

Staff Report



To	City Council
Service Area	Corporate Services
Date	Tuesday, June 24, 2025
Subject	Committee and Board Vacancies due to Ward 6 Vacancy - 2025-315

Recommendation

1. That Councillor _____ be appointed as the Committee of the Whole Infrastructure, Development and Environment Services chair for a term ending November 15, 2026.
 2. That Councillor _____ be appointed to the Board of Trustees of The Elliott for a term ending November 15, 2026.
 3. That Councillor _____ be appointed to the Well Interference Committee for a term ending November 15, 2026.
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Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

This report presents an advanced opportunity for Council to fill the various board and committee vacancies resulting from the Ward 6 Council seat being declared vacant on May 27, 2025.

Key Findings

On May 27, 2025, City Council declared one of Council's Ward 6 seats vacant following Councillor Dominique O'Rourke's election to the House of Commons. This vacancy has led to several committee and board positions also becoming vacant. While there are no legislative requirements for filling these vacancies, City Council has the flexibility to appoint members at this moment. City staff originally recommended filling these positions after the Ward 6 seat is filled, but Council may choose to make appointments before the scheduled appointment process for formally filling the vacant Ward 6 Council seat occurs in July. In the absence of appointments at this point, the vice-chair of IDE will assume the responsibilities of the IDE chair, and other committees are expected to manage without negative impacts for a few months. If no interim appointments are made, a similar report will be presented in September 2025 following the filling of the vacant Ward 6 seat in July.

Strategic Plan Alignment

This report supports the continued effectiveness of Council processes by providing an opportunity to make appointments to various vacancies on City committees and boards that have resulted from a declared vacant seat on Council.

Future Guelph Theme

Foundations

Future Guelph Objectives

Foundations: Lead with accountability

Financial Implications

None.

Report

On May 27, 2025, City Council declared the Ward 6 seat formerly held by Councillor Dominique O'Rourke vacant following the Councillor's election to the House of Commons as the Member of Parliament for Guelph.

With the Ward 6 seat declared vacant, the following positions have now also become vacant:

- Committee of the Whole Chair, Infrastructure, Development and Environment;
- Member, Chief Administrative Officer Recruitment, Selection and Performance Sub-committee (as the Chair of IDE)
- Member, Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee (JSSLAC) (as the Chair of IDE)
- Member, Board of Trustees of the Elliott
- Member, Committee of Management of the Elliott (as the City Council appointed representative on the Board of Trustees of the Elliott)
- Member, Well Interference Committee

There are no legislative requirements that apply regarding the filling of these board and committee vacancies and City Council is free to fill them in whatever way it chooses.

City staff had originally recommended, in the [May 27, 2025 staff report entitled "City Council Vacancy Declaration – Ward 6,"](#) that these positions be filled after the vacant Ward 6 seat is filled. That recommendation remains an option; however, Council may have an interest in appointing to the above noted positions in advance of the Council directed appointment process that will occur in July and in advance of the return to Council's meeting cycle in September. As a result, staff are presenting this report in advance of the Council vacancy appointment meeting scheduled for July 23, 2025, to provide an option to make appointments to the positions noted above if Council wishes to do so.

In the absence of a decision on filling the positions listed above, the vice-chair of IDE assumes the responsibilities of the IDE chair, including as a member of the JSSLAC and Chief Administrative Officer Recruitment, Selection and Performance Sub-committee. The Well Interference Committee, the Committee of Management of the Elliott, and the Board of Trustees for the Elliott are not expected to experience any negative impacts from this vacancy over a period of three to four months. The Board of Trustees for the Elliott has confirmed that they are comfortable with the vacancy during this time.

If no decision is made to make appointments to the positions noted above at this point, staff would present a similar report in September 2025, following the filling of the vacant Ward 6 Council seat, to allow for Council to consider filling these positions for a period ending with the term of this Council in November 2026.

Financial Implications

None.

Consultations and Engagement

Michelle Karker Chief Executive Officer, The Elliott Community

Attachments

None.

Departmental Approval

None.

Report Author

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