



City of Surrey

Environmental Advisory Committee

Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2006
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Present:

R. Wetzel - Chair
C. Dragomir
R. Gray
H. Locke
D. Maher
Dr. F. Perello
B. Stilwell
Councillor Bose

Absent:

J. Lotzker
K. Hoekstra
K. Keshvani
R. Costanzo, Engineering

Staff Present:

C. Baron, Drainage & Environment Manager
S. Palmer, Legislative Services

Agricultural Advisory Committee
Representative

S. VanKeulen

A. ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

1. Chair for the 2006 Calendar Year

Councillor Bose assumed the Chair and called for elections.

It was

Moved by F. Perello

Seconded by B. Stilwell

That Ross Wetzel be elected as Chairperson

for the 2006 calendar year.

Carried

2. Vice Chair for the 2006 Calendar Year

It was

Moved by H. Locke

Seconded by F. Perello

That Bob Gray be elected as Vice-Chair for

the 2006 calendar year.

Carried

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Environmental Advisory Committee - Minutes

It was

Moved by C. Dragomir

Seconded by B. Gray

That the minutes of the Environmental

Advisory Committee meeting of January 18, 2006 be adopted.

Carried

2. Environmental Advisory Committee - Retreat

It was held January 28, 2006 be received.

Moved by B. Gray
Seconded by Councillor Bose
That the Notes/Summary from the Retreat

Carried

Discussion:

The following amendments were made to the Notes/Summary from the EAC Retreat and it was noted that the Notes/Summary document **was not in final format and not ready to be forwarded to Council at this time:**

1. Item 2.4.2. EAC Roles (page 19 – 8th bullet)

Insert the word “decisions” at the end of the statement to read as follows:

“inform public of EAC roles, processes and decisions.”

2. Executive Summary (Page 12) and Item 2.6.3. Projects for 2006 (Page 24)

Delete the words “to be funded” and insert the words “to identifying programs or initiatives to be selected” to read as follows:

“The EAC will be asked to provide input in identifying programs or initiatives to be selected by the Environmental Stewardship Program for FY 2007-08.”

3. Item 2.5.2. Process (page 21)

Insert the following at the end of Item 2.5.2.:

The EAC to develop a brochure outlining the process of making presentations to the Committee. Documents must include coloured maps with coordinates. Submissions to be provided in a timely manner so that members may have sufficient time to review.

4. Item 2.6.2. EAC Member Skills

The suggestion was raised that Council appoint a member with communication skills to the Committee to provide year-end summary reports to Council and to communicate amongst the members of the EAC and the public.

5. Item 2.4.4 Recommended Changes to EAC’s Terms of Reference (page 20)

Insert the words “contribute to” after the word and; delete the word “build” and insert the word “building” before the word “consensus” under Item 5 to read as

follows:

“With Council approval, to convene public consultations to frame environmental issues and contribute to building consensus among Surrey’s citizens.”

D. Maher entered the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

The following comments/revisions were also made:

- On page 17 – remove the line “mayor can influence Council through his/her party”.
- The comment was made that the document was not ready to be forwarded to Council, and that Councillor Bose would review the document and provide further comments.
- Proposed changes are to be forwarded to the consultant for inclusion in his report.
- Remove bullet points and reference to the possible member having a communications background from the Executive Summary.
- The Executive Summary should state the EAC retreat objectives and indicate that the document is a living document and to be used as a basis for further refinement.
- On Page 23, “Surrey Almanac” – it was noted that this item is not a high priority issue.

ACTION ITEMS:

The request was made to schedule some time at the next EAC meeting to discuss building a work plan and outlining items.

A copy of the Public Hearing brochure developed by Legislative Services to be provided to next EAC meeting for review as to adaptability to the EAC’s guidelines for delegations.

Discussion took place regarding have a computer monitor with access to COSMOS at the EAC meetings.

C. Baron to contact the Planning & Development Department to enquire as to whether Dr. Perello would be able to sit in on the next Development Advisory Committee meeting. If approved, C. Baron to provide a copy of the next DAC agenda to Dr. Perello.

C. DELEGATIONS

1. There were no delegations.

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. **Curbside/Large Item Pick Up**

Draft report from the Engineering Department on the curbside/large item pick up

program.

C. Baron provided the following comments:

- The Surrey Reuse website has been extremely successful.
- After one week, Surrey had over 400 members signed up to the SurreyReuses.com website compared to the City of Vancouver's program with only 770 members and approximately 600 exchanges after 14 months.
- There are already 360 listings of reusable goods with 100 listings changing hands.
- People are very excited about the program and have provided very positive feedback.

Discussion:

The suggestion was made to advertise the SurreyReuses.com website through CityPage and community cable television.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

It was

Moved by B. Gray

Seconded by S. VanKeulen

That the Environmental Advisory

Committee supports the Surrey Large Item Pick Up Program and New Website Reuse Program and would recommend that Council provide funding for advertising and promotion due to its cost effectiveness and environmentally sound practice.

Carried

2. Summary of BC Hydro and EAC PCB Issue Review

The following documents were provided:

- Report from Golder and Associates on PCB destruction facilities in Surrey and the discharge from the Oil Operations site into Bear Creek, dated January 26, 2006. (Appendix A attached.)
- Report from Azimuth Consulting Group to BC Hydro regarding Effluent Discharge Permit PE 06026, dated November 2005. (Appendix B attached.)
- Letter from Drainage & Environment Manager to BC Hydro regarding PCB Levels in Bears Creek Tributary dated November 9, 2001. (Appendix C attached.)
- Letter dated February 15, 2006 from B.C. Hydro to C. Baron, Engineering Department. (Appendix D attached.)

C. Baron, Engineering provided the following comments:

- Representatives from B.C. Hydro are unable to present to the EAC until they have received further information from the Ministry of Environment and Environment Canada.
- A letter was received from B.C. Hydro dated February 15, 2006 outlining proposed direction as to the PCB and metals issues from the BC Hydro site.
- A letter sent in 2003 noted that contaminated sediments had not been found off site in significant quantities B.C. Hydro maintained these did not represent a human health issue. And the letter report of 2003 is still valid.
- The Ministry had amended the Waste Discharge Permit for Water Quality Guidelines for the site in 2002.
- If there are pockets of sediments settling, they're probably accumulated after a storm event, these include new PCB's from the B.C. Hydro site as well as old PCB's on site.
- B.C. Hydro is trying to limit the PCB and metals sources from the site and changing their current storage practices.
- The PCB solids destruction facility on site has been discontinued, while the PCB liquids facility is still operational.
- Materials have been stored on site in the open with the result that rain has caused leaching into the surrounding soils and surface waters.
- B.C. Hydro will store as much as possible in buildings or under tarps or tents, some new facilities are proposed on the site.
- If sediments are controlled on site, this will limit the migration of PCB's into Bear Creek.
- With respect to the Waste Discharge Permit, staff had to look at water column and metals. There is evidence of zinc components on site due to the storage of galvanized and aluminium equipment.
- Methods to deal with potentially toxic metals are being developed and will present a different focus on effluents from the site than what was originally experienced.
- B.C. Hydro is not ignoring the problem of PCB migration or metals discharge.
- B.C. Hydro tests transformer oil for PCB's and oil is properly disposed of once testing has been completed. However, before testing takes place, the current practice has been to store the drums of oil outside.
- Metals may be of more concern than PCB's.
- B.C. Hydro has cleaned their site ditches and has on site monitoring.
- The City's intention is not to take a regulator position on this matter, but it is still the focus to monitor the situation as it relates to the citizens of Surrey and how it affects the environment in Surrey.

Action Item:

C. Barron to continue work in this area and report back to the Environmental Advisory Committee.

Discussion:

The following points were raised during discussion:

- The question was raised as to area of sampling and it was noted that sampling has taken place along Bear Creek, past Surrey Lake for sample sediments. C. Baron noted that beyond 128 Street, nothing was found and it remains a very localized issue.
- Sampling done in the Mud Bay area by others related to fecal counts only not PCB sampling.
- The zinc levels present indicate a water soluble zinc; not sediment associated zinc.
- What is the human health impact of increased zinc and other metal levels.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Informal Meeting with Environmental Groups Relative to Campbell Heights

C. Baron noted that the Manager, Utilities and Transportation, was planning an informal meeting with environmental groups such as Surrey Environmental Partners, Surrey Conservation Coalition, Hatchery staff, and White Rock Naturalists to discuss Campbell Heights. Environmental Advisory Committee members D. Maher, B. Stilwell, S. Van Keulen and B. Gray expressed interest in attending.

C. Baron to provide further information.

F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

G. CORRESPONDENCE

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Nature Matters Brochure - Surrey Parks, Recreation & Culture

Copies of a brochure entitled "Nature Matters" by Surrey Parks, Recreation & Culture Department were distributed to the committee members.

Action Item:

Dr. Perello requested a memo from Parks, Recreation & Culture Department providing further information on wildlife in Surrey. C. Baron to contact Parks, Recreation & Development Department for this information.

2. Georgia Basin Newsletter

A copy of the George Basin Newsletter for February 2006 was circulated to the members for information.

3. Volunteer of the Year Award

The Chair noted that nominations were being solicited by Legislative Services Department for the annual Volunteer of the Year Award. Copies of the nomination form were distributed.

I. OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items under Other Business.

J. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. March 15, 2006 in the Executive Boardroom.

The scheduled Special Meeting for 6:30 p.m., March 1, 2006 in the Executive Boardroom has been **cancelled**.

The Chair noted he would be absent for the next meeting and that Vice Chair B. Gray would preside.

K. ADJOURNMENT

The Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Chairperson: Ross Wetzel
Environmental Advisory Committee