

MAYOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FOURTH QUARTER REPORT 2009

The Mayors' Environmental Advisory Committee is pleased to submit a summary of its activities for the fourth quarter (October 1st – December 31st) of 2009:

GOVERNANCE AND MEETINGS

MEAC held two regular meetings on October 23, 2009 and November 27, 2009, and a full day strategic planning session on October 17, 2009, which was the second segment of a 1.5 -day planning event.

DELEGATIONS HEARD

At its October 27th meeting, MEAC heard a presentation from David Hill, COO of the Winnipeg Parking Authority, regarding the role, services and future initiatives of the WPA; as well as a discussion regarding the potential for parking incentives to encourage hybrid and electric car use in Winnipeg.

Also at its October 27th meeting, MEAC heard Darryl Drohomerski, Manager of Solid Waste with the Water and Waste Department, who provided a report back on the first "Giveaway Weekend" held September 26th and 27th in Winnipeg. Darryl also addressed a citizen suggestion to provide more recycling depots in Winnipeg.

RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO THE MAYOR

Following is a summary of the recommendations made by MEAC to the Mayor during the third quarter of 2009:

1 Environmentally Friendly Car Policy for Downtown Parking

David Hill, COO of the Winnipeg Parking Authority attended the October 27th MEAC meeting to discuss the concept of parking incentives for hybrid and electric vehicles.

RECOMMENDATION: *"That MEAC recommend to the Mayor that the Winnipeg Public Service explore options and possibilities to encourage the use of environmentally friendly vehicles, including but not limited to:*

- 1. Incentivized parking for low emissions vehicles and electric vehicles;*
- 2. Free parking for plug-in hydro-electric vehicles and electric vehicles*
- 3. The City and Province exploring amendments to the Highway traffic Act, which would allow parking of vehicles perpendicular to the curb".*

CITIZEN SUGGESTIONS

MEAC considered the following citizen suggestions:

- A proposal and presentation by Mr. Don Woodstock recommending the establishment of a prestigious award for environmental contributions. This suggestion has been incorporated into the MEAC strategic planning exercise.
 - A suggestion from Mr. James Cohen, of Gendis Inc. to implement an incentive (such as rebates for green actions) to encourage businesses to engage on environmentally friendly behaviours such as recycling, greening of fleets and so on. This suggestion was incorporated into the MEAC strategic planning process.
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CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Community-wide Green House Gas Reduction Strategy

On September 30, 2009, Council approved the creation of a Community-wide Climate Change Action Plan for Winnipeg. MEAC will act as the Steering Committee for the Community-wide Climate Change Action Plan, along with representatives from other sectors. The Action Plan will be created through a process involving community partners and organizations as well as citizens through a community engagement process. The draft Community-wide Climate Change Action Plan will be submitted in August 2010.

In its role as Steering Committee, MEAC has provided guidance, input and advice regarding the approach for promotion of the initiative and on stakeholder involvement for the development of the community-wide project inventory. The creation of the Action Plan will be a standing item on the MEAC agenda for 2010.

Our Winnipeg Initiative

At the November 23rd meeting, MEAC members received the draft *Call to Action for Our Winnipeg*, and the survey instrument utilized at the Open Houses, and were invited to provide feedback using the survey tool, through the *Our Winnipeg* website or through one of the eight Open Houses held in November 2009.

PLANS FOR 2009 AND BEYOND

1 Strategic Planning Session

On September 22nd and October 17th MEAC met for a Strategic Planning Session. During the session, MEAC members learned about the City of Winnipeg's political and administrative structure, current and capital budget processes, services, current issues and challenges. MEAC also spent time clarifying their role. MEAC engaged the capable facilitation services of Sheldon MacLeod, and through the course of the

1.5 day session, MEAC identified 7 key priorities – some short, some medium and some long –term - that they would like to support and advance in conjunction with the *Our Winnipeg* Initiative and other processes:

- **A “Green Club” recognition/ rewards program for sustainable activities by citizens and businesses**
- **A passive solar demonstration project**
- **An education program around the environment and sustainability**
- **A regional approach to transit**
- **A carpool program for Winnipeg**
- **A policy for active transportation amenities in all City infrastructure projects**
- **A ban on the sale of phosphorus**

2 Our Winnipeg *Direction Papers*

During the first quarter of 2010, MEAC will be involved in the review of the four Direction Papers that constitute the next deliverable for the Our Winnipeg Initiative. Winnipeg’s new municipal development plan, Our Winnipeg, will be completed by the end of April 2010.

HISTORY

Section 4.1 of the Terms of Reference for the Mayor’s Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) states that “MEAC shall provide advice and informal reports to the Mayor as requested and shall report formally to the Mayor with recommendations on a quarterly basis. Recommendations provided by MEAC will flow through the Mayor to City Council and / or the City’s Public Service, as required.”

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY

Jeffrey Hartry
MEAC Co-chairs on behalf of MEAC members:

Miriam Cohen-Krajden
Amanda Dunnigan
Dr. Michael Mehta
George Toth
Kelsey McCuspey
Manitoba)

Councillor Russ Wyatt

William Dowie
Dr. Arne Elias
Anders Swanson
Stephanie White- Willitts
Neil Cunningham (ex-officio – Province of

