



VISION: We will be a vibrant, dependable and clean city where services are delivered innovatively and effectively.

MISSION: To provide effective operations of the city through collaboration of members, management and staff.

City Hall, Hamilton
Residents Advisory Committee
2 March 2017
4:00pm

Present: Councillor Carlton Johnson (Chair)
Councillor Henry Ming
Councillor George Scott, JP
Sarah Thompson, Associate Member
Tracy Marshall, Associate Member
Erica Smith, Associate Member

In Attendance: Ed Benevides, Secretary
Janée Pitt, Events & Marketing Assistant

Apologies: Councillor RoseAnn Edwards
Dr. Michael Bradshaw, Associate Member
Danilee Trott, Event Project Manager

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1. **Confirmation of Notice** - the Acting Secretary confirmed that the notices of the meeting and the agenda were sent out according to the meeting guidelines.
 2. **Role of the Chairman** - Councillor Carlton Johnson assumed the role as the Chairman.
 3. **Open Meeting** - Councillor Carlton Johnson opened the meeting at 4:00pm.
 4. **Apologies** - the Secretary confirmed apologies for Councillor RoseAnn Edwards, Dr. Michael Bradshaw and the Event Project Manager. He advised that the new Event Marketing Assistant is in attendance representing the Events Department. The current Assistant Superintendent for Sanitation has commitments at 4:00pm so will not be in attendance to the meetings. Currently looking for a replacement to attend the Residents Advisory Committee meetings.
 5. **Public Participation:**

There is no public participation/presentation.

6. Correspondence:

There is no correspondence. The Mayor did forward a document which will be addressed later in the agenda.

7. Minutes of Previous Committee Meeting dated 2 February 2017

Proposed: Councillor G. Scott **Seconded:** Councillor H. Ming

The Minutes were accepted as read.

8. Matters arising from the Minutes dated 2 February 2017:

There was mention of writing to Filter Queen, to be discussed under Any Other Business.

(i) **Email the Secretary the information regarding the specific location of the light out on Angle Street:** The Secretary advised that he did not receive the specific location from Councillor Edwards regarding the location of the light out on Angle Street. He did receive various light printouts and that particular location that was described had not been out for weeks. The reports demonstrated that there was an issue very recently.

(ii) **Check into the lights on the sidewalk on the lower part of Court Street from Dundonald Street to Victoria Street:** The Secretary said there were no lights out at that point. He received a new light report yesterday and would check that recent report to see what lights are currently out. Councillor Johnson reported that the lamp pole that was down on the ground outside the church on 63 Dundonald Street has been repaired. He further reported that the sidewalk had been repaired as well.

Mrs. Smith said the specific issue was that on the eastern side of Court Street between Victoria and Dundonald Streets where there are no lights. In the Minutes, it speaks to the fact that Belco needs to put a feed there. Businesses on that side of the street are saying that it is very dark and has been that way for a sustained period of time. There are lights on only one side of the street. The Secretary said they are cobra lights and it is standard on most streets. Cobra lights throw out the appropriate number of lumens. When the CoH replaces the cobra lights, there will still be only lights on one side. The Secretary further commented on the proposed intersection between Victoria and Court Streets scheduled for this year. Once that project gets underway, hoping to have a feed into those sets of lights. Or maybe replace the cobras with other coppers.

Councillor Johnson commented on the western side of Court Street between Church and Front Streets, from HSBC south to Front Street. The only light is outside of HSBC, there are no other lights on that side of the street. The Secretary said there is no plan at the moment to put in new light poles. He would raise the issue under AOB in the Infrastructure Committee meeting next week. The Secretary further commented that the CoH is considering replacing the current lights in the cobra heads with the new LED which is a different colour light and which give the impression that it is much brighter and a better throw of light.

Ms. Thompson said the other place that needs to be addressed is Cedar Avenue going towards St. Theresa's, that area is very dark as well. The Secretary said that is a different issue and it is due to the growth of the trees and the decision of the type of pole that is there. This issue has been mentioned by the Leopard's Club on several occasions.

(iii) **Look at the boards on Till's Hill, take some photos and then as part of the proposal see what can be done, either fix them or take them down until a decision is made to place something else there:** Mrs. Smith distributed some photos of the boards that are currently on Till's Hill. Some of them have to be updated and for those that cannot be repaired will be disposed of.

9. Status Update:

(i) **Events:** The Secretary commented on the Calendar of Events for March 2017 provided by the Events Department. A copy of the March Calendar of Events was given to the Committee Members. The recommendation from this committee on proposed events was discussed in the Council meeting yesterday.

(ii) **Printing of Resident Informational Magnet:** The Committee is still waiting for the quote for the magnet. Mrs. Smith said that a local graphic designer has been given the information to provide a quote to an overseas company but has not received any response yet. There is a bit of revision on the flyer and the magnet design. She showed the committee a copy of the flyer and the draft magnet. Also, waiting for the Bermuda Police Service to approve the use of their logo. The Secretary said that there is a Finance Committee meeting next week Thursday in the hopes that all the financial information regarding the magnet could be provided.

Councillor Johnson reiterated that every month that this recommendation does not get to the Finance Committee then it cannot be debated on and approved by that Committee. Mrs. Smith said the desire is to keep the cost under \$2,500.00. At least, there is a sample template already developed. Her hope is that the CoH will support this initiative and if not, the Residents Advisory Committee will find a way to have the magnet printed.

Ms. Thompson commented that when the Committee goes on their first Walkabout on 5 March 2017, they wanted to have copies of the flyer to hand out during that time. The Secretary said in the Council meeting yesterday, the Council was advised that the Walkabout scheduled for 5 March was going to be cancelled. Councillor Edwards said that it was too short of a notice to organise but would try to get the next event in on 18 March 2017. Mrs. Smith said the residents are committed to walking around the area and hand out the flyers. Ms. Marshall said that it was mentioned in one of the Committee meetings that if the magnet was not ready, they would take the flyers around. Ms. Marshall, Ms. Thompson and Mrs. Smith confirmed that they will go ahead with the scheduled Walkabout on 5 March and invited anyone else who was willing to go. Ms. Thompson said they would have to decide where everyone will meet. Councillor G. Scott said that he would make himself available. It was agreed that the Committee Members going on the walkabout would meet at the BIU Headquarters. Councillor Johnson confirmed that he will also join the group.

10. Recommendations for Review:

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve the Calendar of Events as presented by the Residents Advisory Committee and a budget to be processed for these events.

The Secretary advised that the Recommendation from the Committee was deferred in the Council meeting yesterday to allow the representatives of this Committee to work with the Events team to see what could or could not be fitted in, what the impact on staffing would be and what budget would have to be sought. These are the events proposed from the Residents Advisory Committee to take place from 5 March 2017 through to November 2017. When the Event Project Manager is back in office on 20 March, will arrange a meeting with Councillor Edwards and some representatives from the Committee to work through the proposed events. Looked at doing some of the events without using costs, e.g. the clean-up days. There is no budget at the moment for the residential mural art project (\$10K) and annual resident picnic (\$5K). Possibly some events could be fitted in with some events that the CoH is already doing, e.g. Dellwood where the CoH already has a project for the decorating of the Christmas tree on the corner of Dundonald and Court Streets. This past year the school was supposed to be included in the project so this year that could be incorporated having the school children assist with the decorating. The clean-ups could be included in some of the CoH's projects as this has been done before with some CoH staff members volunteering during the work day. Will have to see what KBB can provide and what the CoH could provide for the project without costs.

The Secretary commented on the 18 March clean-up event and will speak with the Engineering Department and may not require the Events Department for that event.

Mrs. Smith said they have already met with KBB regarding both the 18 March and 14 October events and they have agreed to both dates. KBB does a monthly clean-up throughout Bermuda and they have designated 18 March for the clean-up day for the City from 9:00am to 12 noon and they will bring their resources. The costs associated would be to provide water and snacks so probably would not cost \$500.00. If there is sign-off on the flyer, then the information regarding the clean-up with KBB will be placed on the back part of the flyer to hand out to the residents. The intent is to ask businesses and organisations to be available on that day. The Committee can forward a structure plan to the CoH which is being finalised by KBB and would like for the CoH to be involved in the clean-up on that day.

Councillor Johnson queried if the clean-up was just for North East Hamilton or the entire City and whether it was just regular garbage. Mr. Smith responded that it is dependent on the number of volunteers that KBB has on how much garbage can be taken. Previously when doing the clean-up in partnership with KBB, regular garbage was collected as well as bulk. The clean-up is not limited to North East Hamilton, it is the entire City. Part of the strategy is to focus on key hubs where garbage is being discarded. Councillor Johnson said one of his biggest negatives with clean-ups is that after all the garbage has been collected, then it takes an entire week or more before the garbage gets collected and that would not work well in the City on top of the regular garbage collection. Mrs. Smith said KBB supplies the trash bags, gloves and they coordinate with trucks whether it be W&E or the CoH and if there is a gap then BEDC will pitch in to assist in that regard.

11. Any Other Business:

- (i) **Take Note:** The Secretary commented on the information that had been forwarded to the committee regarding the light report from 23 January 2017 indicating all the lights that were out in the City. The majority were in the southeast quadrant.
- (ii) **BEDC's Role:** Mrs. Smith wanted to give any Council Member or Residents Advisory Committee Member the opportunity to directly ask her any questions as it relates to the role of the BEDC. She read through all the Committees' Minutes for the last six (6) months or more and there was a fair amount of discussion, specifically to the New Year's Eve event and the Uptown Cultural Committee. Councillor Ming suggested that conversation take place with the Council as opposed to with the Committee.
- (iii) **ACBDA Presentations:** Councillor G. Scott recently attended the presentations and looking at the groups involved, it is the same groups participating in the New Year's Eve event, e.g. the CoH, the Chamber of Commerce. There are very few groups that help BEDC with New Year's Eve or any other activities in Bermuda.
- (iv) **Take Note: Document re: Laying the Groundwork for Change: Demolition, Urban Strategy and Policy Reform:** The Mayor suggested this document would be the type of "meat" that this Committee could assist with particularly when trying to get by-in on policy and strategy. This has been discussed for years and it would probably affect residential properties more than it would business properties. The issue of abandoned buildings and the impact on other residents' property values, etc. is addressed in the document. The Mayor thought it a good idea to circulate this information to the Committee to see if this would be something that this Committee would like to take-up in assisting in creating a strategy in dealing with abandoned and dilapidated buildings within the City. Councillor Ming added that this all came about because of constant concerns of individuals who were taking advantage of sleeping on doorsteps, etc.

Councillor Johnson commented there has been talk in the news regarding the Salvation Army, the CoH and the Government providing or making a habitat available for the people that have been discussed. There seems to be a regular occurrence of people "dropping the ball" for whatever reason. In as much as the Committee may be able to find some information to Bermudianise the document and formulate a template moving forward, at the end of the day, this would have to be approved and sanctioned by the powers that be. The Committee is being asked to be a presenter of options based on what is seen in this document.

The Secretary said the CoH is looking to get a level of support from the public. The CoH has exhausted avenues in terms of homelessness and vagrancy. The CoH had a written partnership agreement with the Salvation Army and tried to have an arrangement with the Government of the day for a building but that never matured. The previous Council put together a comprehensive set of professionals; the majority of them from outside of the CoH with the necessary services that would be provided. This failed and will continue to fail because there is no Government champion who will keep the conversation going and in the forefront. This is a cross ministry issue, i.e. health, enforcement, etc. Dialogue continued.

The Secretary continued speaking to the dilapidated buildings in the City and that in some countries the Municipalities have the authority to take them over, fix them up, put them out to rent and when the expenses are recouped, return them back to the owner. He further commented that the CoH and the Government does not have that authority. Mrs. Smith said the Government does have that authority but they choose not to enact that authority. She further commented on certain Acts that addressed those issues.

ACTION: Mrs. Smith to forward to the Residents Advisory Committee the Government Acts that pertain to addressing vacant, derelict buildings and land.

(v)**Parking on North Street:** Ms. Marshall said TCD is now lowering their gate in the evenings, so there is limited parking for the residents in that area. She was parking in TCD's parking lot but now parks on the sidewalk near Dellwood. The three (3) residential spaces are always in use. The Secretary said there is no plan to increase parking on North Street, the preference would be not to have parking on North Street. The CoH has been trying to utilise a piece of property the City owns to the west of TCD but have been unable to get TCD to discuss how to get ingress and egress safely. There is not a 90ft. clear sight line between the maximum distance where vehicles would come out of that property to the corner and there are no alternatives at the moment. The only other available parking in that area is Dellwood School who does allow for parking down on the western side of the wall. They provided that for overflow parking for the churches on Ewing Street and the parents that drop their children off at the school. The piece of CoH property mentioned previously could house at least eight (8) parking spaces which would be more than adequate to cover the residents' parking. There have also been discussions with TCD regarding putting in a second level.

Councillor Johnson said parking in the City will always be an issue because if persons decide to make their 2-story building a 3-story building and add another unit, the parking available for residents does not increase. There was continued discussion on the decrease of residential parking spaces on North Street which was done after there was receipt of a safety report from the Highways Safety Engineer.

Councillor Ming said this issue will continue until and unless there is a total revision of Planning regulations. The CoH bears the brunt of the issue and it emanates from a plan that the idea of a requirement for "x" number of spaces per unit does not exist in the City of Hamilton.

(vi)**New Roundabout - Laffan Street:** Ms. Thompson commented that the roundabout is very nice but the traffic coming from Woodlands Road coming up to Laffan Street, when they come around the roundabout, one day somebody, e.g. a container truck coming up the one-way and a vehicle going down, e.g. a CoH truck are going to collide. She had mentioned this issue before the roundabout was completed. She respectfully requested that whomever deals with the traffic flow to go there on a Monday morning between 7:30am and 9:30am to see the traffic trying to negotiate through that area. Laffan Street is a one-way street between No Name Lane and up and a two-way street between No Name Lane and the roundabout. That little area is too small for a container truck coming up and any other large vehicular traffic coming down.

The Secretary said there is a plan to look at the traffic flow in that area. Ms. Thompson asked when the CoH looks at that area and when they make a decision that they consult with the residents.

There were no other matters to be discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55pm.