

Red Hill Valley Joint Stewardship Board

Internal Rules

APPROVED AUGUST 22, 2013

Purpose

The Red Hill Valley Joint Stewardship Board (the “Board”) has been created by the Haudenosaunee Council at the Grand River Territory and the Council of the City of Hamilton (the Councils”) to serve as the steward and guide of the Red Hill Valley (the “Valley”) for both Councils.

It is the Board’s responsibility to create a Master Plan for the Valley that can be considered and approved by both Councils, and after that, to serve as a first forum of joint thought and consideration about any changes or developments in the Valley.

Membership

The Board consists of equal numbers of appointees by each of the Councils, in order to facilitate their arriving at one mind about the issues that they must address. The Board is composed of two equal sides, in order that their ways of thinking may complement each other and their efforts may help each other. There is no room for adversaries on the Board. The Agreements between the Councils about the Valley create a framework within which the Board will work.

These rules are made within that framework to clarify and further the work of the Board.

1. Quorum

When, on a date chosen for a meeting of the Board, at least three members of the Board are present, including at least one member from each side of the Board, the meeting may proceed to validly consider and decide matters.

2. Opening

Every meeting of the Board shall be opened and closed in the traditional Haudenosaunee way, by greeting, acknowledging and thanking all the parts of the natural world, as well as of the human world and the spiritual world. Agreement on these matters of thanksgiving reminds the members of their place and responsibility in the world, and sets a momentum of consensus for them to follow.

The Haudenosaunee have given the City of Hamilton strings of white wampum. When the building of the Red Hill Parkway was a matter of contention between them, there was a Haudenosaunee fire of protest in the Valley. The spirit of that fire was the protection of the natural environment of the Valley, and the negotiations that took place between the Councils led to agreement on means of protecting that environment, to the extent possible. The wampum signifies that the fire in the Valley has symbolically become the Fire of the

Valley, reminding the Councils of their obligations to peace, to the natural world, and to future generations, and reminding them of the spirit and purpose of their agreements about the Valley. The wampum strings are white to symbolize the peace and purity of the thoughts that created them.

The smoke of a fire, even of a symbolic fire, rises to the heavens, and calls the attention of the dwellers in that world to what is being done and discussed.

Once a meeting of the Board has been properly opened, the Fire of the Valley shall be placed before the Board to remind them of their purpose and to symbolize their continuity. When a meeting has been properly closed, the Fire of the Valley shall be gathered up, since the symbolic fire of the meeting has been allowed to go out. The Co-ordinator of the Joint Stewardship Board shall be the custodian of the Fire of the Valley.

When the Councils meet, the Haudenosaune members of the Board shall bring the Fire of the Valley to the meeting and the Haudenosaunee will open and close the meeting using that wampum.

3. Board Chair

To help the meetings accomplish their purpose, it is useful to appoint one member of the Board as the Chair. At each meeting a Chair shall be appointed from the host Council.

4. Replacement of Board Members

Where a member of the Board has been repeatedly absent from Board meetings for 3 consecutive meetings, to the point where the absences become a matter of concern for the other members, members on that member's will be responsible for that member in question and replace if necessary.

Meetings

5. Location

The meetings of the Board will be held alternately in Hamilton and in the Six Nations Grand River Territory. Once the Red Hill Gathering Place has been built, the Board's Hamilton meetings will take place in or near that building.

6. Agenda

Following a pre-set agenda the Chair will introduce the items to the Board for consideration.

7. Decision-making

The Board will seek to come to one mind about the matters before it; they will build toward consensus. The Chair will identify when consensus exists and the other members will confirm this.

8. Minutes

A written record of the matters about which there has been agreement in the meeting will be developed. The record will identify the matters about which there has been agreement, as to what work needs to be done, and who will do it; and it will set out any decisions or agreements made by the Board.

9. Public Meetings

The agreements that established the Board provide that Board meetings shall be open except where confidential matters of finance, employee relations, and litigation are addressed. In such instances, the Board may decide that all or part of a meeting shall be held in private. In making such decisions, the Board shall be guided by the standards and processes used by the Council of the City of Hamilton.

General

10. Code of Conduct

The members of the Board appointed by Hamilton will follow and maintain at least the processes and standards set by Hamilton for its Council members and employees, and the members of the Board appointed by the Haudenosaunee will follow or exceed those standards of conduct and may refer to the City of Hamilton for assistance.

11. Accountability

The Board shall be fully accountable for any money it receives, uses or controls. The City of Hamilton will provide the Board with accounting and banking services, and will assist the Board in preparing an audited annual public report setting out the Board's revenues and spending. This report, together with a report of the Board's activities and accomplishments, will be delivered to the two Councils by the Board.

12. Committee and Advisors

The Board is not expected to do all the work by itself. It is intended to consult broadly, seek advice respectfully, listen carefully, and learn constantly. It has the ability and authority to invite thoughtful and knowledgeable individuals to assist it in its efforts, and to delegate parts of its work to individuals and groups where it believes this will advance its goals. Such delegations will be expressed in writing, setting clear terms, times and goals for the work to be done. The Board may delegate to volunteer groups, and it may also issue contracts for specific work. The contracts will be in writing and shall contain the principles expressed in standard contracts issued by the two Councils. The Board may choose to support volunteer groups by providing the money they need to conduct their work.