

DEPUTATION REQUEST

Request for deputation, any written submissions and background information for consideration by City Council must be submitted to the City Clerk's Office by 12:00 p.m. on the WEDNESDAY PRIOR TO THE REQUESTED MEETING.

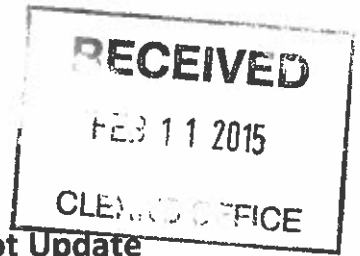
PLEASE PRINT

COUNCIL MEETING DATE:		
February 18, 2015		
GENERAL COMMITTEE MOTION NUMBER:		
SUBJECT:		
Rainscaping Low Impact Development (LID) Garden Pilot Update SR ENG0003-15		
NAME OF PERSON TO APPEAR:		
Dr. Ted Beaton		
EMAIL ADDRESS:		
Does not have email address		
STREET ADDRESS:		
City		Postal Code
Barrie		
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING APPEARANCE (if different from person appearing):		
PHONE:	HOME:	BUSINESS:
NAME OF GROUP OR PERSON(S) BEING REPRESENTED (if applicable):		
Self		
BRIEF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF DEPUTATION:		
Reponse in opposition to staff report ENG003-15		
LETTER SUBMITTED WITH REQUEST:		
YES <small>To Follow</small>		NO

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City of Barrie, City Clerk's Office
70 Collier Street, P.O. Box 400, Barrie, L4M 4T5
Tel: 705 739-4204 Fax: 739-4243
www.barrie.ca

**Request for Deputation Before City Council
In Opposition to Staff Report ENG0003-15
Rainscaping Low Impact Development (LID) Garden Pilot Update**



Council Meeting Date: February 18, 2015

General Committee Motion Number:

Submitted by: Dr. Ted Beaton

Date Submitted: February 11, 2015

To Mayor Lehman and Members of City of Barrie Council:

A. INTRODUCTION

By way of introduction, my name is Ted Beaton. In 1968, I was chairman of the “Save-the-Park Campaign” which kindled the people of Barrie into a series of community events which raised money sufficient to impress City Council to relinquish proposed subdivision plans and form Sunnidale Park.

Although we were only allowed six months for the actual fund-raising, it took 2½ years of my time and energy to see Sunnidale Park through to its completion. For this project, I received the Annual Award from the Parks and Recreation Association of Canada, and I was guest speaker at their AGM in Niagara Falls.

In essence, Sunnidale is a park by the people and for the people of Barrie. It is one-of-a-kind, and from the outset, it has been defined as passive, natural parkland.

About 10 years ago (June 15, 2005) at the Dorion Parker Centre, the City made a public presentation depicting a huge underground water reservoir and pump station in the middle of Sunnidale Park. During the following 18 months myself and others made several presentations to Council and attended committee meetings (totaling 18 in all) protesting the location of this project.

As the outcome of all this, City Council created a 5-member steering committee, 2 councilors and 3 from the public, to

- a) Find the best, least invasive site in Sunnidale Park to build the reservoir, and
- b) Help prepare a Master Plan, which included protection from future civic infrastructure being put in Sunnidale Park.

The Master Plan took 2½ years to complete with consultation and public meetings along the way. I was on the Steering Committee. And here it is: The Master Plan, a magnificent volume, passed by Council in May 2009.

B. ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED RAIN GARDEN PROJECT

And now to the project under discussion: “A Rain Garden For Every Home In Barrie.” An initiative to direct from rainwater from roof tops into prepared ponds or swales, rather than down the driveways and into the sewers, to reduce the amount and rate of the rainwater flowing into Kempenfelt Bay. A model is planned by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority as a pilot project to be located in Sunnidale Park at or near the old playground site.

The idea is good, but the location is wrong.

As per the Staff Report, other possible sites in Barrie have not been considered, and we are left with three site locations within Sunnidale Park, with their advantages and disadvantages, as listed in Appendix D, Pages 8 and 9.

The Staff Report recommends proceeding with Location # 3 (Old Playground Site). Appendix A shows the updated size of the project, but is this where it will actually be located? The location detail in Appendix B, shows a slightly different location. In any case, the unused part of the old playground can be reverted to soil and sod.

On Page 9, the second stated advantage of this location is that the rain garden will have its “own site”, not currently programmed with other uses. This is an interesting connotation, considering that one of

the main reasons for moving the old playground was to open up the vista of this particular part of the park, not to retain it as a future development site.

Also, for the recommended Location #3, there appears to be an omission of disadvantages, which were provided for all the other locations under consideration. I am here to remedy that.

Disadvantages of Location # 3, the Old Playground Site

1. It would be a distraction from the vista as mentioned, previously. (Whereas the rain garden could be integrated quietly at Location #1, at or near the Dorion Parker Centre.)
2. It is an expensive project (\$100,000 plus annual maintenance), for a very small catchment area.
3. Because the site has porous sandy soils, and the roof area is quite small, will it actually demonstrate what is intended?
4. Vandalism is an ongoing possibility, as we learned with the Vita Parcours exercise stations.
5. This would be a precedent and lasting monument to LSRCA.
6. It will likely take several years to decide the fate of the Dorion Parker Centre. If the rain garden is located at, or near the centre, that should certainly be enough time to get the message across to Sunnidale Park visitors.
7. Other associations may wish to trot out their "dog and pony shows" and place them permanently in the park as well. It could become a billboard park from one end to the other, with so many distractions and impactions that the initial concept of the passive park would be destroyed.
8. Just because something is donated to the City does not mean that it must be accepted.
9. There is already much literature about the importance of rain gardens distributed by LSRCA, along with online and video presentations.

C. RECOMMENDATIONS

Change the modus operandi for communicating the benefits of rain gardens and how to build them.

This would cost less than \$100,000 plus annual maintenance and not disturb the passive nature of Sunnidale Park:

1. LSRCA and City of Barrie could work together on a multi-media communication program targeted to all Barrie residents that includes
 - a. Links to LSCRCA online rain garden information

b. Distribution of the rain garden "how to" book upon request and at environmental events

c. Public endorsement of the rain garden program by the City of Barrie

This would expose more people to the rain garden program.

2. LSRCA could reach more people by

a. Giving regular educational seminars at Barrie libraries every 1-2 months

b. Continuing to give interviews and updates to the press, television and magazines

c. Going on the banquet tour to reach service clubs and other organizations throughout the city looking for talks on interesting, relevant topics.

I believe this would be better for all concerned.


E.J. Beaton