



REPORT

From the office of the...

AVP Municipal Affairs

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Stephanie Bertolo, Associate Vice President of Municipal Affairs
SUBJECT: SRA 17P Report
DATE: Tuesday, March 5, 2018

PROGRESS ON YEAR PLAN

The Municipal Affairs Committee has been doing a lot of valuable advocacy this past month. We met with more City Councillors and staff members to discuss our pre-budget submission. I delegated at the General Issue Committee meeting on February 27th to provide an overview to council as a whole and the City Staff who manage the budget, completing our objective to create and advocate on the municipal budget submission. As well, Ryan Deshpande and I were on CFMU's radio show Transit Talks hosted by members of the community where we discussed our transit advocacy through the budget submission, our policy paper, and past advocacy efforts. To combat the negative impacts of the by-law program in the McMaster communities, we sent council a letter in regards to a recent report on the program. Finally, I attended a ForWard One Event where we consolidated the ideas submitted in order to create a more concise ballot that still includes everyone's ideas.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

In regards to the Municipal Budget Submission, we met with Councillor A. Johnson, Councillor Skelly, and Councillor Whitehead. Similar to other councillors, they were all receptive and pleased to meet with us. I then delegated at City Council on public delegation day to provide an overview of our submission to all the councillors. I received no questions, but Councillor A. Johnson did thank me for coming, stated he agreed with most of what I said, and was looking forward to working with me on restorative justice approaches in McMaster communities.

On February 20th, City Staff presented Council with a report about the by-law program in the McMaster area, highlighting the number of issue of orders that were distributed by type, the rate of compliance, and the number of fines that were distributed by term. It was our belief that the report did not provide us with enough detailed information to inform our advocacy and educational efforts. However, the report was passed by council and we did not receive any feedback from Councillor Johnson or others on the matter. We will follow up with him soon.

Last week, I attended a ForWard One event where we consolidated all of the ideas submitted. This process is essentially combining ideas that are similar, such as improvement in lightening in similar areas or combining ideas for enhancing certain

parks. This process allows for all ideas to still be submitted to the ballot but by combining them with others, they become stronger and more likely to receive votes during the voting process. Some ideas were also cut because they did not meet the criteria or because they were already included in other city projects.

I have been on the radio twice in the past month. The first time was with Ryan Deshpande on the Transit Talks show to discuss our past advocacy and the second on the MSU and You show to talk more generally about municipal advocacy.

Finally, a number of people on my committee, other SRA and MSU members, and I were writing the Transit Policy. I am very proud of our work and the finished product. I am certain that this paper will help strengthen our advocacy in the future.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

We are planning to release the Your City Survey 3.0 soon. This survey collects data in regards to students' experience in Hamilton, though we are hoping to expand it to capture more data about the experiences of students who commute to McMaster from other cities on a daily basis. This survey data will help inform next year's policy papers on student housing, retention, and employment, as well as Municipal Affairs advocacy.

As well, ForWard One voting will begin this month, where we will run a small campaign to promote voting.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

With changes in committee members' schedules and the addition of members, it has been difficult to have a meeting together as a full committee. As a result, I now have two meeting times, which are on Thursdays 3:30pm and 5:30pm. This solution, while not the ideal, is currently working well.

On public delegation day for the municipal budget, no one from the Board of Directors, SRA, or other MSU members attended. While it is not of the greatest concern, it would have been a great opportunity to show councillors that we are passionate about these issues by being in the gallery observing the MSU's delegation and other Hamiltonians' who were discussing priorities similar to ours.

VOLUNTEERS (Commissioners only)

Our past committee meetings have been going well! My committee members and I are now working on designing the "Your City Survey 3.0" that we will put out before the end of the term. We are reviewing the previous survey's questions and making substantial changes to ensure we are collecting the most accurate and useful data. As well, we are planning on contacting individuals in the municipal government to advocate for a polling booth on campus.

SUCSESSES

The MSU's public delegation was highly regarded by journalists and community members observing and tweeting during the time of the meeting, providing us with positive press. Many people were excited by the idea of restorative justice services in the McMaster communities.

OTHER

Please fill out the Your City Survey and vote in ForWard One when both are released and promote them!

Best,

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