Present: Councillor B. Bratina (Chair)
M. Pocius, J. Hawker, S. Cavanagh, S. Pollock

Also Present: A. Dore, R. Maharaj - Public Works
R. Marini, J. Everets, H. Milsome – Downtown Renewal
D. Adames - Tourism
A. Rawlings - Office of the City Clerk

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS REPORTED TO COUNCIL:

1. Hiring of Additional Full-time Employees for Ground Litter Pick-up; Educational/Promotional Anti-littering Campaign; and Safety and Security Audit (07-001) (Ward 2)

(a) That the proposed increase in complement in the Public Works, Road Operations and Maintenance Section as identified in the report in the amount of $299,459 for four (4) full-time employees to be assigned to on-street ground litter control in the Downtown Designated Task Force Area, be referred to the 2007 budget deliberations for consideration;

(b) That the recommendation below, with respect to an Educational/Promotional Anti-littering Campaign, be referred to the 2007 budget deliberations for consideration:

(i) That staff be directed to implement an educational/promotional anti-littering campaign, which would include the promotion of the new cigarette butt containers, at a cost not to exceed $5,000.

(c) That the item relating to an Educational/Promotional Anti-Littering Campaign be removed from the Outstanding Business List of the Public Works Committee.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

(a) WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Bratina welcomed the new citizen members of the Committee and all present introduced themselves.

Chair Bratina asked each new citizen member to provide a brief overview of their interest in the Downtown and the work of the Committee.

John Hawker said that he was a resident of the Durand area and a member of the Durand Neighbourhood Association. He noted concerns with panhandlers, graffiti, litter and policing issues.

Sharon Cavanagh advised that as a long-time resident of the Main-Sanford area, she had concerns with crack addicts, less so with street walkers, and was looking for a general comfort level with walking in the Downtown.

Shannon Pollock said that her knowledge of the Downtown was based upon her years of working with Halton and Toronto police services, and driving people in custody to and from the Barton Street jail. She now owns a business in the City and is concerned with its overall health.

(b) CHANGES TO AGENDA (Item 2)

There were no changes to the agenda.
(c) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

There were none declared.

(d) APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Item 4)

( Pocius / Cavanagh )

That the Minutes of September 22, 2006, be approved as presented.

(e) Hiring of Additional Full-time Employees for Ground Litter Pick-up; Educational/Promotional Anti-littering Campaign; and Safety and Security Audit (Item 5.1)

Committee reviewed the staff report on the matter.

Chair Bratina noted that there had been some concerns raised regarding the condition of the Downtown core, at the recent Tim Horton Brier event.

David Adames gave an overview of the Brier from a tourism perspective, explaining that while some issues had been identified, the overall event was positive. He noted that he would be reporting to the Tourism Board and Council.

Mr. Adames explained that there had been in excess of 50 hours of TV coverage and that attendance had been good.

Mary Pocius gave an overview of the Brier from a BIA and citizen perspective, and explained that the Brier had a positive outcome for areas beyond the Downtown, which was unusual for a sporting event.

Ron Marini provided an overview of his department’s responsibilities and activities across the Downtowns of the entire City. He explained the background to the formation of the Task Force.

Staff explained the background to their report, and explained how the proposal would assist in the improvement of the appearance of the Downtown. Committee discussed the issues raised in the report and then approved the staff recommendation.
(f) Future Issues for Consideration (Item 5.2)

Committee identified other issues for future consideration.

Jeff Everets explained the role his staff play in cleaning and overseeing the operation of the City’s 62 parking lots. Mr. Everets requested that wherever a “dark” parking lot was identified, that he be advised.

(g) General Information/Other Business (Item 6.0)

Committee discussed the frequency and subject matter of future meetings.

Mary Pocius suggested that the Task Force meet more frequently than they had last year.

Staff advised that the City’s Budget was expected to be approved at the end of April, 2007.

Ron Marini suggested that Task Force “walkabouts” should take place several times per year.

Al Dore passed around information from the City of Toronto entitled “Whose job is it” and explained that this was being considered for use by the City.

On a Motion (Pocius/Cavanagh) the Committee approved the following:

That the next meeting will be a “walkabout” commencing at Wellington and King, and that tasks will be assigned as the walkabout progresses.

Staff was directed to identify a suitable date, and to arrange the event.

(h) Adjournment (Item 6)

(Pollock/Cavanagh)

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3.05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra Rawlings
Co-ordinator
March 16, 2007

Councillor B. Bratina,
Chair