

## Re: Municipal Environmental Initiatives "Green Committee"

Matthew Shoemaker <m.shoemaker@cityssm.on.ca>

Tue 12/01/2021 12:34 PM

To: Selva Rasaiah <selvarasaiah@hotmail.com>

Cc: Mayor Provenzano <mayor.provenzano@cityssm.on.ca>; Luke Dufour <l.dufour@cityssm.on.ca>; Matthew Scott <m.scott@cityssm.on.ca>; Corey Gardi <c.gardi@cityssm.on.ca>; Lisa Vezeau-Allen <l.vezeauallen@cityssm.on.ca>; Rick Niro <r.niro@cityssm.on.ca>; Paul Christian <p.christian@cityssm.on.ca>; Sandra Hollingsworth <s.hollingsworth@cityssm.on.ca>; Donna Hilsinger <d.hilsinger@cityssm.on.ca>; Marchy Bruni <m.bruni@cityssm.on.ca>; Malcolm White <m.white@cityssm.on.ca>; Emily Cormier <e.cormier2@cityssm.on.ca>

Selva, on many of your points I agree. I see you've copied Malcolm White on this email and I'll ask that he forward this email to the staff overseeing this committee for their consideration as it will be the staff who bring forward any proposed changes to the structure, for council's ultimate approval.

On the issue of having the large emitters at the table, clearly we have a difference of opinion on that issue, which I respect. I continue to believe having them there is necessary for the municipal goals of reducing our city-wide carbon footprint, and I believe having them at the table is not just the best, but the only way, to achieve that.

Matt

On Jan 12, 2021, at 12:18 PM, Selva Rasaiah <selvarasaiah@hotmail.com> wrote:

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Dear Councillor Shoemaker,

I would like to comment on your discussion of the Municipal Environmental Initiatives "Green" Committee at your recent City Council meeting on January 11, 2021. The discussion included the composition and selection of the membership for the committee. I would respectfully disagree with you and the members of the committee that feel that including representatives from our biggest industrial polluters, Algoma Steel Inc. (ASI) and Tenaris Algoma Tubes (Tenaris), should be considered in the selection for membership on this committee. You stated, "There can be no realistic, reaching of our objectives to reduce our carbon footprint without them at the table". The contribution from ASI and Tenaris would be useful in accomplishing "green" initiatives but I would not consider it necessary. It was expressed that there was a lot of interest from multiple applicants for positions on the committee. The community would be better served by representatives that can be viewed as "more appropriately suited" to the core principles and mandates of the committee. These industries that produce most of the emissions are a primary reason this committee requires aggressive actions to create effective programs to reduce the city's carbon footprint. As stated by Mayor Provenzano and Councillor Dufour, there is a perception that the city has the authority to change many of the issues the committee will address. Membership positions that have been allotted to our biggest emitters might give the public the perception that "big business" will now influence the initiatives of the committee.

Although I think it is a great opportunity for the community, the expansion of Tenaris will increase their carbon footprint in our community. ASI has committed to an extremely modest decrease in CO2 emissions of 2% per year that could be negated by the production increase required to supply Tenaris with rolled steel for their new operations. ASI has been recently approved by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for a new baghouse at their #2 Basic Oxygen Steelmaking Plant (BOSP). This new baghouse will be beneficial to control particulate emissions but was also intended to be part of an application to construct a second ladle metallurgy furnace at their #2 BOSP. This expansion by ASI coincides with the increase production capacity they have planned once it is constructed. ASI's increase in production from this expansion and the acquisition of rolled steel by Tenaris will increase ASI's emissions of greenhouse gases beyond their commitment of a 2% total reduction per year.

Unlike other integrated steelmakers in Ontario (ArcelorMittal Dofasco (AMD) and Stelco), ASI does not permit general members of the public to observe their community liaison committee meetings (ACLC). Despite the mandates of the ACLC to inform the public and allow the company to address issues raised by the public, their Chairperson, Mr. Fred Post (ASI Environmental Control Manager) would not provide any contact information for any of its members to me so I could communicate my concerns. Currently, Tenaris does not have a CLC committee for their operations in the Sault Ste. Marie. Also, the "Green" Committee initiatives are not likely to appreciably alter the intended emissions targets set by ASI and Tenaris. The committee could request the attendance of ASI and Tenaris representatives when the committee feels a particular initiative would be better implemented with input from these companies. It would be worth considering additional membership from the community rather than industry representation. I have previously suggested that emitters like ASI should be responsible financially for "green" initiatives in the community, and therefore it will create a conflict if they have membership on this committee.

It is reasonable for the committee to expand its current membership composition to a larger size of 11 individuals (like city council) given the importance and interest in environmental initiatives in our community. Although the committee does not have the level of responsibility of city council, a larger committee will demonstrate council's commitment to encourage public consultation in decision making and show the public that their opinions and input is valued. In addition to private citizens as suggested by Councillor Niro, I would recommend membership by Algoma Public Health (assuming they are not represented) since environmental issues do affect physical and mental health. Councillor Niro had discussed the formation of subcommittees as a possibility for additional membership opportunities. The committee could select "qualified" existing applicants and advertise new opportunities for a pool of "alternates" who will function to stand-in for members who cannot attend. These alternates will also be available as candidates for leadership roles in the event there is a requirement for any subcommittee membership.

Although I do share the concerns that high levels of membership make scheduling meetings difficult, considering the concerns for environmental issues, any heightened interest in community to be involved in green initiatives should be embraced. It is important to give an opportunity to those who wish to participate since they are directly impacted, and it is within council's authority (suggested by Mayor Provenzano and discussed by Mr. White), to consider the revision of the terms and conditions for the composition of the membership for this committee.

With respect to scheduling difficulties of a large committee, the final decision to schedule meetings could be based on the presence of the "core" members (ex. 5 to 7 core members must be available to attend the scheduled time). You could also circulate the minutes after each meeting to alternates (for a limited period) who can make additional "post" comments or recommendations for consideration which would be included in the final meeting minutes. This will encourage continued interest and participation from those who are not present. It will also assist in further identifying any issues or ideas to refine current initiatives already discussed and any future initiatives to consider. The core members would decide the direction of the committee. I would appreciate if you could also address youth membership, which is vital to the long-term success of this committee. The youth in the community would benefit from having the opportunity to collaborate with a group of experienced individuals on the committee to effectively develop their skills and mindset to ensure a "greener" future for Sault Ste. Marie. They could also serve as "ambassadors" to their schools to promote active involvement in green initiatives proposed by the committee.

I would appreciate if the committee and other members of city council, would consider my suggestions and recommendations. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Thank you,

Selva Rasaiah