



City of Barrie

70 Collier Street
P.O. Box 400
Barrie, ON L4M 4T5

Final - Final Town and Gown Committee

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

5:00 PM

Sir Robert Barrie Room

TOWN AND GOWN COMMITTEE REPORT For Consideration by Community Safety Committee on March 26, 2025.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Councillor C. Riepma at 5:00 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 8 - Chair – Councillor C. Riepma
Councillor, C. Nixon
D. Abiodun
R. Kumar
M. Fenton - Georgian College
J. Morozuk
D. Truax - Georgian College
J. Weston

STAFF:

Legislative Coordinator, D. Glenn
Zoning Officer, J. VanWieringen

The Town and Gown Committee met and reports as follows:

GEORGIAN COLLEGE UPDATES

Megan Fenton, Executive Director of Student Success provided an update concerning the current cutbacks that have taken place at Georgian College. Ms. Fenton advised that there was a reduction of 232 staff positions, and 132 were vacant positions the college closed. She advised that the college is currently facing a 45 million dollar financial gap and anticipates next year could be a larger gap. Ms. Fenton advised that although there was a reduction in staffing the students have not noted any effect in relation to their studies.

Ms. Fenton discussed the alert system that the school has in place that

assists students should they be facing a crisis, such as an emergency housing situation. Ms. Fenton advised that this service is available 24/7 for students to access and assists with things such as housing, mental health services, financial aid, and the life stability indicators.

Dave Truax, Director of Campus Safety Services advised that the college is currently working with the Barrie Transit Department to look at providing direct routes from the main campus to the Mulcaster Street location once it is operating. Mr. Truax advised the new Mulcaster Street location will provide a variety of hands-on learning opportunities for students.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT - GEORGIAN COLLEGE/LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

Megan Fenton, Executive Director of Student Success provided an update concerning student enrollment at Georgian College. Ms. Fenton advised that International Student enrollment is currently down for the Winter Semester with an approximate 45% student reduction rate overall. Ms. Fenton advised that the Domestic Student enrollment had an increase for the Winter semester with a total of 862 new students registered. She advised that for the Fall term in Barrie they had a total of 2600 new domestic students and 1300 international students. One of the challenges that the college has found is that some international students are not fully aware of the cost of living in the City.

Dave Truax, Executive Director of Campus Safety Services provided an update regarding the anticipated student enrollment for the new Georgian campus on Mulcaster Street. Mr. Truax advised that the new facility will be approximately 8200 square feet and will hold a mix of new enrollments and current students.

CITY UPDATES

Chair, Councillor C. Riepma did a quick round table of introductions and welcomed Councillor, C. Nixon to the committee.

Jason VanWieringen, Zoning Officer from the Development Services Department indicated there is an increased number of rooming houses in Wards 1 and 2. Mr. VanVieringen discussed that the Development Services Department has started working with the Building Services Department, Enforcement Services and Fire Services to start checking rooming houses at the same time.

Mr. VanWieringen advised that the departments have seen an increase in homeowners switching the name of the home to a corporation as a way to get around the City's regulations. He advised that the Fire Department has also seen an increase in carbon monoxide detector and fire code violations and have been laying more charges.

WORK PLAN UPDATES

The committee discussed the continuation of focusing on housing, anti-racism, food security, and fostering the relationship between the City, Georgian College, and the community, particularly the students.

The committee discussed having a full meeting on Tuesday May 20, 2025, and having a smaller meeting on Tuesday June 17, 2025, to assign members tasks for over the summer break.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

CHAIRMAN