

Submitted by the Ad Hoc Working Group of FCA and the Greenspace Alliance on Public Engagement

General Principles

A Planning Advisory Committee should:

- have a majority of its membership consist of community residents who are not City employees nor work in the development industry
- in consultation with the Chairs of the relevant Standing Committees, senior management and the community, be able to set its own agenda
- bring new and diverse voices to the table
- operate transparently (public meetings, public reports)
- encourage citizen feedback and provide a channel for citizens to raise new issues
- foster public education and civic engagement
- have adequate resources to accomplish its mandate
- not supplant other forms of public engagement

A Proposal

Preamble

The proposal below aims to facilitate greater collaboration and exchange of ideas between Council and the public, a desired outcome of Bill 73 expressed by the Province. It is also informed by the observation that a forum for dialogue between residents and the development industry is lacking; and by the belief that improved dialogue would lead to better planning.

From the City's perspective, on the spectrum of public engagement, the proposed committee would be at the level of either consult (*listen-learn*) or involve (*listen-learn-dialogue*), depending on the topic. (Ref., Toolkit, p. 18)

Purpose

Foster focused dialogue among citizens, the development industry and the City's senior officials on how policies, programs and decisions in the areas of planning, transportation, environment and heritage are meeting the objective of transparency and public engagement; and produce reports reflecting its discussions.

The discussions and resulting reports are to be based on measurable information collected in the course of the City's planning-related activities.

The scope of the Committee's discussions is the *Planning Act* (with specific reference to Section 2) and the Provincial Policy Statement.

Mandate

+ Provide feedback and produce reports to Council and the public on how the City engages the public in its decisions and directions. Specific issues may be selected by the City or requested by the Committee. Examples include key milestones of a Comprehensive Official Plan review; reviews of various Master Plans; guidelines for the Development Charges review; City-wide policy proposals; engagement practices related to development applications.

+ Offer an open mike and invite written submissions from the public.

+ Distribute the reports of its discussions to all members of Council.

Composition

+ 10 community residents:

- 3 from inner urban and 2 from inner suburban
- 1 each from East, South and West suburban
- 2 from rural

+ 4 industry representatives:

- 1 each from GOHBA and BOMA
- 1 each from the planning and environment consulting community

+ 2 representatives of the academic community (Ottawa U, Carleton)

+ ex-officio (non-voting), as agenda items warrant:

- the chairs of the relevant Standing Committees
- the General Managers of Planning, Transportation, Public Works, and Parks (dept. names abbreviated)

Recruitment

+ Appointed by Council, on advice from civic, industry and academic organizations

+ 2-year terms (1-year terms for 8 of the 16 members at start-up)

Operational

+ public meetings, at least 4 times per year

+ consensus or majority/minority reports

+ secretarial and logistical support from the Clerk's Office