



**The Corporation of the City of Stratford
Community Services Committee
Open Session
AGENDA**

Date: Monday, March 27, 2017
Time: 7:20 P.M.
Location: Council Chamber, City Hall
Committee Present: Councillor Beatty - Chair Presiding, Councillor Bunting - Vice Chair, Mayor Mathieson, Councillor Brown, Councillor Henderson, Councillor Ingram, Councillor Mark, Councillor McManus, Councillor Ritsma, Councillor Vassilakos
Staff Present: Rob Horne - Chief Administrative Officer, Joan Thomson - City Clerk, Andre Morin - Director of Corporate Services, David St. Louis - Director of Community Services, Ed Dujlovic - Director of Infrastructure and Development Services, Carole Desmeules - Director of Social Services, John Paradis - Fire Chief, Tatiana Dafoe - Deputy Clerk, Jacqueline Mockler - Director of Human Resources, Quin Malott - Manager of Parks, Forestry and Cemetery

Pages

1. Call to Order

The Chair to call the Meeting to Order.

Councillor Clifford provided regrets for this meeting.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the *Act*.

Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

3. Sub-committee Minutes

There are no Sub-committee minutes to be reviewed at this time.

4. Delegations

None scheduled.

5. Report of the Director of Community Services

5.1 The Local Community Food Centre Community Garden (COM17-003)

1 - 4

Debra Swan, Executive Director of The Local Community Food Centre, has requested to address Committee regarding this item.

Motion by _____

Staff Recommendation: That approval is given to The Local Community Food Centre to use the area of land behind Dufferin Arena for their community garden.

6. Report of the Deputy Clerk

6.1 Bee City Initiative (COM17-004)

5 - 18

Motion by _____

Staff Recommendation: THAT the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee and the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee's recommendation for City Council to adopt the Resolution Designating the City of Stratford as a Bee City, contained as Attachment A, be endorsed and request the Mayor (or designate) to sign;

AND THAT the Community Services Department submit the signed Resolution Designating the City of Stratford as a Bee City and a completed Bee City application, contained as Attachment B, to the Bee City program to obtain official Bee City Certification.

7. Advisory Committee/Outside Board Minutes

There are no Advisory Committee/Outside Board minutes to be received at this time.

8. Adjournment

Meeting Start Time:

Meeting End Time :

Motion by _____

Committee Decision: That the Community Services Committee meeting adjourn.



MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: March 2, 2017
To: Community Services Sub-committee
From: David St. Louis, Director
Report#: COM17-003
Attachments: Budget and Site Plan

Title: The Local Community Food Centre Community Garden

Objective: To review a request from The Local Community Food Centre to create a community garden on an area of land behind the Dufferin Arena. Debra Swan, Executive Director of The Local will be in attendance to speak.

Background: The Local Community Food Centre, in operation since 2012 is in need of a larger garden to meet their needs and the needs of their participants. Their wish is to enhance the community's capabilities to grow healthy produce that can be planted, nurtured, harvested and used by community members for personal use at home and in The Local Community Food Centre's community meals.

An area of land behind the Dufferin Arena has already been designated by the City of Stratford as potential community garden space. This proposed site is suitable for the following reasons:

- It is in close proximity to The Local Community Food Centre
- It has water accessibility
- It is situated in a neighbourhood that includes co-operative and subsidized housing, which helps to ensure that those using the garden are those that could benefit the most
- It is large enough to accommodate a garden, an edible forest and an outside shed for tool and equipment storage
- It is easily accessible by foot, has ample parking and has bus stops close by

Analysis: The Local Community Food Centre has received a grant from Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport to create an offsite community garden. Other funding has

been confirmed from Trillium Mutual Insurance and further funding has been applied for from TD Friends of the Environment.

The majority of capital costs will be incurred the first year and The Local will then build the ongoing costs into their yearly budgets. The garden will be maintained by community members and volunteers that are supervised by The Local's Garden and Greenhouse Coordinator. The Local is dedicating a significant amount of staff time to ensure the garden is sustainable year after year and will be including the project in their strategic planning process.

Staff will work with The Local to develop a management agreement.

Financial Impact: Yearly cost to the Community Services Department would be for water used and although the exact cost is not known at this time, staff feels it would be minimal. This cost is not included in the budget.

Staff Recommendation: That approval is given to The Local Community Food Centre to use the area of land behind Dufferin Arena for their community garden.



Director of Community Services



Rob Horne, Chief Administrative Officer



**Canada 150
Commemorative Community Garden**

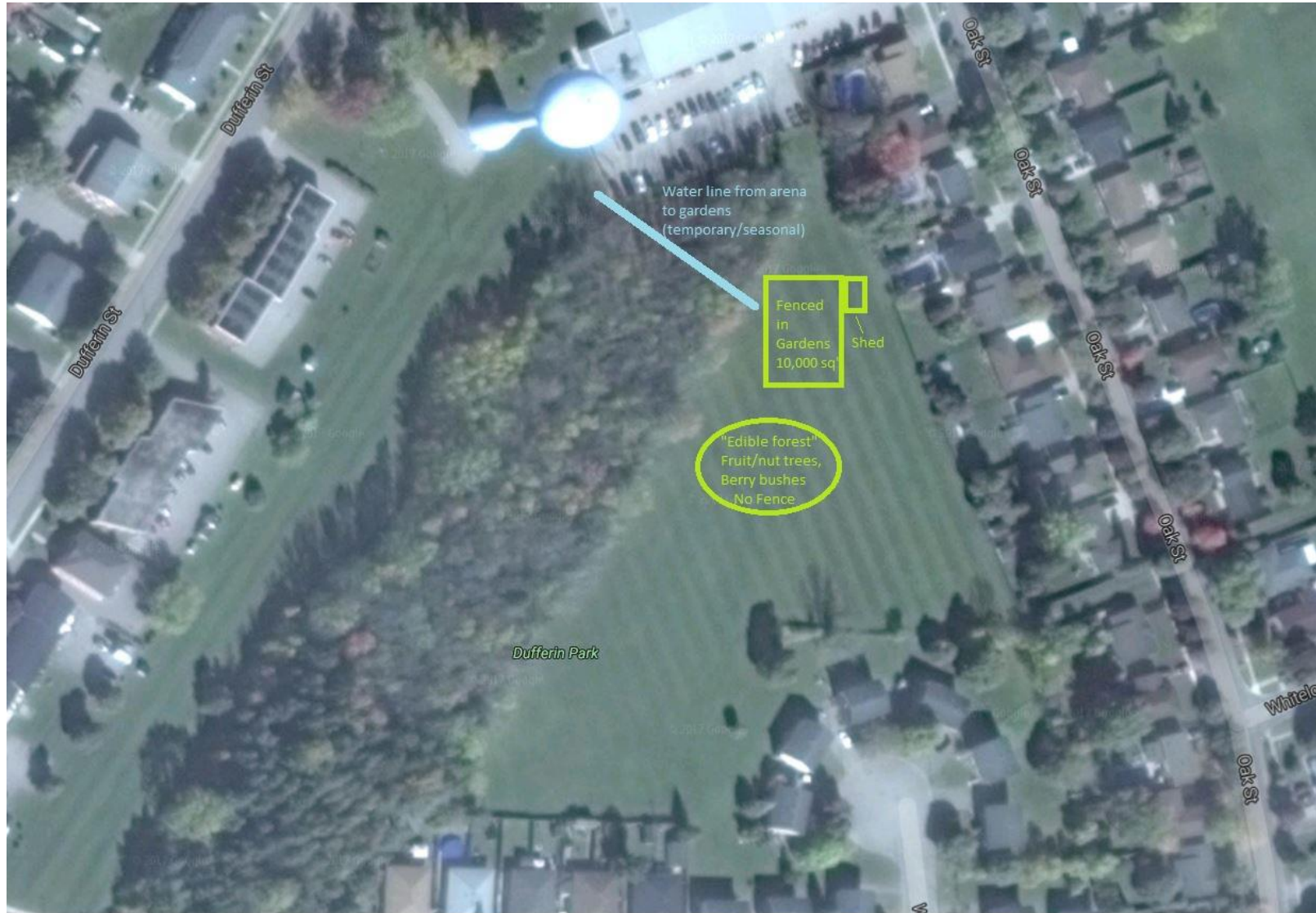
Budget:

Expenses		Item Expense
Staffing Expenses		
X	One new day per week (7.5 hours/\$150) for existing part-time Garden/Greenhouse Coordinator during project period (31 weeks)	4,650.00
Total Staffing Expenses		\$4,650.00
Program Expenses		
X	Garden site preparation (equipment rental, material, labour, supplies)	8,400.00
X	Picnic tables/umbrellas (portable)	1,000.00
X	Security Fencing	3,000.00
X	Portapotty/handwashing Rental 31 weeks	6,200.00
X	Celebratory/Informational/Educational Signage	1,000.00
X	New Program materials (gloves, hand held gardening tools, garden stakes, etc.)	1,500.00
X	Tiller	1,000.00
X	Compost Bins	750.00
X	Shed	1,500.00
X	Rain Barrels/Irrigation	3,000.00
X	Vegetable washing station	750.00
X	Native Plants/trees/shrubs; heirloom/heritage seeds/starter plants	1,250.00
Total Program Expenses		\$29,350.00

Additional Budget Items:

2 summer students (funded by Canada Summer Jobs/Ontario Summer Experience): \$5,000
 Edible forest fruit trees, nut trees, and berry bushes (funded by Trees Canada): \$4,000

Proposed Site Map





MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: March 16, 2017
To: Community Services Sub-committee
From: Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee
Report#: COM17-004
Attachments: Resolution Designating the City of Stratford as a Bee City, Bee City Canada Application

Title: Bee City Initiative

Objective: To have Stratford officially recognized as a Bee City.

Background: The Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee, with a supporting recommendation from the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee, would like to request City Council endorse the Bee City Initiative. A representative from Communities in Bloom has met with the Parks & Forestry Manager to discuss details of the Bee City program.

Motion by Geoff Love, seconded by Pat Bolton that the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee supports in principle the Bee City resolution and that Ethan Elliott presents the program to the Communities in Bloom Committee and the Parks Board to garner their support. Carried.

Motion by Dave Gaffney, seconded by Susan Kummer that the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee requests Council endorse the Bee City Initiative and move forward with Stratford becoming a Bee City. Carried.

Bee City Program

The Bee City program (Program), provided by Bee City Canada, endorses a set of commitments, defined in a resolution, for creating sustainable habitats for pollinators. The mission of the Bee City program is to "encourage city leaders to celebrate and raise awareness of the contribution bees and other pollinators make to our world." Communities across North America are invited to join in making these commitments and become Bee City affiliates. Since the Program was first launched in the United States in 2012, 37 U.S.

cities are participating in the program. The Program has recently expanded, enabling Canadian cities to become involved. At the time of writing, three Canadian cities are participating in the program namely, Chestermere, Toronto and Kamloops.

Bee City Canada

Bee City Canada is a new organization modelled after Bee City USA. At this time, Bee City Canada is adhering to the goals, objectives and application process as established by Bee City USA. Bee City Canada has a steering committee consisting of pollinator experts, community stakeholders, non-profit organizations and concerned citizens.

The composition of the Bee City Canada Steering Committee is:

- Shelly Candel, Chair
- Kimberley Fellows, Pollination Canada
- Jode Roberts, David Suzuki Foundation
- Gillian Leitch, Toronto Beekeepers Co-operative

More information about Bee City Canada can be found at:

[Bee City Canada website](#)

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Program and present the benefits of the City of Stratford adding its support to the goals of the Bee City community.

Analysis:

Importance of Pollinators

Pollinators are vital to a healthy and resilient ecosystem. The conservation of pollinators is critical to the sustainability of Stratford's natural areas and urban gardens. Native plants and most flowering crops require or benefit from insects moving pollen around while foraging. Research has shown that a diverse pollinator community results in better pollination services. However, certain pollinator species are in decline due to habitat loss, climate change, pesticide use and disease/pests.

City of Stratford Initiatives to Support Pollinator Diversity

The City of Stratford has undertaken a variety of initiatives for the purpose of supporting pollinator diversity. Each year thousands of annual plants are planted in beds, hanging baskets and planters throughout the City. Numerous perennial flowering gardens such as the Shakespeare Gardens and Confederation Park are also maintained by the City. Hundreds of flowering trees have also been planted in parks and neighbourhoods.

The City also supports naturalizing its river banks to allow many different flowering plants to flourish and support pollinators. In addition, the City lets a large multi-hectare natural area flourish with many flowering shrubs, trees and plants, including milkweed. This natural area acts as an ideal pollinator habitat and represents the City's commitment to protecting pollinator diversity and their habitats.

An upcoming initiative that will enhance a pollinator habitat is the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee's (CIB) project to develop and extend the existing pollinator garden, Confederation Park, with the intention to plant all pollinator attracting plants.

Benefits of becoming a Bee City Affiliate

By becoming a Bee City affiliate, Stratford would become one of a growing number of cities recognizing the importance of supporting healthy pollinator populations. In doing so, Stratford will increase opportunities to collaborate with community partners, residents, and non-profit organizations in establishing pollinator protection initiatives in Stratford. Participation in the Program would raise awareness about the importance of pollinator biodiversity, food production, native plants and habitat protection. In addition, as a Bee City affiliate, Stratford would be presenting itself as a city that encourages activities that support health and habitat for pollinators and serve as an example to other municipalities and organizations.

How to become a Bee City Affiliate

Stratford can become a Bee City affiliate by completing the following steps:

1. Identify a committee, City division and staff liaison to facilitate the Program participation process.
2. Adopt a Resolution identifying Stratford as a Bee City affiliate.
3. Complete the Bee City application form.

The Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee would serve as the committee and the Community Services division would be identified as the lead division. A staff member from Community Services, mainly the Parks & Forestry Manager, would act as the liaison.

Resolution Benefits

The Resolution identifying Stratford as a Bee City affiliate would be a public pronouncement that City Council cares about protecting Stratford's pollinator population and is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of pollinator protection.

The Resolution also:

- Identifies the goals of Bee City affiliation;
- Recognizes that pollinators are in decline;
- Acknowledges that cities and their residents have the opportunity to support pollinators on both public and private land;
- Recognizes the benefits of pollinator protection;
- Summarizes the City of Stratford's current programs and initiatives supporting pollinator biodiversity;
- Describes the ideal pollinator-friendly habitat; and
- Outlines Stratford's commitments in becoming a Bee City affiliate.

The proposed language in the Resolution is based on a model provided by Bee City USA to all municipalities interested in participating in the Bee City program.

Requirements of a Bee City Affiliate

As a Bee City affiliate, Stratford would be required to:

1. Celebrate Stratford's Bee City affiliation annually, with a proclamation and public awareness training activities.

The requirement to celebrate Stratford's Bee City affiliation annually can be completed through the CIB's annual soil/mulch giveaway and education forum at Home Hardware. During this event the CIB provides public awareness and education opportunities to residents of the City of Stratford and can incorporate an activity geared towards educating the public on the importance of pollinators and protecting their habitats.

The benefit of renewing the commitment annually gives Stratford the opportunity to summarize the accomplishments from the previous year and propose new activities if so desired. Annual renewal encourages the implementation of new initiatives that align with the Program commitments.

A City of Stratford proclamation to celebrate Stratford's Bee City Affiliation and/or National Pollinator Week (third week in June) can be issued utilizing existing resources.

2. Publicly acknowledge Stratford's Bee City commitments through signage and web content.

Acknowledgement of Stratford's Bee City commitments can be accomplished by displaying signage at Confederation Park once the existing garden is extended with pollinator attracting plants. The signage to be erected has been budgeted for and will be funded by the CIB. Public acknowledgement will also be completed by posting information to the City's website, making use of existing resources.

3. Renew Stratford's commitment annually by completing a renewal application form with a summary of Stratford's pollinator protection accomplishments.

There is no fee associated with the annual renewal process to maintain Bee City affiliation. The Program, as currently written, does not require the City to propose new initiatives or undertake activities that would require additional resources beyond what is stated in the Bee City affiliate commitments.

Responsibility for Managing Bee City Program

Stratford would have no role or responsibility for managing the Bee City Canada program. Bee City USA and Bee City Canada are responsible for determining the Bee City Program structure and managing which cities participate through an application process. Other North American cities interested in achieving Bee City affiliation must follow the process as currently described. The City of Stratford is responsible only for meeting the commitments as outlined above.

Financial Impact: There would be minimal financial impacts related to Stratford becoming a Bee City affiliate. Stratford's participation would not result in a requirement for new resources now or in the future. There is no cost or application fee associated with applying to the Bee City program.

Initiatives intended to be undertaken such as extending Confederation Park and erecting signage at this site would be funded through current budgets.

Staff Recommendation: THAT the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee and the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee's recommendation for City Council to adopt the Resolution Designating the City of Stratford as a Bee City, contained as Attachment A, be endorsed and request the Mayor (or designate) to sign;

AND THAT the Community Services Department submit the signed Resolution Designating the City of Stratford as a Bee City and a completed Bee City application, contained as Attachment B, to the Bee City program to obtain official Bee City Certification.



Tatiana Dafoe, Deputy Clerk



Andre Morin, Director of Corporate Services

Attachment A

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING CITY OF STRATFORD A *BEE CITY*

WHEREAS, the goal of *BEE CITY* certification is to promote healthy, sustainable habitats and communities for bees and other pollinators; and

WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic declines due to a combination of habitat loss, climate change, use of pesticides, and the spread of pests and diseases, with serious implications for the future health of flora and fauna; and

WHEREAS, cities and their residents have the opportunity to support bees and other pollinators on both public and private land; and

WHEREAS, supporting pollinators fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and increases interactions and engagement among community stewards; and

WHEREAS, the economic benefits of (native and honey) bee-friendliness are:

- Healthy ecosystems--insect pollinators are required for pollination and reproduction of about 85% of flowering plants globally, plants that: 1) are vital for clean air and water; 2) provide food, fiber and shelter for people and wildlife; and 3) support the very insects that pollinate our crops and form the basis of food webs.
- Increased vegetable and fruit crop yields due to bee pollination. One in every three bites of food we eat is courtesy of insect pollination.
- Increased demand for pollinator friendly plant materials from local nurseries and growers.
- Income earned by beekeepers and others through the sale of bee products, beekeeping equipment and supplies, and hive rentals for pollination; and, heightened prestige and premium asking prices for place-based honey, which enhances the visibility and reputation of its community of origin; and

WHEREAS, the City of Stratford ("Stratford") in the Province of Ontario should be certified as a *BEE CITY* community because Stratford is currently undertaking a number of programs and initiatives supporting pollinator biodiversity including:

- Establishment of pollinator friendly habitat across the city, which engages local communities and provide educational opportunities through interpretive signage. Examples include: Confederation Park and Shakespeare Gardens,
- Planting thousands of annual plants in beds, hanging baskets and planters;
- Planting of flowering trees in parks and neighbourhoods;
- Supports naturalizing of river banks to allow many different flowering plants to flourish and support pollinators;
- Allowing a large multi-hectare natural area to flourish with flowering shrubs, trees and plants, including milk-weed, for pollinator habitats.

WHEREAS, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat:

- Provides diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession from spring to autumn.
- Provides clean water for drinking, nest-building, cooling, diluting stored honey, and butterfly puddling.
- Is comprised of mostly, if not all, native species of annual and perennial wildflowers, shrubs, trees, and grasses because many native pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-evolved.
- Includes, where possible, designated pollinator zones in public spaces with signage to educate the public and build awareness.
- Provides undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, un-mowed fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering for native pollinators; and

WHEREAS, in order to enhance understanding among municipal staff and the public about the vital role that pollinators play and what each of us can do to sustain them, Stratford agrees to meet the following commitments required of all *BEE CITY* communities:

1. Adopt this *BEE CITY* resolution (which articulates these commitments).
2. Designate Stratford's Communities in Bloom (CIB) Advisory Committee as the Bee City program sponsor and an employee from Community Services as the Bee City program "liaison." The liaison, along with the CIB will assist the City in meeting its Bee City obligations by:
 - Annually celebrating National Pollinator Week (third full week of June) or some other appropriate occasion with educational events, pollinator habitat plantings or restoration, proclamations or promotions that showcase Stratford's commitment to enhancing pollinator biodiversity and habitat.
 - Annually apply for renewal of Stratford's *BEE CITY* designation and submit a report of the previous year's activities.
3. Publicly acknowledge Stratford's commitment by agreeing to a) display *BEE CITY* signage in a prominent location, and b) create/maintain information on Stratford's website which includes links to this signed Resolution and the *BEE CITY* website, contact information for Stratford's *BEE CITY* liaison and designated committee, and reports of the pollinator friendly activities Stratford accomplished during the previous year(s).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY STRATFORD CITY COUNCIL THAT:

The CITY OF STRATFORD accepts the designation and commits to the standards of the *BEE CITY PROGRAM*.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2017.

Mayor or designate



Application

Please email this completed application in PDF format with requested attachments to applications@beecitycanada.org with "APPLICATION" in the subject line.

A) Application Information

**City/Township/
First Nations Community**
and
Province/Territory

Applicant

[person filling out this form and facilitating the proposed Bee City Canada program]

Name

Title

Organization or
Department

Address

City/First Nation

 Province/Territory

Postal Code

 Phone

Email

City or First Nations Community Liaison

[the City or First Nation employee sponsoring the program]

☐ check here if same as above

Name

Title

Department

Address

City/First Nation

 Province/Territory

Postal Code

 Phone

Email

Mayor or Chief

Name _____
Title _____
Email _____

Designated Media Contact

Name _____
Title _____
Department _____
Address _____
City/First Nation _____ Province/Territory _____
Postal Code _____ Phone _____
Email _____

B) Commitments and Actions

I/we, the undersigned, understand that the Bee City Canada program consists of three commitments, and that we are taking the indicated actions to support those commitments:

1. Adopt Bee City Canada Resolution following template provided by Bee City Canada. Draft Resolution (the exact language our City or First Nations Community will vote on) is attached.

The Resolution is scheduled for approval on _____ (date).

2. **Assign Bee City Canada facilitation responsibilities to a new or existing City or First Nations Community commission or a non-profit organization as outlined in the Bee City Canada Resolution.**

The members of the commission or the facilitators of the program are identified below as "Committee Members."

Name of commission or
non-profit organization

If new, date the commission or organizational
committee was first convened:

Meeting Dates
(past and future):

List of Committee Members (expand as needed).

Name	Affiliation	Email Address

Facilitation responsibilities include:

- Ensuring the City or First Nations Community hosts at least one public event to coincide with International Pollinator Week.
- Ensuring the City or First Nations Community hosts at least one habitat establishment or restoration activity each year as outlined in the Bee City Canada Resolution.

3. Acknowledge the Bee City Canada declaration in public, as outlined in the Bee City Canada Resolution, within one year of the date of this application.

C) Signatures

Applicant

City/First Nations
Community Liaison
(if different from Applicant):

Signature

Signature

Name

Name

Date

Date

D) Next Steps

1. (Applicant) Email this completed application and draft resolution in PDF format with requested attachments to applications@beecitycanada.org with "APPLICATION" in the subject line.
2. (Bee City Canada) We will notify you of any further needs or adjustments to your draft resolution. Upon a favourable review, we will place your application in PENDING APPROVED status and notify you. Our goal will be to synchronize the public announcement process with your vote.
3. (Applicant) Once your community passes the Resolution, send a copy to us, noting any changes to the draft you submitted with your application.
4. (Bee City Canada) After reviewing your adopted Resolution, we will we will request any necessary clarification and formalize your status as APPROVED. Your community will be added to the declaration list on our website, and send you a Bee City Canada community certificate and artwork for you to produce your Bee City Canada street sign(s).
5. (Applicant) Keep us apprised of your news, questions, or needs. Send an end-of-year report of activities and renewal application to maintain your status. Enjoy the benefits of belonging to a network of communities who are taking a stand for pollinators and serve as resources to one another.

Please email this completed application in PDF format with requested attachments to applications@beecitycanada.org with "APPLICATION" in the subject line.

