Present: A. Samson (Chair), M. Stark (Vice-Chair), P. Bruckler, and M. Shurvin

Absent with regrets: Bob Wade, previous commitment

Also Present: I. Bedioui, City Clerk’s Office

The meeting was called to order.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
   None declared.

2. VERBAL PRESENTATION BY CHAIR ART SAMSON
   Chair Samson introduced himself and the other members of the Task Force. He referred to the copy of the Task Force’s mandate which was distributed. He explained that with recent changes to the legislation, Councils are now able to establish community councils. He also briefly outlined the Task Force’s activities to date.

3. WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS
   (a) Blank sheets available at meeting (distributed separately)
       The Chair advised the members of the audience that blank sheets were available for their written comments.
   (b) Written submissions from the following were acknowledged:
       (i) Brock Criger
       (ii) Peter George, McMaster University

4. DELEGATIONS
   (a) David Hitchcock (written submission attached)
David Hitchcock addressed the Task Force and he provided a brief history of his involvement in various community organizations in the Hamilton area where he lives. He indicated that the community groups organized recreational activities and expressed their concerns to the elected officials regarding such issues as noise caused by trucks travelling along the 403 (which resulted in barriers being erected) and planning matters such as a cemetery expansion. He indicated that he is currently a block representative of the Ainslie Wood Neighbourhood Association and its concerns include the expansion of McMaster University.

David Hitchcock indicated that he would support paying extra taxes to have the City clear the sidewalks in Westdale (like the residents of Ancaster do).

(b) Peter Hutton

Peter Hutton’s statements included but were not limited to the following:

- More information about this meeting should have been made available on the web site. i.e. the agenda
- Suggested the Task Force consider natural constituencies (not old City ward boundaries)
- Suggested the structure should be like a round table where the members could collaborate to work out problems such as those relating to small businesses, recreational facilities, etc.
- He promoted the Dundas Community Council model.
- He cautioned against the politically contentious area rating issue
- Money could be saved if community groups got involved such as in the maintenance of playground equipment

Chair Samson outlined the Task Force’s position to date which was included in the agenda and invited comments from the public on the following four components of the mandate:

**Harmonized Mandate**

Catherine Beattie of Ancaster

- In order to avoid complications and delays, the existing ward boundaries should be used for the Community Councils.
- A criteria should be developed to define a community.

Brian Saccomano of Flamborough

- The size of the Community Council is important to the area rating issue.
- Boundaries need to be defined and the Community Councils need to have an identity.
• Services should not be grandfathered (i.e. he’s on a well and he doesn’t want to pay for sewers).

Catherine McMaster, sits on the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee

• The Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee already deals with all the agriculture and rural issues and to add Community Councils issues to it would overwhelm it.

Brian Bonham of the Landsdale Area Neighbourhood Association (L.A.N.A.)

• A Community Council should be defined by the character of the neighbourhood.
• Central Hamilton should benefit from Community Councils.
• Central Hamilton should not become a service centre for the rest of the City.
• Disagrees with the proposal of 11 members. Not all communities would be able to produce 11 members that could speak English and have the economic freedom to participate.
• The number of members should vary (from 9 to 11) based on the size of the Community
• Expressed concerns with snow removal and area rating.

Bob ??

• A standardized criteria of what is a community council needs to be developed.
• How is a Community Council identified?

Art Bowes of Ancaster

• Doesn’t agree with current ward boundaries. A large agricultural area of Ancaster was added to Ward 14. Despite the ward boundary, the Ancaster Community Council considers issues affecting Jerseyville. He stated that 67% of Ancaster is rural.

Governance Structure

Lisa Dobbs

• There needs to be sufficient community representation (i.e. including industry, business, and the average citizens). (It was noted that this could be controlled only with a selection process but not through an election process.)
David Hitchcock

- An economical way of holding an election would be to schedule annual public meetings with notices delivered to all residents in the community that an election will be held at the meeting. Interested candidates would be nominated at the meeting and an election would be held to fill the positions on the Community Council.

Permissive Powers

Brian Bonham

- Believes the legislation for Fence viewing has changed.
- Asked that cemeteries be added to the delegated powers.

Autonomy of Community Councils

A general discussion ensued about a budget for community councils, the cost to tax payers, and what other municipalities are doing.

5. OTHER MEETINGS

The Chair noted the following additional public meetings have been scheduled:

(a) October 16 – Canadian Football Hall of Fame Museum, 7:00 p.m.
(b) October 30 – Sir Winston Church High School, 7:00 p.m.
(c) November 6, 2007 – Former Town of Glanbrook Council Chambers, 7:00 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Art Samson, Chair
Community Councils Task Force

Ida Bediou
Legislative Assistant
Community Councils Task Force
September 13, 2007