

Staff Report



To	City Council
Service Area	Corporate Services
Date	Tuesday, September 16, 2025
Subject	Committee and Board Appointments due to Ward 6 Vacancy - 2025-359

Recommendation

1. That Councillor _____ be appointed to the Board of Trustees of The Elliott for a term ending November 15, 2026.
 2. 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 opportunity for Council to fill the Board of Trustees of The Elliott and the Well Interference Committee vacancies resulting from the Ward 6 Council seat being declared vacant on May 27, 2025 as per Council direction provided during the [June 24, 2025 City Council meeting](#).

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. Although the Ward 6 seat has since been filled by appointment of Councillor Hauser, the vacancy 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. While City staff originally recommended filling these positions after the Ward 6 seat is filled, Council passed a resolution at the June 24, 2025, meeting deferring this decision to the September 16 City Council meeting following the Council vacancy appointment that occurred on July 23, 2025. In the absence of appointments at this point, these committees are expected to manage without negative impacts.

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 became 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

At the June 24, 2025 City Council meeting, Council passed the following resolutions:

1. That Councillor Klassen be appointed as the Committee of the Whole Infrastructure, Development and Environment Services chair for a term ending November 15, 2026.

With this appointment, Councillor Klassen also becomes a member of the Chief Administrative Officer Recruitment, Selection and Performance Sub-committee and a member, Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee.

Following this appointment, a vacancy in the position of Committee of the Whole Vice-chair, Infrastructure, Development and Environment was created.

At the June 24, 2025, City Council meeting Council also passed the following resolutions:

1. That Councillor Chew be appointed as the Committee of the Whole Infrastructure, Development and Environment Services vice-chair for a term ending November 15, 2026.

Currently there are still vacancies in the following positions:

- 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. That being noted, staff recommend they be filled to support on-going good governance of these legislative bodies.

City staff had originally recommended, in the [May 27, 2025 staff report entitled "City Council Vacancy Declaration – Ward 6,"](#) that these vacancies be addressed in May 2025 or, alternatively, September 2025. Following Council [direction provided at the June 24, 2025 City Council meeting](#) to appoint the Chair and Vice-chair positions and per direction give to staff at that meeting, this report gives Council an opportunity to fill these appointments following the appointment of Councillor Hauser to fill the Ward 6 Councillor vacancy, which occurred on July 23, 2025.

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 while the Ward 6 vacancy is filled. The Board of Trustees for the Elliott has confirmed that they are comfortable with the vacancy during this time.

Financial Implications

None.

Consultations and Engagement

Michelle Karker Chief Executive Officer, The Elliott Community

Attachments

None.

Departmental Approval

None.

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