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

Absent with regrets: B. Wade, other commitment

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

The meeting was called to order.

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

   The Clerk advised of the following changes to the agenda.

   (a) Added Item 3.2 entitled An Analysis of Bill 130 respecting Municipal Statute Law Amendment Act, 2006 and Community Councils prepared by Stan Haworth of the Committee to Free Flamborough

   (b) Added delegation request from Daniel Rodrigues respecting a Policy Paper on Community Councils, Item 3.3.

   (c) Added Item 3.4, proposed dates when Peter Barkwell, City Solicitor would be able to attend to discuss the delegated powers allowed under the amended legislation.

   (Bruckler/Shurvin)
   That the agenda be approved as amended.

   CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES

   (Shurvin/Bruckler)
   That the notes of the April 30, 2007 Community Councils Task Force meeting and subsequent attendance at the Ancaster and Dundas Community Councils be received and the appointments of Art Samson as Chair and Michelle Stark as Vice Chair be confirmed.

   CARRIED
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None declared.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1 Observations and Input from the meetings of the Ancaster and Dundas Community Councils

- Both Ancaster and Dundas Community Councils seem satisfied with their roles but want more authority.
- A main focus is communication – the community councils are a good communication source.
- Community councils could be added as a commenting agency to be included on circulation lists for issues such as planning.
- The community council members noted loses to their community as a result of amalgamation.
- The structure of the committees and how the members are appointed was discussed (i.e. 5 representatives from various community groups were appointed and 5 members were appointed at large.)

4.2 An Analysis of Bill 130 respecting Municipal Statute Law Amendment Act, 2006 and Community Councils prepared by Stan Haworth of the Committee to Free Flamborough

It was noted that Stan Haworth’s analysis illustrates, that in his opinion the legislation doesn’t go far enough in giving powers to the Community Councils.

The Task Force agreed that the above submission expresses some of the potential challenges in establishing community councils and discussed the following issues:

- What are the powers that can be delegated?
- Can certain powers be delegated absolutely?
- What kinds of issues would be appropriate to delegate? i.e. stop signs or other traffic issues which impact the local residents, etc.
- Residents would appreciate discussing issues locally rather than attending Committee meetings in downtown Hamilton at 9:30 a.m.
- This would encourage more public participation.
- How would the community councils be structured? (i.e. Like a police village? A discussion forum?)
- There would be a need for some degree of expertise and a delegated staff member.
- Staff presentations may be necessary on larger issues (i.e. GRIDS).
- How much time would the appointees be willing to volunteer?
• What about a budget? Stipends?
• What would be the reporting structure?
• Should the community councils be established per ward or per community group or per common interest (i.e. rural, or urban)?
• What would be the selection process? (Elected/appointed?)
• Some communities are more politically active than others.
• Would this be a return to a two tier government?
• Would this result in government duplication?
• How is the Toronto community councils system working?
• Winnipeg’s community councils are like a caucus composed of elected members.

Other considerations:

• With time the need for community councils may diminish.
• Boundaries will change with new development and new residents.
• Community identities will change.

4.3 Delegation request from Daniel Rodrigues

This item was not discussed by the Task Force.

4.4 Dates for Peter Barkwell

A copy of the dates on which the City Solicitor would be available was distributed to the Task Force. It was agreed that he should attend at the same time as Minister Gerretsen.

4.5 Meeting with Minister Gerretsen

Proposed questions for Minister Gerretsen:

• What is his vision with respect to the amended legislation?
• Is the legislation deliberately vague?
• Are there absolute powers that can be delegated?
• Are there any regulations restricting or imposing conditions on the Municipal powers (i.e. powers of the O.M.B.)?
• Does the community councils' structure need to be across the board? (Communities are different. The City is not homogeneous. Areas have separate needs.)
• Would the Minister read the Task Force’s Report and consider putting his stamp of approval on it?
5. **NEXT STEPS**

The Legislative Assistant was requested to:

- follow-up with Minister Gerretsen’s office about his meeting on June 19, 2007 with the Task Force
- find out who in Minister Gerretsen’s office could liaise with the Task Force – maybe Peter-John Sidebottom, a Municipal Act expert with Municipal Affairs would provide his input with respect to the new legislation
- follow-up with the City Solicitor
- follow-up with Ted McMeekin’s Office concerning the proposed meeting with Doctor Andrew Sancton, Professor and Director of the Local Government Program at the University of Western Ontario.
- obtain a copy of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Task Force’s terms of reference
- obtain a list of the types of businesses licensed by the City
- find out if the Community Councils Task Force reports to Committee of the Whole
- summarize proposed questions for the Minister and distribute to Task Force members for review

Next meeting of the Task Force will be Tuesday, June 12, 2007. In the meantime, the Legislative Assistant will forward any written submissions which are received in the Clerk’s Office to the task force members for review.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Art Samson, Chair  
Community Councils Task Force

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Ida Bedioui  
Legislative Assistant  
Community Councils Task Force  
May 22, 2007