and excess garbage collection; and

**That** Council direct staff to investigate additional diversion programs after the cart-based waste collection launch in 2025 and return with options for Council consideration.

**Carried**

**b) No Mow May**

Ms. Santucci introduced the report.

Councillor Tozzo noted that there was an increase in the number of invasive species in the areas that will not be mowed. He asked if staff had any information regarding this matter. Ms. Santucci noted that staff were gathering information at this stage.

Councillor Amos noted his support for the program but highlighted his concern regarding ground-dwelling bird species that are attracted to ponds and naturalized shorelines. He asked for confirmation that there would be signage that the program was taking place around the ponds. Ms. Santucci stated that staff would ensure that groundcrews were aware of any animals before they mowed the grass. She confirmed that there would be signage.

Councillor Osanic noted that parks like Dunham Park have issues with wild parsnip growth and sought confirmation that mowing would still take place by the creek to reduce it. Ms. Santucci confirmed that mowing could continue by the creek and that it was intended at that location to not mow near the property lines of homes.

The Chair provided an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions.

Gabriel Alexander Marsh asked for an update on the improvement plans at Belle Park. He noted that wild parsnip can occur in large amounts of spaces and asked if staff were able to take tips from the public on where it is growing. He further noted that small mammals tend to live in undergrowth and asked that staff ensure that when mowing resumes that these animals are not harmed.

In response to the public comments Ms. Santucci confirmed that staff are able to receive public tips on where wild parsnip is growing with a goal to remove it. She stated that she would refer Mr. Marsh's comments related to animals to her staff.

Councillor Stephen asked for confirmation that promotion would be done. Ms. Santucci confirmed promotion of the program would be undertaken.

Moved by Councillor Tozzo

Seconded by Councillor Hassan

**That** the Environment, Infrastructure and Transportation Policies Committee recommend to Council:

**That** the City of Kingston encourage interested residents to increase pollinator-friendly habitats by promoting pollinator-friendly lawncare practices on residential properties from May 1, 2024 to May 31, 2024; and

**That** Council direct staff to not mow the areas identified in Exhibit A of Report Number EITP-24-016 before June 1, 2024, unless the un-mowed area creates a safety issue associated with roadside line of sight.

**Carried**

Councillor Amos withdrew from the meeting due to his pecuniary interest.

**c) Little Forests Pilot Program**

Ms. Santucci introduced the report.

Councillor Osanic asked who would be the best contact for someone interested in the program. Ms. Santucci explained that the organization itself would be the best point of contact and that the City would be advertising the organization when the neighbourhood trees are offered in the fall.

The Chair provided an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions. There were no comments received from members of the public.

**d) Blue Box Transition Update**

Councillor Amos returned to the meeting.

Ms. Santucci introduced the report.

Councillor Stephen thanked staff for the update. She noted that recycling varied significantly across the province and that the provincial change would standardize it. She asked if there would be improvements to the service provided or if it would be a decrease from the current service the City provides. Mr. Mueller stated that additional materials would be added beyond what the City collects.

Councillor Chaves highlighted several complaints he had received from residents on the requirement to wash out recyclable containers and asked if that would be continuing. Mr. Mueller explained that rinsing out containers would still be a requirement.

Councillor Amos asked if the money being paid out for the termination clause was a one-time payment. He further asked if the City's recycling vehicles could be sold or rented to another municipality. Ms. Santucci confirmed that the payment was a single payment. She noted that the majority of the City's recycling fleet were up for renewal and only one or two could be leased or sold.

Councillor Osanic asked for confirmation that when the transition took place people would still use their existing blue and grey boxes. She asked if carts could be rolled out



in 2026. She expressed her satisfaction that the hazardous waste depot would remain and asked why it was not open year-round. Ms. Santucci confirmed that no changes would be made to the recycling program until December 2025. She noted that a switch to a cart would be up to the providers but that the City would be having those conversations. Mr. Mueller confirmed that the hazardous waste depot was not heated in the winter.

The Chair provided an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions.

Gabriel Alexander Marsh noted that schools generate a large amount of waste and asked if this change would impact that. He further asked what would be occurring in private neighbourhoods.

In response to the public comments Ms. Santucci stated that private areas would be left to the private contractors they use. Mr. Mueller noted that schools are eligible for the green bin program but few participate in it. He noted that schools will participate in the updated recycling system at the board level.

#### **e) Tree Canopy**

Ms. Santucci introduced the report.

Councillor Tozzo asked for an explanation on why his district had a very low coverage. He asked what could be done to improve the numbers. Ms. Santucci agreed that the Kingscourt-Rideau district had a low percentage of coverage and explained that it was due to rental buildings having fewer trees on average. She noted the programs the City had started to address tree inequality and getting free trees into neighbourhoods. She stated that more trees were needed on private property.

Councillor Chaves noted that the report indicated 450 trees had been removed from his district in 2023 and stated that more than that had been removed. He asked if private tree losses on developments could be included moving forward. He further noted that private homeowner trees would not be included. Ms. Santucci explained that the 450 trees were those that had been removed on City owned land and excluded those on private lands. She confirmed that trees on developed lands could be included and noted that private homeowners would not be included.

Councillor Stephen highlighted the loss of ash trees on her street and asked if trees were only replanted by request. She asked for clarification on if the City asked private residents if they wished to have a City tree. She noted that the technology did not capture forest trees and asked if there were plans to learn more about them and if it

would be part of the Official Plan. She further noted the age of Natural Heritage Study and expressed support for the project moving forward. Ms. Santucci explained that trees are replaced within the year, usually in the spring or autumn. She noted that an increase of utilities under boulevards had made planting difficult. She stated that the City would contact residents when planting a new tree. Mr. Joyce explained that the new Natural Heritage Study would include the forests in Kingston and would seek to provide a more robust understanding of them. He stated that it would not be included in the Official Plan itself but would be harmonized with it.

Councillor Hassan asked what could be done to improve tree canopies in other districts. He highlighted the planting numbers in 2023 and asked how the City could encourage residents to take a tree. Ms. Santucci explained the programs that the City was running to try and increase the tree canopy. She noted that it did take significant time for a tree to grow and contribute to the canopy. She further noted that the City's process was to plant trees in boulevards and, if not possible to plant in the boulevard, seek to plant it as a neighbourhood tree. Mr. Joyce noted that the neighbourhood tree program did not sell out in 2023 and urged Councillors to promote it.

Councillor Amos asked for an update on the tree by-law. He noted that a lot of trees had been lost in Calvin Park. He encouraged fellow Committee members to invite Ms. Santucci to attend town halls. Ms. Santucci confirmed that an updated tree by-law would follow the completion of the new Natural Heritage Study.

Councillor Osanic noted her disappointment that the neighbourhood trees did not sell out. She asked for a timeline regarding the Natural Heritage Study and the tree by-law updates. She asked for further confirmation on the items to be discussed in the study. Mr. Joyce noted his understanding of the concern regarding the timelines. He stated that he believed that staff could have the work complete by 2026 and that they were accelerating the project. He explained that the management strategies would focus on the urban and rural forests and the Natural Heritage Study would focus on the urban ones. He stated that staff were investigating whether or not to combine them. He further explained that that work would then inform the work on the tree by-law.

The Chair was passed to Councillor Stephen

Councillor Cinanni noted his interest in the artificial intelligence technology used. He asked when the system would register the loss of a tree. He sought confirmation that it also covered industrial lands that planted trees. Ms. Santucci explained that it covered anything over two metres and registered a tree as dead if there was no leaf cover in August.

The Chair was returned to Councillor Cinanni

The Chair provided an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions.

Celeste Booth conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding her concerns. A copy of the presentation is available upon request through the City Clerk's Office.

Marius Sorensen spoke in regards to the forest next to Collins Creek. He noted that hollow trees still have a role to play in the ecosystem as homes for animals. He expressed concern regarding the usage of two metres as the definition of a tree and stated that bush species can reach over that size.

In response to the public comments, Ms. Santucci noted that the City's arborists were looking at the trees on City property to ensure their health. She further noted that the City did leave dead trees up in woodlots to provide shelter and installed bat houses. She agreed that the artificial intelligence system could pick up large bushes but indicated that it had not occurred yet.

### **Motions**

There were none.

### **Notices of Motion**

There were none.

### **Other Business**

There was none.

### **Correspondence**

See Addendum.

### **Date and time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Environment, Infrastructure and Transportation Policies Committee is a special meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Chaves  
Seconded by Councillor Amos

**That** the meeting of the Environment, Infrastructure and Transportation Policies Committee adjourn at 8:09 p.m.

**Carried**