Options for Open House and Public Presentations at Priorities Committee Meetings

July 11, 2017

Council History

Priorities Committee Changes Approved in February 2017 **(for implementation in Q3 of 2017)**:

– mandate expanded to include debate on reports and ability to make recommendations to Council

– chair duties be rotated according to the Deputy Mayor schedule

– public presentations (i.e. those by industry, community groups, etc.) appear at a Priorities Committee meeting, unless the Mayor's Executive Committee determines otherwise

STRATHCONA COUNTY

Council History

On February 21, 2017, Council approved the following:

THAT the Governance Advisory Committee work with Administration to provide a report, by July 11, 2017, on the Open House process that provides options for a more efficient and effective process; and options for parameters around public presentations at the Priorities Committee.

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Three Topics

1. Public Presentations
2. Non-statutory public hearings
3. Open House
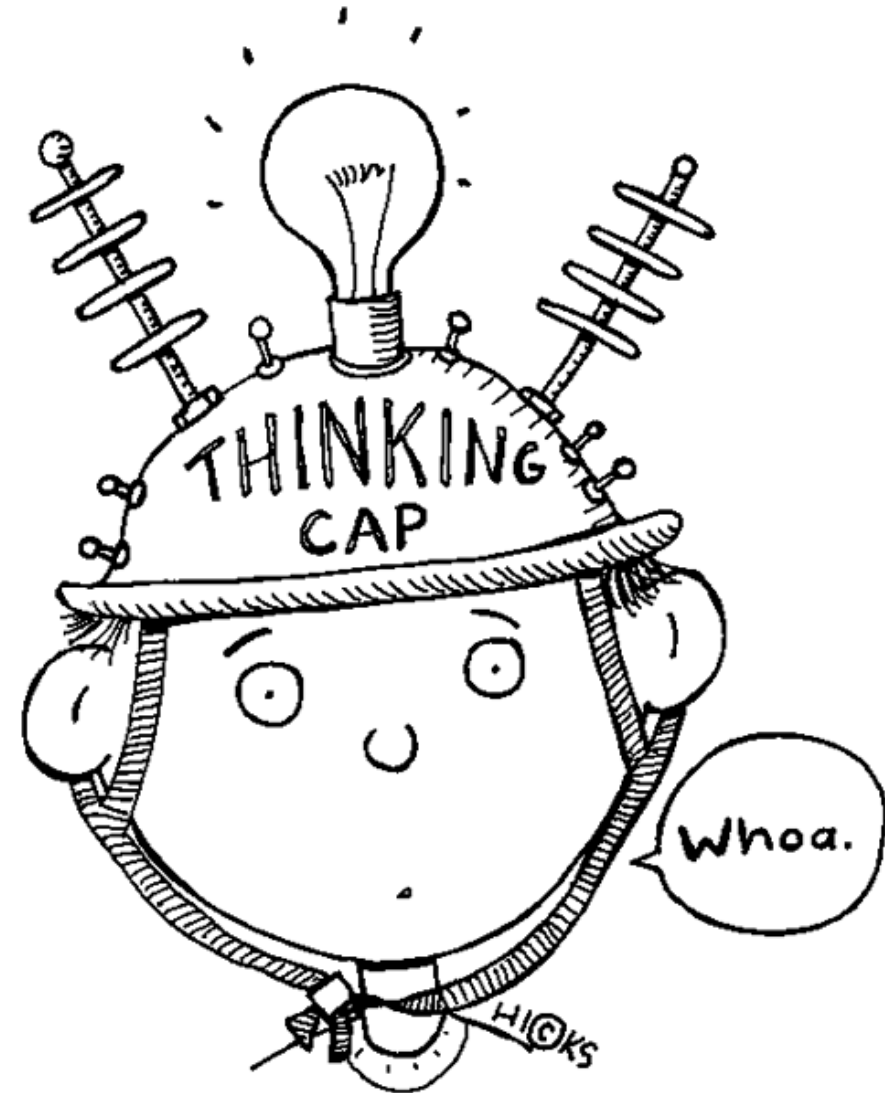
Public Presentations

Recommendations:

- Political parties or political representatives are to be excluded from making public presentations to the Priorities Committee.
- Public presentations must be limited to topics within the municipality's jurisdiction.
- Public presentations have a maximum time limit of 15 minutes.
- Require presentation materials to be provided to the Director at least 10 business days prior to the Priorities Committee meeting.
- Ensure procedures related to public presentations are clear and concise.

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Non-statutory Public Hearings

Recommendation:

- Eliminate non-statutory public hearings from Priorities Committee

Open House

Recommendations:

- Limit Open House to Strathcona County residents or groups.
- Presentations limited to topics within the municipality's jurisdiction.
- Materials to be distributed or displayed must be provided to the Director at least by 4pm the day before the Open House.
- Maintain limits for presentations at 5 minutes for individuals and 15 minutes for groups.
- Require a majority vote for extensions to the time limit.
- Ensure procedures related to Open House are clear and concise.

FIX ALL THE THINGS

STRATHCONA COUNTY

Open House Options

Option	Pros	Cons
Mandatory registration by 4pm the day before the Open House. If there are no registered speakers, the Open House would be canceled.	- More efficient use of resources - Aligns with Council's interest in pursuing best practices for meetings - Enables Administration to effectively manage Open House procedures	- Less flexibility - Less perceived accessibility
Status quo – no registration for Open House required.	- Most flexibility	- Speakers may not be as prepared and may not understand process or limitations - Does not align with best practices for meeting efficiency

Thoughts? Questions?