

Approved: March 7, 2012

MINUTES



SHARK FINNING COMMITTEE

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2011 – 12:55 p.m.

COMMITTEE ROOM D, 2ND FLOOR, CIVIC CENTRE,
300 CITY CENTRE DRIVE, MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO L5B 3C1
<http://www.mississauga.ca>

Members Present: Councillor Jim Tovey, Ward 1
Councillor Pat Mullin, Ward 2 (Chair)
Councillor Ron Starr, Ward 6
Councillor Pat Saito, Ward 9 (Vice-Chair)
Councillor George Carlson, Ward 11

Agency Representatives: Stephen Chu, Mississauga Chinese Business Association
Victor Oh, Mississauga Chinese Business Association

Staff Liaisons: Martin Powell, Commissioner, Transportation and Works
Mickey Frost, Director, Enforcement
Douglas Meehan, Manager, Compliance and Licensing
Roberto Zuech, Legal Counsel, Municipal Litigation
Catherine Monast, Team Leader Media External Communication
Carmela Radice, Legislative Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER - 12:55 p.m.

DECLARATIONS OF (DIRECT OR INDIRECT) PECUNIARY INTEREST - Nil

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

APPROVED – (Councillor G. Carlson)

DEPUTATIONS - Nil

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED

1. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

Councillor Pat Saito nominated Councillor Pat Mullin for appointment to the office of the Chair of the Shark Finning Committee running concurrent with the term of Council, to November 30, 2014 or until a successor is appointed.

Appointment

Recommendation:

That Councillor Pat Mullin be appointed as Chair of the Shark Finning Committee for the current term running concurrent with the term of Council, to November 30, 2014 or until a successor is appointed.

SFC-0001-2011

Councillor Pat Mullin nominated Pat Saito for appointment to the office of the Vice-Chair of the Shark Finning Committee running concurrent with the term of Council, to November 30, 2014 or until a successor is appointed.

Appointment

Recommendation:

That Councillor Pat Saito be appointed as Vice Chair of the Shark Finning Committee for the current term running concurrent with the term of Council, to November 30, 2014 or until a successor is appointed.

SFC-0002-2011

2. Terms of Reference

Chair Mullin and Vice-Chair Saito spoke to the terms of reference and suggested that the mandate should include the lobbying aspect of the fishery industry from the Federal government. Robert Zuech, Lawyer Municipal Litigation suggested to included in the terms of reference any applicable agencies that deal with the permits and licensing of importing seafood into Canada.

Councillor Starr inquired as to why a Federal government representative is not on the committee. Chair Mullin suggested that a representative from Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and representative from Canada Food Inspection Agency should be included in the composition of the terms of reference. She indicated that Councillor Fonseca asked that Glenforest Secondary School who sent in a petition on behalf of the shark fin ban should be included in the Committee. Carmela Radice, Legislative Coordinator indicated that an email was sent out to the contact person on the petition advising them of the meeting today.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Shark Finning Committee's Terms of Reference be approved as amended to include the following:

- (a) **Mandate**
That the committee lobby the Federal government and any applicable agency for the enactment of legislation including any regulations that will ensure only shark fins harvested in a humane and sustainable manner be allowed to be imported into Canada.
- (b) **To be added to the Composition**
One (1) representative from Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
One (1) representative from Canada Food Inspection Agency

Stephen Chu, Mississauga Chinese Business Association indicated that he has requested a meeting with a representative of the Federal government in Ottawa on the shark fin matter. Chair Mullin, Vice-Chair Saito and Martin Powell, Commissioner of Transportation and Works inquired as to when he will be going and if a representative from the City of Mississauga will be able to attend with them. Victor Oh, Mississauga Chinese Business Association indicated that he will keep the Committee posted.

SFC-0003-2011

Councillor Carlson asked if the government verifies that the shark products that are being imported under a permit or license are being killed in a humane way and that at least 98% of the whole shark product is being used. Mr. Martin, indicated that there was no clear answer and suggested that a deputation from a representative of the Federal government would be beneficial for the Committee and indicated that his department would try and set it up.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Federal government representatives attend the next Shark Finning Committee meeting bringing information on humane and sustainable fishing practices and the requirements as to obtaining a permit for non-Canadian harvested shark fins.

SFC-0004-2011

3. Information Item

An email dated October 18, 2011, from Jason Agius **re: the banning of shark fins and shark fin products and the assumption that it poses a health hazard for mercury.**

Victor Oh and Stephen Chu commented on the mercury in the fish and how if they are banning shark fins or shark products for that then they should ban all food. Councillor Carlson explained that the by-law is in place for the inhumane way shark fins and shark products are being imported into Canada. The federal law needs to be stricter on importing of shark fins or shark products.

OTHER BUSINESS

Stephen Chu and Victor Oh spoke to the fact that there is a law in place and they do not understand why the City of Mississauga has a by-law to ban shark fin products. Councillor Tovey asked which countries are harvesting sharks. Mr. Oh answered the question indicating that Portugal, Spain, England, France and Australia harvest shark fins and shark products.

Mr. Chu asked why the by-law was pushed through quickly without discussion. Vice-Chair Saito indicated that Councillor Mullin and Mickey Frost, Director of Enforcement and herself had in fact met with the Mississauga Chinese Business Association prior to the passing of the by-law.

Stephen Chu asked when the by-law is enforceable. Roberto Zuech, Lawyer Municipal Litigation indicated that the by-law is enforceable as of October 12, 2011. He mentioned that an amendment to the by-law should be considered to give time for a phase out period and for representatives from the Federal and Provincial government or any applicable agency to attend a Committee meeting and provide information. All members agreed to the change to the by-law to indicate no longer in force and effect until June 30, 2012.

RECOMMENDATION

That By-law 0268-2011 be amended so that it is no longer in force and effect until June 30, 2012 to allow time to meet with the Federal government representatives and any applicable agency.

SFC-0005-2011

ADJOURNMENT 1:50 p.m.