

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 19, 2018

Item 30, Report No. 21, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 19, 2018.

30 PROCLAMATION – 2018 NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Deputy City Manager, Planning and Growth Management, dated June 5, 2018:

Recommendations

1. **THAT** the City of Vaughan proclaim the third week of June (June 18-24, 2018) as "National Pollinator Week" to reaffirm Council's commitment to the Mayors' Monarch Pledge; and
2. **THAT** the proclamation of "National Pollinator Week" be posted on the City's website.

Item:



Committee of the Whole Report

DATE: Tuesday, June 05, 2018

WARD: ALL

TITLE: PROCLAMATION – 2018 NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK

FROM:

Jason Schmidt-Shoukri, Deputy City Manager, Planning and Growth Management

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

Purpose

To seek Council approval to proclaim the third week of June (June 18 to 24, 2018) as “National Pollinator Week” in the City of Vaughan, as part of the Pollinator-Friendly City Program (Program) in support of the Canadian Wildlife Federation’s Mayors’ Monarch Pledge. In addition, this report provides an overview of the communication and engagement efforts initiated by the Environmental Sustainability Office and partner departments to support the Program.

Report Highlights

- Pollinator Partnership Canada has declared the third week of June as “National Pollinator Week”
- The Program is being promoted through the proclamation of the “National Pollinator Week”, as per the commitment made for the Mayors’ Monarch Pledge and Pollinator Partnership Canada
- Communication of the Program to the public is being provided at the City’s Environmental Days, through the Community Gardens Program, and on the City’s website

Recommendations

1. THAT the City of Vaughan proclaim the third week of June (June 18-24, 2018) as "National Pollinator Week" to reaffirm Council’s commitment to the Mayors’ Monarch Pledge; and

2. THAT the proclamation of “National Pollinator Week” be posted on the City's website.

Background

What is the Ontario Pollinator Health Action Plan?

As per Ontario’s Pollinator Health Action Plan (Action Plan) 2016, wild pollinators include bees, butterflies, moths, some beetles and flies, as well as, birds such as hummingbirds. The Action Plan encourages municipalities to create partnerships and stewardship opportunities by improving natural heritage protection that will benefit pollinator habitat and support pollinator habitat restoration. Refer to link below for a copy of Action Plan. http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/pollinator/action_plan.pdf

The third week of June has been declared National Pollinator Week

Pollinator Partnership Canada (P2C) is a registered not-for-profit organization in Canada dedicated to the protection and promotion of pollinators and their ecosystems. Through their efforts P2C has declared the third week of June as “National Pollinator Week” and promotes this initiative through their ecoregional planting guides, community initiatives and research.

Previous Reports/Authority

On March 20, 2018, Council adopted a resolution committing to the National Wildlife Federation’s Mayors’ Monarch Pledge (Pledge). The extract from the Council Meeting minutes can be found at the following link:

Analysis and Options

Part of the City’s commitment to the Pledge includes issuing “a Proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the Monarch Butterfly and the species’ need for habitat”. The City would meet the Pledge objective by proclaiming “National Pollinator Week” and the associated communication platforms. In addition, the City supports P2C’s “National Pollinator Week” through the official declaration, which is appended to this report as Attachment 1.

City staff will continue to work towards fulfilling the Pledge objectives as part of the Pollinator-Friendly City Program. These objectives include planting native milkweed and nectar plants on City properties in order to increase the amount of habitat for pollinators, launching public communication efforts to encourage citizens to plant their own pollinator gardens, and developing partnerships with community groups and agencies to identify larger restoration planting sites.

Community Engagement

The Environmental Sustainability Office will have a booth at the Environmental Days promoting Green Directions Vaughan initiatives such as the Program and the community garden development. The community will have the opportunity to visit and see the progress of the community garden's through the summer of 2018.

Financial Impact

There are no economic impacts associated with the adoption of this report.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

York Region was recognized by the National Wildlife Federation program as Canada's first Monarch Friendly Region at the May 11, 2017 Committee of the Whole Meeting. A link is provided below:

<http://www.york.ca/wps/wcm/connect/yorkpublic/93d84de9-6227-4907-9d82-54c0841cb7cc/may+11+greening+ex.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>

Conclusion

Proclaiming the third week of June (June 18 to 24, 2018) as "National Pollinator Week" will meet part of the City's commitment to the Pledge. It will also align the City's initiatives with other pollinator-friendly efforts across North America, while providing an occasion to celebrate and educate the public and City staff on the importance of pollinators.

For more information, please contact: Ruth Rendon, Senior Planner – Environmental, Policy Planning and Environmental Sustainability, ext. 8104.

Attachment

1. City of Vaughan Pollinator Week Proclamation, Pollinator Partnership Canada

Prepared by

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Bill Kiru, Director of Policy Planning and Environmental Sustainability, ext. 8633