

Priorities Committee Meeting_Jul11_2017

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE**GOVERNANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE****Councillor Appointments to External Bodies****Report Purpose**

To initiate discussion on the process by which Councillor appointments to external bodies are determined.

Summary

One of the tasks included in the 2017 annual Governance Advisory Committee work plan was a review of the policy for Councillor appointments to external boards, committees, and commissions. The review was completed according to the policy review schedule and a report was provided to the June 20, 2017 Council meeting. The report included recommendations for a number of changes which were approved by Council at the June 20, 2017 meeting.

As part of the Governance Advisory Committee's review of this policy, the Committee discussed the process for Councillor appointments and asked Administration to provide some information on how other municipalities manage this process.

Administration conducted some research on this matter (see Enclosure 1) and found that this process is often managed less formally (similar to the process used currently at the County). Some municipalities include an in-camera discussion on external appointments as part of the Organizational Meeting in order to allow members of Council to have a discussion on potential appointments prior to adopting appointments in open session. Other municipalities use a Nominating Committee to facilitate the appointment process. A Nominating Committee would be a Council Committee that is supported by Administration and would typically define a process for soliciting interest in various committee appointments and then evaluating or assessing the interest and providing recommendations on appointments which are approved by Council.

There are advantages and disadvantages with each approach. For example, while a Nominating Committee provides a high degree of transparency in terms of the appointment process itself, it also requires more resources.

Should the Priorities Committee wish to pursue changes to the current process for appointing Councillors to external boards, committees, and commissions, then this report could be referred to Council for debate and decision.

Enclosure

1. Summary of Examples from Other Municipalities
2. Policy GOV-001-019 Council Appointments to Boards, Committees, and Commissions