

COUNCIL RECEIVES FIVE-YEAR BUSINESS PLAN FROM 40 SHEPPARD WORKING GROUP

484TH MEETING, MARCH 21 AND 22, 2013

By Jennifer Coombes

AT THE MARCH MEETING, council received the 40 Sheppard Working Group's (40SWG) report "Fiscal Responsibility Going Forward: 5 Year Business Plan for 40 Sheppard West (2014-2019)," which outlines the "vision drivers and considerations" for the operation of PEO's headquarters.

The report notes PEO's vision drivers for the building are to:

- "have an engineering centre befitting a major profession, consistent with the image of professional engineering, a landmark building;
- embrace state-of-the-art building automation and communication technology (electrical, mechanical, AV, IT);
- maximize the use of natural light, reducing energy use, lowering the carbon footprint, achieving better air quality and human comfort, and developing a strategy to achieve more/better amenity space;
- pursue best practices for environmental and sustainability standards in the most cost-effective manner; do not pursue LEED certification unless it meets these criteria;
- be a centre of activity for 1000 volunteers serving on 30 committees and 36 chapters, be a resource to engage the public and future engineers; and
- support the work of staff in a consistent and efficient manner."

Council also gave the go-ahead for the 2013 projects recommended by the 40SWG.

Among the projects is a staff relocation from two suites on the second floor to available space on the sixth floor to enable the rental of the second floor to new or existing tenants. The 40SWG report notes the move benefiting PEO in several ways: revenue from leasing the second floor, a decrease in common area maintenance

tax, improved interaction of staff and overall efficiencies. The budget set for the relocation is not to exceed \$544,000 plus HST.

Other approved projects include an HVAC upgrade for the fifth floor (\$222,000 plus HST), blinds replacement for all PEO-occupied floors except the ground floor, which has already undergone a blinds replacement (\$100,000 plus HST), and door relocation for the tribunal adjudication rooms (\$41,000 plus HST) to address concerns expressed by members of the Discipline and Registration committees regarding the current layout of the tribunal hearing area.

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

At the March meeting, then Councillor Paul Ballantyne, P.Eng., FEC, sponsored an item on the agenda that PEO look into the role a committee of volunteers and advisors might take in developing a communications strategy to support PEO's objectives.

Prompted by a request for council to approve additions to PEO's editorial/publication policy at the February meeting, Ballantyne presented a briefing note to council expressing a long-time concern with what he feels are PEO's piecemeal communications strategies (*Engineering Dimensions*, Government Liaison Program, Elliot Lake response, etc.). He envisions a think tank made up of engineer volunteers that would help to develop and deliver clear, cohesive messages to a range of different audiences. "While the effort has been strong, my sense is that some initiatives have been more successful than others and the actual return on communication dollar is difficult to determine. PEO needs to better understand that it is implementing a broader balance and successful program in all areas necessary to meet PEO's objective," he says.

Council has tasked the Advisory Committee on Volunteers to propose a plan by the September meeting detailing how a group of volunteers and advisors could help council develop a high-level communications strategy.

AGM WEBCASTING AND ELECTRONIC VOTING

The 2013 annual general meeting (AGM) held on April 27 was for the first time available by webcast to up to 200 online viewers, (77 members registered). Members attending the meeting were able to make use of electronic voting that immediately tabulated and displayed the results, which eliminated the lengthy and error-prone process of manually counting votes that has been employed at past AGMs. At the March meeting, council approved a budget for both of the new AV services not to exceed \$11,000 plus HST.

The AGM webcast is available on PEO's website (www.meetview.com/peo20130427) for up to a year for viewing by members and the public. The decision to use these electronic tools for future AGMs will be revisited in subsequent years, based on feedback gathered from the 2013 meeting.

2014 AGM HOST

Council has chosen the Niagara Falls Chapter to host the 2014 annual general meeting and associated events with the Kingston Chapter as backup host.

PEO's practice is to hold the AGM and other events outside the greater Toronto area every three years to enable members who may not ordinarily be able to attend a Toronto-area AGM to participate in PEO governance. Five chapters expressed an interest in hosting the 2014 AGM and submitted proposals: Grand River, Kingston, London, Niagara Falls and Sudbury. The proposals were reviewed by then President-elect Annette Bergeron, P.Eng., Acting CEO/Registrar Michael Price, P.Eng., FEC, Chief Administrative Officer Scott Clark, FEC (Hon), and Director, People Development Fern Gonçalves.

FILLING A COUNCIL VACANCY

Council has approved a new protocol for filling a vacant council position that has over six months left in the position's term. If there are fewer than six months remaining in the term, no appointment will be made.

Under the approved protocol, council will be guided by the following criteria to address vacancies:

- (a) Where the vacancy occurs in the position of president-elect, a by-election will be held and the successful candidate will be appointed;
- (b) Where a vacancy exists during the PEO election nomination period, an additional position will be added to the ballot for the unexpired portion of the term of office, and the successful candidate for that position will be appointed;
- (c) Where a duly-elected candidate is unable to take office, or where the duly-elected candidate has taken office and a vacancy occurs outside of the PEO election nomination

period, the Human Resources Committee (HRC) will identify one or more nominees for council to consider for appointment to fill the vacancy. HRC will provide the list of nominees at the council meeting following notification of the vacancy, providing there is sufficient time for the committee to consider potential candidates for appointment, contact them to confirm their willingness to accept appointment, and place the item with name(s) properly on the agenda of that council meeting; and

- (d) HRC will consider the following members for nomination, in priority order:
 - (i) runners-up, if any, in descending order of votes cast, in the election where the councillor was elected to the office vacated;
 - (ii) candidates for the same council position as the one vacated, in descending order of votes cast, in a recent council election other than the one where the councillor was elected to the office vacated; or
 - (iii) previously elected councillors.

ADDRESSING VOTER APATHY

In light of the poor voter turnout in the 2013 council elections, council has directed the Regional Councillors Committee to make recommendations for ways to uncover the reasons why. In raising this matter at the March meeting, Councillor Michael Wesa, P.Eng., FEC, expressed concern that only 8 per cent of members voted in the last election and wondered whether there is a widespread problem of which council is unaware.

ENGINEERS CANADA DIRECTOR

Rakesh Shreewastav, P.Eng., has been appointed by PEO council as a director to the Engineers Canada board of directors. His three-year term will begin at the 2013 Engineers Canada annual general meeting in June. Shreewastav joins the other PEO directors Diane Freeman, P.Eng., FEC, Catherine Karakatsanis, P.Eng., FEC, Phil Maka, P.Eng., FEC, and Chris Roney, P.Eng., BDS, FEC, in his new role. Σ



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