

Staff Report



To	City Council
Service Area	Corporate Services
Date	Tuesday, May 28, 2024
Subject	May 2024 Public Appointments to Advisory Committees of Council

Recommendation

1. Motions regarding appointments to Heritage Guelph and the Waste Resource Innovation Centre Public Liaison Advisory Committee will be brought forward following City Council’s closed meeting discussion on May 28, 2024, regarding closed staff report 2024-233 May 2024 Public Appointments to Advisory Committees of Council.
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Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

To appoint two members to Heritage Guelph and two members to the Waste Resource Innovation Centre Public Liaison Advisory Committee.

Key Findings

On November 28, 2023 City Council paused recruitments for Advisory Committees of Council (ACOCs), excluding recruitments required to ensure quorum can be maintained, pending the outcome of Phase Two of the Redesigning (ACOCs) project. As these vacancies on Hertiage Guelph and the Waste Resource Innovation Centre Public Liaison Advisory committee create a risk of not meeting quorum, City staff are recommending that appointments be made.

Consistent with the City’s commitment to increasing diversity on its ACOCs, committee applications include voluntary disclosures of diversity related data. Though meaningful progress has been made, staff continue to work to increase the representation of equity-deserving groups on ACOCs to equal or surpass the diversity of the community.

Strategic Plan Alignment

The appointment of individuals to ACOCs contributes to the foundations theme and lead with accountability objective of the Future Guelph Strategic Plan by ensuring the continued effectiveness of ACOCs.

Future Guelph Theme

Foundations

Future Guelph Objectives

Foundations: Lead with accountability

Financial Implications

None.

Report

On November 28, 2023, City Council paused ACOC member recruitments and appointments until Q4 2024, excluding recruitments required to ensure quorum can be maintained. The current vacancies are a result of two resignations on Heritage Guelph, and one resignation and one existing vacancy on the Waste Resource Innovation Centre Public Liaison Advisory Committee. A recruitment was conducted to fill these vacancies.

In accordance with the City's [Advisory Committee of Council - Public Appointment Policy](#), vacancies were advertised online during City Council, Committee of the Whole and Special Council meetings, on [Guelph Today](#), on various social media platforms and targeted media posts during the recruitment period from February 12, 2024 to March 13, 2024. Links to ACOC vacancy advertisements were also shared with community groups representing equity-deserving individuals.

A total of 14 applications were received. City staff who administer the ACOCs were provided with all the applications received from this recruitment cycle. The closed companion report titled May 2024 Public Appointments to Advisory Committees of Council dated May 28, 2024, provides City Council with the staff liaisons' recommendations along with all applications received. The terms of appointments are in accordance with the City's [Advisory Committee of Council - Public Appointment Policy](#).

ACOC Ongoing Data Collection on Race, Gender and Disability

The City Clerk's Office continues to work towards a long-term goal of increasing the participation of equity-seeking groups on ACOCs so the diversity of ACOC members closely reflects the diversity of the broader community of Guelph with respect to race, gender, and disability.

Since November 2020, the City Clerk's office has collected data from voluntary diversity questions included in the ACOC applications. These questions are based on the [2021 Statistics Canada Census survey](#).

Summary of 2024 Member Data

The membership of Guelph's ACOCs is becoming more diverse, however, the growth rate has slowed down in comparison to the results achieved in 2020-2022. This is a trend reflected in other municipalities and sectors. This may also be due to the pause in ACOC member recruitments and appointments pending the completion of Phase Two of the Redesigning ACOCs project. Only recruitments required to ensure quorum can be maintained have been held since April 2023, resulting in small recruitment cycles. While initial efforts to boost diversity often result in significant improvements in the short term, these improvements are not sustained in the long run. While the City of Guelph's ACOC diversity statistics are slowly increasing, there is still room for improvement to meet our targets.

The report titled [Redesigning Advisory Committees of Council – A Governance Framework](#) was presented to the Committee of the Whole on November 6, 2023 and emphasizes the importance of diverse identities and perspectives on ACOCs.

Phase Two of that project includes a variety of efforts designed to increase diversity in ACOCs over the long term, including random representative sampling.

The following chart includes diversity related information for the current membership of Guelph’s ACOCs.

Demographic Characteristics	2024 ACOC Member Data (105 members, including current staff recommendations)	2021 City Wide Population Data
Persons with a Disability	21 (20%)	27% (Canadian Survey on Disability Data, 2022)
Indigenous identity	3 (3%)	1.5%
Visible minority	21 (20%)	25%
Gender (Woman+)*	49 (47%)	51%
Gender (Man+)**	46 (44%)	49%
Gender (Woman/transgender)	0%	Less than 1%
Gender (Man/transgender)	0%	Less than 1%
Non-binary	0%	Less than 1%
Gender Diverse (gender-fluid, two-spirit)	0%	Unknown (data not yet released by Statistics Canada)
Other	N/A	Unknown (data not yet released by Statistics Canada)
Prefer not to answer	5 (5%)	N/A

* This category includes women and girls, as well as some non-binary persons.

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Heritage Guelph

Meetings: monthly on the second Monday of every month.

[Heritage Guelph](#) assists City Council and the public in the field of architectural preservation to recognize and reinforce the community value of heritage properties, provide protection against inappropriate changes to heritage properties, and assist heritage property owners accessing government-supported financial assistance.

Heritage Guelph consists of nine members of the public. The liaison for the Heritage Guelph is the Heritage Planner.

Waste Resource Innovation Centre Public Liaison Advisory Committee

Meetings: quarterly.

The [Waste Resource Innovation Centre Public Liaison Committee](#) reviews and provides recommendations with respect to the Organic Waste Processing Facility, annual operational and monitoring reports and other pertinent information. The Waste Resource Innovation Centre Public Liaison Advisory Committee also provides a forum for the dissemination, consultation, review and exchange of information regarding the operation of the Organic Waste Processing Facility, including environmental monitoring, maintenance, complaint resolutions and new approvals or amendments to existing approvals related to the operation of the site.

The Waste Resource Innovation Centre Public Liaison Advisory Committee consists of seven members of the public which may include: two residents or property owners within 2,000 metres of the Organic Waste Processing Facility, two members of interested non-governmental organizations and three interested people or representatives of groups (local businesses or residents who live greater than 2,000 metres from the Organic Waste Processing Facility). The liaison for the Waste Resource Innovation Centre Public Liaison Advisory Committee is the Environmental Management System Specialist.

Following the April 2023 spring recruitment, one committee vacancy had remained on the committee, and an additional vacancy occurred due to a resignation in December 2023.

Financial Implications

None.

Consultations and Engagement

The staff liaisons for both Heritage Guelph and the Waste Resource Innovation Public Liaison Advisory Committee were consulted.

Attachments

None.

Departmental Approval

None.

Report Author

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This report was approved by:

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