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Previously on the first city council meeting when it was paused three hours ago...

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Thread by Adam A. Donaldson (@adamadonaldson), Feb 14

Previously on this city council meeting:  
Mayor Guthrie calls the meeting to  
order. Again. Next up is Mik Graf from  
Sanguen Health Centre. They say...

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Guthrie calls the meeting to order again.

Goller/Busuttill put the 3 recommendations on the floor:

**Recommendation:**

1. That Council approve the draft Public Space Use By-law, as attached to report 2024-76, and incorporating Council's feedback at their February 14, 2024 meeting that staff be directed to place the by-law on the February 27, 2024 agenda for final adoption after which the by-law will come into effect on March 1, 2024.
2. That Council respectfully request that the County of Wellington supply the necessary resources and tools, as well as monthly statistics regarding daily availability and access to accessible permanent shelter for all those on the "by name" list, as well as data on the number of offers made to individuals for accessible permanent shelter where the individual has turned down the offer.
3. That Guelph's advocacy efforts continue with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Provincial government to address the need for greater municipal funding to deal with housing instability issues, legislative reform to address public space use by-laws, and greater health care funding to address urgent community need connected to mental health and substance use issues.

Busuttill/O'Rourke put amendment on the floor to defer rec #1 till the Kingston appeal is resolved.

#### Public Space Use Bylaw, 2024-76



1. That recommendation #1 be deferred until the appeal of the Corporation of the City of Kingston v. Doe, 2023 ONSC 6662 decision is available and that staff bring back a report at that time for Council to consider a Bylaw that takes into consideration additional information and available legal decisions.

Guthrie, Gibson, Billings vote against, but the amendment passes.

That leaves recommendations #2 and 3. Goller asks about questions or comments.

2. That Council respectfully request that the County of Wellington supply the necessary resources and tools, as well as monthly statistics regarding daily availability and access to accessible permanent shelter for all those on the "by name" list, as well as data on the number of offers made to individuals for accessible permanent shelter where the individual has turned down the offer.
3. That Guelph's advocacy efforts continue with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Provincial government to address the need for greater municipal funding to deal with housing instability issues, legislative reform to address public space use by-laws, and greater health care funding to address urgent community need connected to mental health and substance use issues.

Busuttill asks why they're asking for monthly statistics, is that about the Waterloo decision? Clack-Bush says that was the intention, but even with the deferral staff feel it's information that they should still have.

O'Rourke asks if conversations about supply of amenities to a site happen under #2. CCB says it was meant to address permanent shelter, not a Better Tent City style facility. Apparently, there's going to be a third date for the symposium to look at this on April 7.

Recommendation #2 passed unanimously.

On #3 Klassen wants to amend it to include adding the federal government to address the increased need. Busuttill wanted to ask about that too, so she will second the Klassen amendment once written.

Klassen says that they heard from so many delegates today, and she wants to bring the feds into this because there's a holistic need. She's also changed the language to more directly address the crisis. There is a crisis of housing, but also food insecurity another issues.

Klassen says there's no sides, it's about how to address this together. The amendment:

#### Public Space Use Bylaw, 2024-76



3. That Guelph's advocacy efforts continue with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Provincial government **and the federal government** to address the need for greater municipal funding to deal with housing instability issues, legislative reform to address public space use by-laws, and greater health care funding to address **the crisis in our** community connected to mental health and substance use issues.

That amendment passes unanimously.

Recommendation #3 passes as amended.

But wait, we've got more motions! Goller has a motion asking staff to work with Wellington County to get fire prevention education for people in encampments. Caton seconds. Goller cites recent incidents of fire as a need for education.

Motion:

**Public Space Use Bylaw, 2024-76**



1. That staff work with Wellington County, front-line workers and unhoused community members to enhance our Encampments on City Property and Road Allowances Operating Procedure, to include fire prevention education for community members staying in encampments in Guelph.

O'Rourke asks if this is happening already. CCB says yes, but she would take this as an effort to step up efforts, but this is operational work that is already underway and they would want to continue it.

O'Rourke asks if social service agencies will help guide fire department so that a truck isn't rolling up. CCB says that they work through Stepping Stone for that reason, seeing anyone in a uniform can be triggering.

Motion approved unanimously.

Caron motion: To continue engagement on the development of the bylaw and pause the dark sky bylaw engagement to take this on instead. Goller seconds.

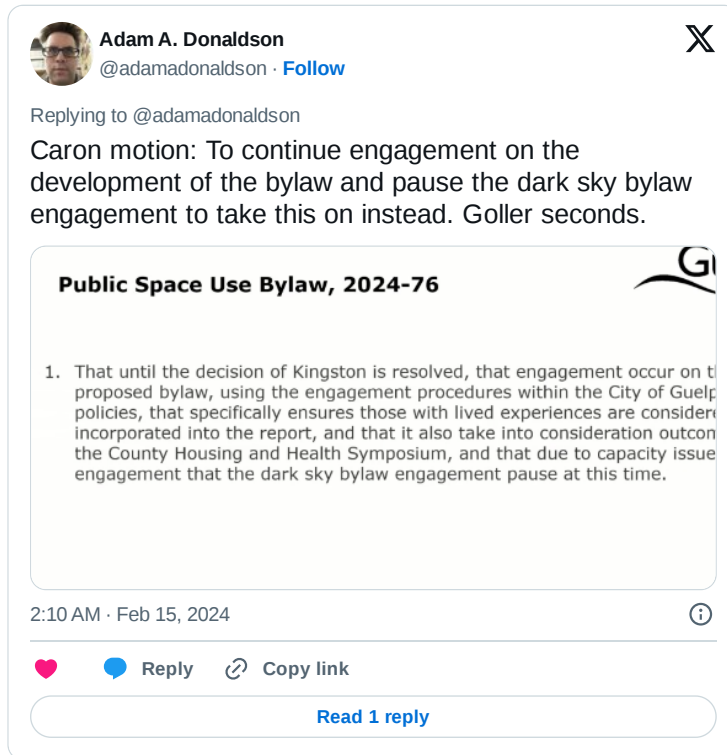
**Public Space Use Bylaw, 2024-76**



1. That until the decision of Kingston is resolved, that engagement occur on the proposed bylaw, using the engagement procedures within the City of Guelph policies, that specifically ensures those with lived experiences are considered and incorporated into the report, and that it also take into consideration outcomes from the County Housing and Health Symposium, and that due to capacity issues for engagement that the dark sky bylaw engagement pause at this time.

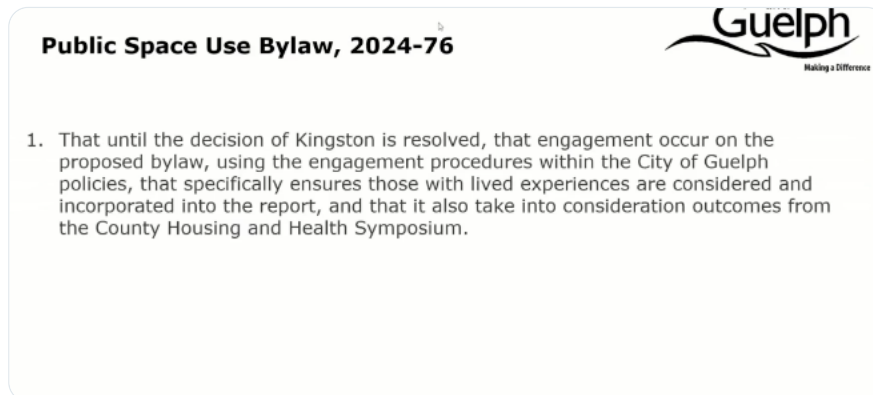
CCB says the engagement on dark sky was done on Feb 11 and all they have to do now is write the report. Will have to see now what work they'll have to put off, likely fireworks bylaw. She recommends just removing the end of that motion.

So everything after "Housing Symposium" is cut:



Downer says they're waiting for the Kingston appeal so they're engaging on the bylaw that might not be the bylaw. CCB says that makes sense, it would be preferable until we hear the Kingston result, do engagement, and then bring bylaw back.

Guthrie proposes changing "until" to "once". So it will read "That once the decisions..."



Caron says that usually the City does engagement and they craft the bylaw, they did it backwards here. What if its engagement on the use of public spaces more generally? CCB says they could look at public engagement on a higher level.

CCB says that they can put together an engagement process, and then bring it back once the Kingston decision is known and work that into a work plan.

Caron has withdrawn the motion, and provided the clerks with a new motion that's a little more open ended.

Caron motion with Busuttill seconds. She says she wants to see a plan before the Kingston decision is rendered so that they're ready to go. Downer has a doubt because they just have to follow the framework.

## Public Space Use Bylaw, 2024-76



1. That during the deferral period awaiting further legal proceedings, that staff develop a plan for a public consultation on the subject of use of public space for shelter, following our standard engagement principles and practices, and with specific intention and engagement with people with lived experience in encampments

Caron says it doesn't have to come back for a decision, it could be an information report. O'Rourke interjects to ask about the length of a meeting because maybe this can be a takeaway. For the record, automatic adjourn time is 11 pm. Still, O'Rourke makes point we began at 10am

Guthrie says that he thinks we're close to passing something on this one motion and we're done. So wants to press ahead. He says they would not have a motion on this today, and could wait to see results from symposium in month and a half.

Guthrie says maybe the best course of action now is to wait, and then council can regroup. Caron says she wants to leave the delegations with some assurances that they're not going to proceed w/o filling the engagement gap.

Guthrie says there's a motion on the floor so we've got stay on it. Gibson says he likes the spirit of the motion, so some level of engagement to keep things moving forward isn't bad information. He's here to vote for action.

Downer says that the motion needs the downtown community added in the targeted engagement. CCB says simplistically, staff hears that council wants engagement done, and need that direction. They all use symposium as starting point, and will use info reports.

CCB says the wording sends them off to do engagement and they comfortable understand the intent.

Motion version #3 is coming.

## Public Space Use Bylaw, 2024-76



1. That in alignment with the County's Health and Housing symposium, that staff commence a public consultation process on the subject of use of public space for shelter, following our standard engagement principles and practices, and with specific intention and engagement with people with lived experience in encampments and the downtown community.

Klassen asks about the April session of the symposium. CCB says that they moved it to April 9 (?) and it was going to be open to the public to get more information.

Klassen says that even if they don't move forward with the bylaw this will provide good information the City can use. Busutil asks about role of the County. CCB says the County will say their job is to provide shelter, so this interfaces, and we know more needs to be done.

As for public space uses bylaw, the County would say that's the prerogative of the City, but Guelph does not have access to the by-name list b/c that's confidential. Busutil says that motion should mean meeting people where they are, and make them part of the process.

CCB says the Collective Results survey in the fall had a very explicit effort to connect with people who have lived experience, and they have good lessons coming out of that.

Vote on Caron motion passes unanimously.

Guthrie asks about council's motion about \$100k for encampments with a report in June, is that going to be enough? CCB says the report is in June, money will be fully spent by then, and proud of the team doing the work.

She adds that money is always need, but there will be a question in June about what comes next, especially as they head into winter 2024-25.

Guthrie says he feels there's still unity about caring for the community and thanks everyone after a long day or work. It's a moment to highlight what we have done: We've limited short-term rentals, advocated to not allow appeals on supportive housing...

...game millions more to the county, 108 new supportive units by the end of the year, motion to create encampment team, plus \$100k. There's also been private sector investment and that's part of "unity equation".

Guthrie says we should celebrate those accomplishments. We should also be standing beside each other as a community and petition the ONgov and others to stand up too.

After a long day at 1 Carden, we're done.



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