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Nov 26, 2024 · 58 tweets · [adamadonaldson/status/1861483244954226795](https://twitter.com/adamadonaldson/status/1861483244954226795)

Coming up at 2 pm, we're finishing the planning meeting we started a few weeks ago. Where he left off:



This Week a Council: Planning Meeting Interruptus

This month's planning meeting had more than a few surprises, including a cliffhanger! The stacked agenda covered an important heritage designation, a new plan for affordable housing, the appr...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2024/11/17/this-week-a-council-planning-meeting-interruptus/>

Mayor Guthrie has called the meeting back to order!

So treat this as if we had a very long break between November 13 and now, Guthrie says.

The topic: Ontario Reformatory Heritage Conservation District - Draft Plan and Guidelines, 2024-487

The motion from Goller/Gibson:

That Report 2024-487 from Planning Building Engineering and Environment, dated Nov 13, regarding the draft OR HCD Plan and Guidelines be received.

Guthrie asks that the motion be removed b/c there's another motion coming. Everyone agrees.

"Now there's a clean table," Guthrie says.

Guthrie asks Caton to present here motion: A motion to support the National Urban Park on the OR Lands.

**Ontario Reformatory Heritage Conservation
District - Draft Plan and Guidelines, 2024-
487**



Councillor Caton

1. City Council recognizes the requests of The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation to the City of Guelph and the support of the Six Nations of the Grand River, as well as the ecological, social, reconciliation and economic benefits of a national urban park in Guelph and move to support Urban Park Guelph and the premise of House of Commons petition E-4593, notwithstanding other public uses or current staff direction.

Caton says that she would like an acknowledgement that this is a good idea. That's all. Also gives council an opportunity to stand next to the Mississaugas of the Credit and many citizens of the Guelph who want this for many reasons, including the furtherance of reconciliation.

Caton says this makes no demands of staff and costs nothing, but upholds the words of the land acknowledgement at the beginning of every meeting.

Downer says they received another email this morning about pausing any future work on the HCD until they get confirmation that a NUP can receive and want a motion to that effect. She notes that this was kind of sudden, what's the deal?

Planning GM Walkey says the Caton's motion wasn't till today (although she shared it here on X the weekend before). She adds the feds and ONgov are not subject to heritage policy, and if the Caton motion is approved and it becomes an NUP, there's no point going with HCD work.

Walkey notes that the mixed use allowances in the HCD are also contrary to the Caton motion, which essentially keep the lands as is. The significant structures are part IV protected already.

Downer notes that the HCD doesn't preclude an urban park either, or disallows adaptive reuse of the other buildings. She believes he need to move forward anyway.

Caton asks for personal privilege point: She says she had back-and-forth with staff about her motions and made amendments to the original motion. (This is in reply to Walkey's comment that they hadn't see it till it was tabled.)

DCAO Clack-Bush says she did have a back and forth, but that was in context of conversation with indigenous partners, and not the proposed outcome of the vote on this motion. There was no opportunity to discuss the impact of one motion on an other.

Allt says he's concerned about conflating this motion with a potential future motion. This one stands on its own merits and should be take one at a time. Guthrie agrees, and says Caton's motion is what's on the floor, just the endorsement.

Caron says her beef is that the outcome of Caton's motion sets into motion other actions and doesn't want to treat those things as mutually exclusive. Notes that there are other buildings on the OR Lands not protected and the only way they will is thru HCD.

Guthrie asks to be clear: Where Caron is heading is logically and logistically correct, but if council deems that the pause is not necessary, they can vote against it.

Caron says this has been a conversation in the community for years, but there's been no formal planning process to explore urban park proposal. Wants to know what the next step is. Guthrie says he isn't aware of a policy stance, this is a community-led initiative.

DCAO Holmes says that's where they are, they're not sure what official City processes they would undertake.

Guthrie says Caton did a good job letting the community know this is coming, and they got so many letters and delegations of support, so it's pretty clear there's community support. Staff have said no, there's no process they know of, so the community is leading.

Allt says he appreciates the motion, and he sees it as accepting in principle an initiative of the community. It's pretty easy to see the level of support for this, and is a fundamental anchor on reconciliation.

O'Rourke asks about use of "notwithstanding", doesn't want to rule out other public uses. (*cough*hospital*cough*).

Caton says the a NUP is a good idea, but it's not the only good idea and this motion does not say no to other public uses.

O'Rourke asks about the expectation and the models. Caton says that will be determined on who wants to come together to maintain and run a national park. If the OR Lands gets selected by Parks Canada, then they will have to make a call. Not there yet.

O'Rourke asks if Caton knows if this motion will become an encumbrance to other uses. Caton says it shouldn't the way it's written.

Gibson asks to be realistic, what are the odds of two NUPs within 2 hours of each other? Guthrie says this is community-led so staff don't really have an answer. This a political motion, so outside staff authority. Baker agrees with that.

Gibson proposes an amendment: add "in principle" before Urban Park Guelph in the motion. It passes.

Ontario Reformatory Heritage Conservation District - Draft Plan and Guidelines, 2024-487



Councillor Gibson

1. City Council recognizes the requests of The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation to the City of Guelph and the support of the Six Nations of the Grand River, as well as the ecological, social, reconciliation and economic benefits of a national urban park in Guelph and move to support **in principle** Urban Park Guelph and the premise of House of Commons petition E-4593, notwithstanding other public uses or current staff direction.

Klassen asks what happens to the buildings not protected by part IV if the HCD pauses. Guthrie asks to deal with just this matter of endorsement first.

Busuttill asks if there's any binding commitment endorsing this motion. Baker says they're not seeing it that way, but this is not something staff has spent a great deal of time on. Holmes adds it doesn't limit any options (though OP does technically).

Billings asks Caton if she's supportive of other things that could be used for the lands other than a NUP. Caton says that other things are not in front of her right now, this is, and she's looking at ways to support the community members who want this.

Downer notes that there's no directive in an HCD to have specific uses, it just outlines what is and isn't permitted generally. This is not a zoning document. Walkey says that use by feds/ONGov it wouldn't have to come back, all other uses yes.

Goller says he has never received more comments about something since dog parks, he's also had no one raise the alarm out costs either. Hopes for unanimous support. Klassen agrees and is grateful for public input.

Caton wraps saying that she's also gotten a lot of emails, and of the community opportunities to support, this is federally funded and secures needed greenspace. This is a lot of winning.

Caron says not exploring this would do a disservice to over a decade of activism on this topic. There's been layers of work and organising, all the historical research being done, it's taken on its own momentum.

O'Rourke says it's great to expand park space, and on that basis she can support this, but notes that much of the space will be protected regardless of outcome. But... if there is another urgent use, she will be open to that.

Gibson thanks Yorklands Green Hub for their advocacy, and says it doesn't hurt to ask the question. Not sure how it will stack up against other applicants but you don't know unless you ask.

Guthrie says he won't support, and stands with Longfield and Schreiner until we know for sure it won't be used for "other important interests" in the community. He says they would be doing a disservice in the community to act otherwise.

Also, he adds in June '21 he asked council to approve a unanimous motion to work with ONGov on disposition of lands for as much future public use as possible. He stands behind that, and not as far as *this* community group.

Motion approve 11-1 (Guthrie against).

Next, Guthrie notes the staff *suggestion* about pausing the study, but wants a motion tabled first. Otherwise, council should move to receive the report.

No one on council wants to move a motion about pausing the HCD study. Goller/Gibson move original recommendation:

That Report 2024-487 from Planning Building Engineering and Environment, dated Nov 13 regarding the draft OR HCDPlan and Guidelines be received.

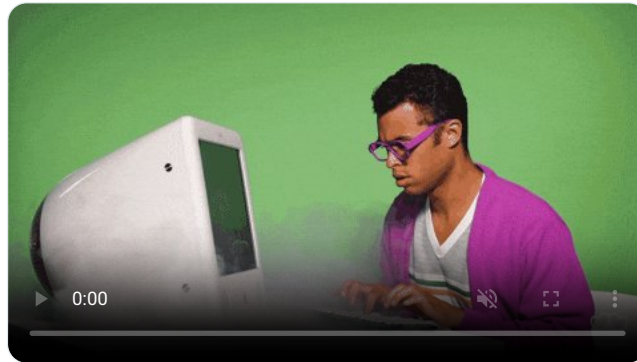
Caron says one of the things she needs to understand is next steps outside of council feedback, what about public consultation? Also "staff announcement" at Heritage Guelph next week?

Walkey says there will be public meeting and Have Your Say. Because the HG meeting is on Dec 2 they will have to hold a separate meeting b/c this was in limbo. They will do consultation in Jan/Feb/Mar. Could come back Q3 2025 for final vote.

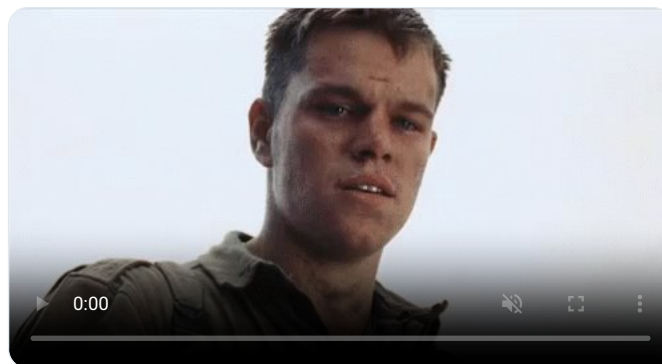
Caron asks about the pieces not identified by the ONgov that says the City needs to identify, she would like to see all those current assets identified by name and protected under conservation plan. Should she submit a list?

Walkey asks that she provide that detail in full there are some memos from Infrastructure Ontario concerning the property coming to Heritage Guelph on Dec 2.

Clerks ask for 5 minute break to fix the live stream.



Our five minute break is now nearly 20 minutes.

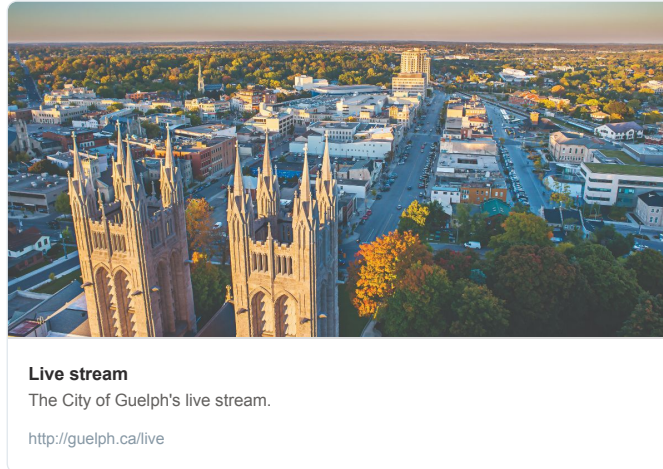


It seems like the tech issues are worse than we thought given the discussions now between clerks and council right now...

31 minutes paused.



Update: There's live streaming problems, but there is a link on where you can find the Webex link and take part that way.



Back to Caron, who says she will leave her questions as comments and staff can respond to them in the final report.

Downer asks to make sure that the comments from the public be acknowledged by making the language strong, less "shalls". Also, there needs to be separate tree provisions and guidelines from the tree bylaw specific for the property here.

Goller asks if they have the ability to remove select adaptive reuse options. Walkey says they can take them out of the HCD, but they could still be explored during a zoning bylaw amendment because the OP supports those uses now.

Nothing more from council and Walkey says they have "copious notes" from November 13.

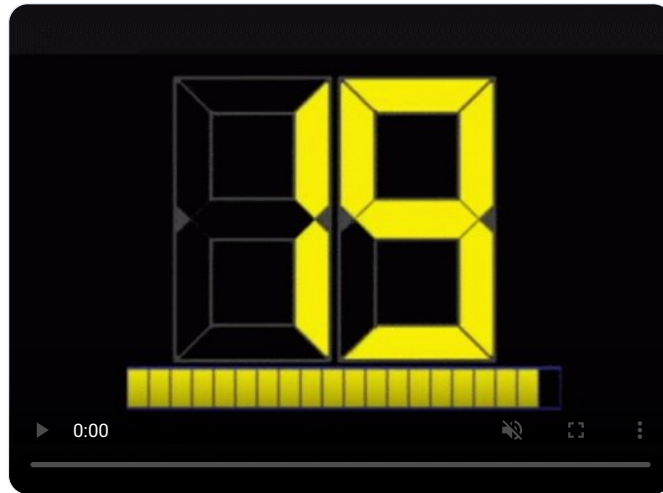
Guthrie says it's been eating at him from the pervious meeting, some demeaning comments about staff and consultants. This was a draft, meant for feedback and they got it. He thanks heritage staff for their leadership.

Holmes thanks Guthrie for that, and also thanks the consultants for input. She says there were some comments about the pagination, and there was some mix ups as they go through AODA compliance, but they will be corrected. It wasn't sloppy work, it was the program.

Vote on receipt passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned!

Next meeting starts in less than two hours!!



@threadreaderapp unroll please!

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