



## **Minutes**

Coordination Committee

Monday, June 12, 2023, 3:00 – 5:00 pm  
City Hall Room 192/193 with Webex option

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### **1. Introductions & Welcome (10 minutes)**

Dr. Bruce Newbold (Chair), McMaster University  
Abigail Amponsah, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Alison Carlyle, Planning and Economic Development, City of Hamilton  
Barry Duffey, Citizen  
Brian Jantzi, Citizen  
Dr. Charles Hostovsky, Citizen  
Dr. Denis Corr, Corr Research  
Gas Gebara, ArcelorMittal Dofasco  
Geoffrey Knapper, Hamilton Industrial Environmental Association  
George McKibbon, McKibbon & Wakefield Inc.  
Grace Higgins, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton  
Heather Govender, Green Venture  
Ian Borsuk, Environment Hamilton  
Julie Wedzinga, Stelco  
Kerry Leclair, Ward 3 Councillor Nann's Office, City of Hamilton  
Lucas Neil, Ausenco  
Mackenzie Whitten, Green Venture  
Matthew Lawson, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton  
Natalie Stacey, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Nico Strabec, Mohawk College Centre for Climate Change Management  
Olivia Crowdy, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Pascale Marchand, Ward 4 Councillor Hwang's Office, City of Hamilton  
Phoebe Tung, Health Canada  
Sally Radisic, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton  
Sara Yonson, Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority  
Shelley Rogers, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton  
Stefanie Ferraro, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Timothy Hung, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Trevor Imhoff, Planning and Economic Development, City of Hamilton

### **2. Land Acknowledgement**

The City of Hamilton is situated upon the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas. This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, which was an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We further acknowledge that this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

Today, the City of Hamilton is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island (North America) and we recognize that we must do more to learn about the rich history of this land so that we can better understand our roles as residents, neighbours, partners and caretakers ([source](#)).

### 3. Approval of May 8, 2023 Minutes

Approved

#### Presentations:

### 4. Update on Sustainable Mobility in Hamilton (20 minutes), Alison Carlyle



2023-06-12  
Sustainable Mobility

#### Discussion

How does this program/plan inter-relate to the City's transportation master plan: which comes first and how does coordination take place for individual mobility projects?

- The work is all under the Transportation Master Plan which outlines the sustainable mobility programs. Cycling infrastructure work comes out of the Cycling Master Plan which is also under the Transportation Master Plan.

What does green pavement mean?

- It indicates a mixing zone, signals that it's a bike lane so people know to look for bikes (For example, through an intersection). It gives safer space to get over and make left turn.

Do we use traffic counters for cycle counting in Hamilton?

- Yes, a map of that data is included in the [2022 Sustainable Mobility Annual Report](#). Also with the SoBi bike system, all info is recorded through the bikes' GPS system and colleagues at McMaster use that to determine how bike lanes change travel behaviours, etc.

On the neighbourhood greening study, what was spatial scale of that analysis?

- Just Ward 1

Does annual report have percent completion of cycling infrastructure?

- Not sure but can follow-up.

Shared that if anyone has tried the Breadalbane Bike Blvd they can provide feedback to the City to ensure all perspectives included.

Shared that CAH had previously put together a vision for multi-modal highway along the base and top of escarpment called the DashMash.

Noted that the only downside of increasing bike infrastructure is putting people in increased exposure to car exhaust due to inability to separate all bike and road ways.

Complete streets policy and design arises out of work done in the States where standards have been evolving since about 2010. Have these design standards been adopted by Canadian and Ontario engineering standards for implementation in municipal transportation planning? Ontario government came out with "Book 18" cycling network standards. For complete streets study in Hamilton, initial phase was to look at existing complete streets policies in North America and around the world.

Feedback noted by members for sharing with Sustainable Mobility team:

- Moisture on the crosswalk paint can make them very slippery.
- Some Councillors provided feedback that they only had a couple of weeks to sign up for the discounted bus pass and a longer period would make it easier to participate.

## Discussion Items:

### **5. Review and discussion: Clean Air Hamilton purpose and structure (15 minutes), Bruce Newbold**

- [Clean Air Hamilton Terms of Reference](#)

ToR last updated in 2019. Important piece of mandate is that decisions are based on science and evidence. There are Clean Air Coordination Committee members as well as corresponding members. Noted that the group is an advisory body without legislative authority. There is representation from all three levels of government, industry, academia, non-profit, and the public. The voting structure was created relatively recently to ensure a clear mandate when there are issues that need to be voted on.

Does Clean Air Hamilton act as a Council committee under the requirements of the Municipal Act? No. Trevor advised that for example, their office is in the process of creating the Climate Change Advisory Committee under the Municipal Act which is chosen through a council selection committee. CAH was created as an arm's length organization from the city in order to not be as strict under the Municipal Act.

CAH was originally created by the MECP under consultation with Region of Hamilton-Wentworth which no longer exists. It was set up to have very broadly inclusive outreach so that it would not have regulatory authority but could speak with authority to improve air quality in the City of Hamilton.

Is there now overlap with Climate Change Advisory Committee? Something to think about. Also CAH's [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policy](#) needs to be added to the Terms of Reference document.

Noted that CAH is a public group, public can attend and participate, and we've had instances where individual community members or groups have attended. They are able to participate or listen to discussions.

If this is a public facing group, what is the public profile of the group? How would any member of the public know that they can participate? How do people know that the group exists in the first place? How is CAH disseminating information besides the website? There is no Facebook or social media presence. Recently when community members participated, it's been very rare – for example a resident, and a student group and their presence was not well received.

- Noted that the website indicates that they can reach out to the Air Quality Coordinator (Grace) if interested in participating

It seems to be rare that community members attend meetings and when they have, they have provided feedback that their presence was not well received – they felt the group was not set up for public engagement and they were presenting their findings, feelings or beliefs to a group that told them they were wrong. If this is what the group is set up for, individuals from the public should be told ahead of time that is what will happen. Comments from industry participants at meetings have questioned how much involvement public should have in the group. Noting also that when CAH presents to council, residents are not sure who this group is. Official City committees broadcast their meetings publicly, whereas this group does not. How open and transparent is this group and how does it receive community input? Comments have been made from the public that this group does not want to hear if individuals do not feel great about the air quality in Hamilton. Comments from public are not included in the CAH Annual report.

- Annual Public Health Committee report is where information is shared with the public and that's available on YouTube. This happens annually. The CAH Annual Report is also publicly available through the website and councillors' offices can help to spread the word about this information to their constituents.
- Disappointing to hear that individuals have felt unwelcome at CAH, was impression that no one is turned away.
- Qualitative piece is valid scientific method, need to determine how best to incorporate that into reporting so it's not anecdotal and so it is evidence-based. We need to determine how to use the qualitative experience with what we know quantitatively about air quality in Hamilton.
- Member stated that in one particular case they found a member of the public to be very accusatory and using profanity and they may have overreacted in response to that individual.
- This is a volunteer group that has worked very hard for 20-30 years to try and make things better and we have better air quality to show for it. It's a difficult balance. You have to receive what people are feeling and validate their feelings, marrying of how people are feeling and science-based quantitative

approach. We should be able to speak our truth back and have it be heard as well. That truth is that we are 90% better than we ever were.

Power dynamics of this committee are problematic. Presentations of research are responded to with “we know better” and member shared they do not feel safe at this table. Need to recognize power we hold based on our age, gender, positions of power and to acknowledge that. When speaking to people we need to understand how the power dynamics relate back to them. Before telling people here’s how you’re wrong, check in and determine if they’re okay with hearing a different perspective. Need to not talk over one another. There is work to be done in terms of equity, in terms of power dynamics and ensuring that everyone’s voice is heard with compassion. If we are not doing research, if community member is providing lived experience then we need to be less adversarial, more compassionate and open to other perspectives and we cannot decide what method is being presented to us. Community members providing lived experience is scientifically accepted form of evidence, especially in public health. We’re not doing research, we’re here to listen. There is a need to be less adversarial and more open to other ideas and if we are questioning the quality of the air, that is the entire point of this group.

- Response that it is a challenge to make sure the qualitative piece is robust and more than an anecdotal comment.
- Member clarified that aware of what qualitative research is, this is an example of where we can check in and ask if anyone wants a review of what qualitative research is before telling them we know better.

We need to fully understand the mandate of this group. There are people who come in and give qualitative presentations that perhaps misunderstand this group’s ability to effect change. What does this group do? Why does it do it? We need to listen better, more. What is the role of the group and what this group’s power is, what can it do going forward to affect change?

Member worked with Anishinaabe Nation, a treaty organization representing 44 remote communities in James Bay Hudson Bay Watershed, and was involved in Crown Land decision making off reserve – advocacy situation that was not simple and there was a lot of conflict but progress was made. CAH is opposite of those hearings where there has been conflict. Tension produces results which are actionable for council and the public. On occasion we haven’t been as inviting as we should have been, but it is that framework that we’re all working together, even if we don’t necessarily agree with each other to produce something that’s for the good of everyone.

Member shared example of qualitative evidence around AQHI and perceptions in Hamilton: <https://bmchealthservres.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12913-016-1355-0>

We’re discussing two interrelated but separate things, atmosphere and dynamics of these meetings and the official role of CAH. Has also heard concerns from public participants, and seen interactions in meetings that are not healthy. What are the specific roles? Some great progress has been made yet there is still a lot of work to be done and we all have a lot of different political positions and self-interests. How to share

concerns with regards to prior meetings and behaviour? More formal responsibilities of members in meetings should be outlined, how to contribute to meetings, responsibilities of committee members. We don't currently have principles with regards to how membership is to engage with presenters or a means to address concerns as they arise. It would be very beneficial to have a formalized structure within our terms of reference of how members can share concerns without members feeling personally attacked. Understanding that by virtue of who is present we will never satisfy everyone around the table. This would help get to a point where people feel respected and we could formalize some best practices. At least get to a structure to address and rectify issues that come up in the future that are inevitable just by virtue of being a committee of different people.

I think this is an important discussion, creating a safe space where everyone's opinions are valued and agree that clarifying what is in/out of mandate scope is needed, perhaps a dedicated meeting for this?

Member validated the concerns regarding gender and power dynamics as a newer participant. Helpful to acknowledge that point and determine how to work with it. The group seems to have evolved over time with its initial mandate and previous iterations that were more accountable to council. In its current state it feels a bit like a Community of Practice, place to share knowledge while everyone is doing the work individually that's very valuable and we want to come together and share perspectives and stay up to date and check in on a regular basis, which is maybe different than the ToR from 2019 state as our purpose. May be time to evolve our purpose, recognizing also the Climate Change Advisory Committee is being created and some of our previous priorities may be covered by that group. So refocusing in the current landscape, how best to focus CAH's efforts. Also support the inclusion of lived experience as a public health best practice, validating experiences and perspectives as on a spectrum with the qualitative piece. Experiences that we wouldn't be able to publish in an academic journal can still be a part of public health planning and evaluation. We need to determine how best to integrate those perspectives, maybe it's a matter of councillor's offices, public health working together to collect that input and bring to this table for everyone to be aware of in their own work.

With City Councillor's offices sending out periodic newsletter updates, they could periodically include info about CAH, what it does, link to website, contact us if interested.

One of the challenges is communicating to people that don't have a science background in a way that's meaningful. Anecdote shared regarding resident who suffered from COPD and found that symptoms disappeared when in Arizona. Brought that back to Queen's Park policy division. It's a challenge to communicate priorities on a level that is meaningful to the community. Upwind / Downwind conference always has session just for the public that is welcoming and how we can do more of it? How do we translate what we do into regular language and hear from people in the community? Lynda Lukasik was extremely effective at bringing public concerns to table.

Members are currently working on history of CAH, 25-year reflection of what's been done. One challenge is that at various points of time, almost had a system that would give lower mountain public better information about current state of air quality and for whatever reason we step away from it. From the experiential side we came to a point where we could have made a contribution, but we backed off at various times for reasons not understood. How do we put in place a system that meets experiential needs of resident living wherever in the city?

Working group for terms of engagement?

I think this is an important discussion, creating a safe space where everyone's opinions are valued and agree that clarifying what is in/out of mandate scope is needed, perhaps a dedicated meeting for this?

Does it make sense now that we have discussed what CAH is, to identify what CAH is not and then look at how that can be bridged and potential steps forward?

Was not intention for CAH to be exclusive, air quality was very bad so brought together those who were able to get together. There is technical engineering component to all of this. Fundamental priority is inclusiveness. Sad to hear comments about not feeling comfortable, accept those experiences and note that the Chair plays a role in ensuring all perspectives are heard. Acknowledging also that there is a gender, age and personality(introverts vs extroverts) division involved. Chairs work to scan the room to determine who is most reluctant to talk.

Need to clarify that we're talking about Western science. Encourage folks to think about what we mean when we talk about science and evidence. Indigenous people have their own science, technology and proven solutions for all of these issues. To the point on inclusion- there's a difference between being excluded and actively included. We could look to have a workshop on this, would tie in with EDI policy. The Indigenous land acknowledgement could also use updating. It's profoundly disingenuous to hear a land acknowledgement like that at the beginning of the meeting and then constantly reference science and evidence and putting lived experience in its rightful place and need for validation from folks who have come before and what they think they've accomplished on all of our behalfs. When someone says I don't feel good, I'm terrified.... can't just dismiss this evidence. Will continue to respond to people with compassion. Don't know where else to send them besides to CAH, but would not bring them back to this group.

Ward 3 has to reach out to Morgan Stahl with Intergovernmental Affairs and community engagement to get guidance about Ward 3 Air Quality workshop hosting in July. Maybe there is something their team can offer this group in terms of community engagement. There are better practices that we can think about. If not, we should be transparent with people that their lived experience is not welcome. If that's not the case, then let's make this a welcoming place.

Saddened and sorry to hear that perspective, there have definitely been challenges through working in an online environment, but intention was to make this a welcoming

group. It would be useful to receive those comments as it's not always easy to tell what the temperature within the group is remotely. Participation and feedback on an ongoing basis is encouraged.

**Action Items:**

- Grace to add EDI policy to ToR document
- Grace to send out call for participants in working group to look at meeting participation guidelines, including feedback processes, how this group communicates to the public and what the purpose of the group is. Working group to determine scope of what they're going to work on and bring back to this group.

Heather Govender shared that willing to participate in working group. Grace to share call out with members.

Question whether is should be one committee or two to deal with the science work and the challenges with community outreach.

**6. Upwind Downwind 2024 Planning Committee (5 minutes), Grace Higgins**

**Action Items:**

- Grace to also share callout for 2024 conference planning committee

**7. Discussion: Residential Wood Smoke Reduction (10 minutes), Grace Higgins**

- See p. 44 and 104 [Health Impacts of Air Pollution in Canada: Estimates of morbidity and premature mortality outcomes – 2021 Report](#)
- [Metro Vancouver's 2020 Residential Indoor Wood Burning Bylaw](#)
- [Fraser Basin's Online Wood Smoke Education Course](#)

Tabled for next meeting.

**8. Discussion: Community Air Sensor projects (10 minutes), Grace Higgins**

- [Metro Vancouver's Air Aware](#)
- [Puget Sound air sensor lending library](#)
- [Breathe London Community Sensing](#)
- [University of Northern BC's AQMAP](#)

Tabled for next meeting.

**9. Roundtable updates (10 minutes), All**

Article about Fresh Air for Kids - <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/fresh-air-kids-ontario-1.6870194>

**Charles Hostovsky**



Published paper with McMaster MA student Ella Gindi in Plan Canada (summer 2023) "Waste Planning, Environmental Racism and Disparities in Cancer Incidence and Outcomes in an African Nova Scotian Community".

<https://www.kelmanonline.com/httpdocs/files/CIP/plancanadasummer2023/index.html>

You will find the paper on page 42. There is a connection to our clean air mandate, as the study team is looking at potential carcinogen exposure pathways to the local African Nova Scotian community from both landfill leachate contaminating groundwater in the residents' drinking wells and to landfill gas. Information about landfill gas can be found here: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hac/landfill/html/ch2.html>

### **Kerry LeClair**

Air Quality workshop being planned for Ward 3 in partnership with Ward 4.

### **Trevor Imhoff**

Applications open for Climate Change Advisory Committee. Better Homes Hamilton to be launched end of 2023.

### **Grace Higgins**

Working with procurement to get CAH RFP posted and will advise when posted.

### **Heather Govender**

Green Venture hosted Clean Air Day in Hamilton last week. Plan to stay in touch with Health Canada to continue to host event in future.

### **Ian Borsuk**

Reminder about [Open Streets](#) on King Street East this Sunday.

### **Natalie Stacey**

Ministry is supportive of discussions of engagement with community both as organization within CAH and at meetings and is supportive of participating in the working group. Regarding wildfire smoke last week, Ministry issued local poor air quality notification to industry to voluntarily cut back on activities that generate dust and particulate matter, thank you to the industry members on this call who did enact their plans. Ministry is rolling out additional monitoring and pilot projects for enhanced air monitoring particularly in community settings. Can discuss in more detail at a later meeting, if any questions feel free to reach out. Ministry is also very supportive of receiving concerns from the community. They don't always get that info and perspective, others can pass them along. They can respond with abatement officers or presence in the field.

### **Phoebe Tung**

Health Canada has been sharing wildfire smoke resources. Accepting feedback for future updates.

### **Bruce Newbold**

Will be stepping down as chair after two terms and six years serving as chair at end of year due to taking on new responsibilities at McMaster.

**Next meeting**

**July 10, 2023**

**3:00-5:00pm**

**City Hall Room 192/193 with WebEx option**