

Minutes – Governance, Finance and Civic Engagement Committee Meeting April 10, 2pm

Community Center Boardroom

1. Attendance

- Bette Ann James, Bob Bader, Alan Young (Chair)

Regrets: Carolyn Polgrabia, Steve McGuinness, Terry Davis, Lauren Davidson, Stuart McCormack

2. Opening

- Chair opened meeting, noted election countdown (21 days to nominations; 131 days to election day).

3. Municipal Restructuring in Niagara

- Following 30 minutes of discussion, members agreed that:
 - The Committee focus its attention on the 2026 municipal election, given that Ontario Bill 100 would be passed by a majority government at Queen's Park, with support expressed by the NOTL Lord Mayor;
 - Special attention should be paid to the election of Lord Mayor, given the restructuring of Regional Council proposed in Bill 100;
 - The Guiding Principles and Desired Outcomes previously approved by the Committee should be re-examined with a view to developing additional questions for the Association to ask candidates; and
 - The Committee establish a set of objectives/desired outcomes to guide and subsequently assess its activities on the election
- Alan suggested the following 3 potential objectives/desired outcomes for consideration by the Committee, noting that members should be prepared to propose additional items:
 - Educate residents
 - Increase voter turnout (44.5% of eligible voters voted for Lord Mayor in 2022)
 - Hold incumbents accountable

- Bob noted that educating residents should include what Councillors said they would do versus how they have voted on issues; he raised the question of how to disseminate such information, suggesting the NOTLRA election website and possibly the Lake Report

4. Candidate engagement plan

- Bette Ann informed the Committee that Crossroads Public School is a potential site for hosting all-candidates sessions, noting that the cost would be \$45 per hour
- Bette Ann will engage with the Board of Education to discuss next steps

5. Candidate questionnaire

- Bette Ann advised that the Board is reviewing questions recommended by the Committee and noted that the Board was open to receiving additional questions
- Members were encouraged to re-examine Guiding Principles and Desired Outcomes with a view to developing additional questions to ask candidates

6. Candidate outreach letter

- Bette Ann informed members that the Association had received responses to the outreach letter from two potential candidates, namely the Lord Mayor and Maria Marividis; both responses were non-comital

7. Workstream Updates & assignments

- Steve had previously advised the Chair that he had nothing to report on municipal finance/infrastructure

8. Review action items, owners and deadlines

- Consider additional questions for candidates (Committee members)
- Review scorecard template documents distributed by Bette Ann prior to the meeting (Committee members)

- Consider the suggested objectives/desired outcomes to guide and subsequently assess the Committee's activities related to the election and propose additional objectives/desired outcomes (Committee members)

9. Other Business

- No other business was considered

10. Next meeting

- Next meeting April 24

11. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm