



City of Surrey

Environmental Advisory Committee

Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2006
Time: 6:45 p.m.

Present:

C. Dragomir
R. Gray
K. Keshvani
H. Locke
D. Maher
B. Stilwell

Agricultural Advisory Committee
Representative

S. VanKeulen

Regrets:

R. Wetzel - Chair
Dr. F. Perello
Councillor Bose

Absent:

K. Hoekstra

Guest:

P. Rovtar

Staff Present:

R. Jones, Environmental Coordinator
L. Giles, Environmental Technologist
G. Ward, Manager Urban Forestry &
Environment, Parks
K. Swaele, Legislative Services

The agenda was varied until Quorum was established.

B. DELEGATIONS

1. New Environmental Stewardship Program

Rachel Jones, Environmental Coordinator and Liana Giles, Environmental Technologist, were in attendance to provide a presentation on the new Environmental Stewardship Program.

L. Giles reviewed the Engineering Department's long-standing commitment to the environment and environmental programs to enhance riparian areas, natural habitats, drainage and education of residents on environmental issues. She noted that the new, year round environmental stewardship program was approved by Council in the Fall of 2005. The program is designed to increase community awareness, spark interest in the environment, and create partnerships.

K. Keshvani arrived 6:45 p.m.

Ms. Giles reviewed the SHaRP program and the work done on bank stabilization, riparian habitat restoration, debris removal and education programs.

Quorum Established

S. VanKeulen and D. Maher arrived 6:47 p.m. and Quorum was established.

Ms. Giles noted the publicity generated by the SHaRP program and the multicultural interest it gained. She advised that the new program has identified potential initiatives to be presented to Council such as restoration and enhancement of natural areas, invasive species control, plant installations, garbage control and debris removal, and educational programs in residential areas. Other initiatives include:

- Integration of environmental programs and environmental providers with the School District.
- Working closely with the agricultural community and promotion of the environmental farm plan program and sustainable farming practices.
- Programs that emphasize the importance of agriculture in Surrey.
- Program outreach to provide multi-lingual information for various environmental topics.
- Coordination of activities at community events and day camps throughout the year and getting residents actively involved in environmental issues.
- Water conservation programs.
- Sanitary and Storm Sewer System Education.
- Mosquito Control and West Nile Virus education.
- Sustainable development techniques in the community and how residents can use some of these techniques on their own property.
- Solid Waste issues in coordination with the Operations Department.
- Pollution prevention techniques.

Ms. Giles noted that she could be reached through email at lgiles@surrey.ca

The Environmental Advisory Committee thanked Ms. Giles for her presentation and suggested:

- That the Crescent Beach community has an initiative on how to stop swimmers itch and this may be an area where the new program can assist.
- That the program may also want to look at new recycling initiatives.

2. EAC Retreat Summary

The Committee wished to discuss the Retreat Summary prior to providing a copy to Council.

It was Moved by B. Stilwell
Seconded by S. Van Keulen
That the EAC Retreat Summary be tabled to
the April meeting for input from Councillor Bose.
Carried

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Environmental Advisory Committee - Minutes

It was Moved by B. Stilwell
Seconded by C. Dragomir
That the minutes of the Environmental
Advisory Committee meeting of February 15, 2006 be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS (cont'd)**2. Urban Forestry & Environment (Parks, Recreation & Culture)
Environmental Programs**

Greg Ward, Manager Urban Forestry and Environmental Programs provided an update/presentation on Environmental Stewardship in the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department. Mr. Ward advised that they work closely with the Engineering Department, but their mandate is to work strictly on City owned property, whereas the Engineering Department picks up the other areas (riparian areas, natural habitat areas, aquatic habitat). Mr. Ward distributed the following pamphlets:

- Nature Trails of Surrey
- Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest Park
- Alien Animal Invasion
- Alien Plant Invasion
- Surrey's Great Tree Hunt
- Co-existing with Coyotes
- Surrey's Living Heritage
- Friends of the Forest
- Green Timbers Urban Forest
- Fraser River Estuary

Mr. Ward continued by reviewing the Parks Division and Urban Forestry and Environment section. The Urban Forestry and Environment program was founded in 2000 in response to a growing need to provide natural areas management and boulevard and specimen tree management.

Mr. Ward commented:

- That part of their mandate is public education on natural ecosystems, development of education programs and materials in cooperation with other groups, facilitation of voluntary conservation efforts and public stewardship in natural parks.
- That they facilitate the Environmental Extravaganza working with community groups who provide the programs.
- That last year the extravaganza was attended by 18,000 people.
- That this year April 22 is Earth Day at Bear Creek Park, and Arbor Day is May 6.
- That the Releaf program has been ongoing for the past 15 years with trees and shrubs planted in parks and on boulevards in April and October each year.
- That the Surrey Stewardship of Natural Areas Partnership (SSNAP) had 4 students last year and they hope to increase this to up to 10 due to increased environmental funding.
- That the Salmon homecoming will be held in October at Bear Creek Park.
- That a lot of events partners with engineering.

- That park signage, brochures and kiosks are provided with messages about wildlife and natural areas.

Mr. Ward noted future activities:

- Habitat enhancement – restore and enhance park natural areas.
- Cleaning of yard waste from park natural areas and trails – educate the public.
- Removal of invasive plants to restore habitat and protect species at risk.
- Focusing on youth to get them involved in stewardship programs.
- Fostering volunteerism and tapping into the huge potential of having people volunteer in natural areas.
- Exploration of ways to encourage tree planting and good tree care on private property possibly through development of a Tree Management brochure.

The Environmental Advisory Committee thanked Mr. Ward for the presentation and discussed natural areas enhancement, rodent control and firefighting strategy in natural areas. Mr. Ward agreed to return to the May 2006 meeting to discuss the natural areas fire management plan.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Building a work plan - Discussion

At its meeting held February 15, 2006, the Environmental Advisory Committee asked that time be set aside to discuss building a work plan and outlining items.

B. Gray distributed a list of items arising from the Environmental Advisory Committee Retreat that could be included in the work plan. He noted that the items needed to be prioritized in order to finalize a work plan that can be accomplished in the next year. The following items were discussed:

1. Input to 2007/08 Environmental Stewardship Program
2. Sea Breeze DC Transmission Line Proposal
3. BC Hydro Waste Permit
4. Neighbourhood Community Plan Reviews
5. Monitor Status of Selected Environmental Projects
 - Campbell Heights
 - Grandview Corners
 - GVRD Sewage Containment
 - ISMP's
 - Large Item Pick Up/ Surrey Reuses
 - Riparian Area Regulations
 - Others including Park updates
6. Transportation/Transit Issues
7. Strategic Policy Development Meetings – Purpose TBD
8. Development Advisory Committee Membership
9. Public Consultations

Discussion included:

- That Councillor Bose is Chair of the Mayor's Transportation and Transit Task Force and that he could be asked to give an update at the April 19 meeting.
- That the City has done a good job of developing a recycling calendar with significant information, environmental programs, and information on the web page so that an environmental almanac is most likely not necessary at this time.
- That staff are encouraged to continue with their work on the City website to provide environmental information.
- That riparian areas are mandated by legislation and the Environmental Advisory Committee's role should be to support the work that staff are doing on managing this.

S. VanKeulen provided an update on the GVRD containment facility and advised that the ecoli level is being monitored constantly. The Agricultural Advisory Committee is also watching this situation very carefully.

The Committee worked on listing priorities on a separate rating sheet, and the Vice-Chair will review the responses and provide information at the next meeting.

Greg ward left the meeting at 8:00 P.m.

L. Giles left the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

R. Gray advised that the work plan will be completed at the next meeting and asked that members consider the amount of additional time they are willing to volunteer outside the meeting time.

2. Guidelines for Delegations

The Committee reviewed the Legislative Services Guidelines for Public Hearings and while excellent, do not fit for delegates to the Environmental Advisory Committee. The Vice-Chair distributed a draft document, which the Committee discussed.

The Administrative Assistant and Vice-Chair will work on refining the guidelines and provide a draft for the April 19, 2006 meeting.

D. NEW BUSINESS

2. Replacement of Member on Environmental Advisory Committee

It was

Moved by S. Van Keulen

Seconded by K. Keshvani

That in view of the unfortunate death of

Joseph Lotzkar, Council appoint a new member to the Environmental Advisory Committee to replace him.

Carried

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

H. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

1. Committee Updates

(a) Vancouver Island High Voltage Power Line Project

The Committee received email memorandums and a news release regarding the Vancouver Island High Voltage Power Line Project.

R. Gray advised that the status is uncertain at this time, but it does appear that the Juan de Fuca project from Port Angeles to Victoria is moving forward through the United States regulatory system. The Sea Breeze Company has advised that there will be an update on their website shortly.

(b) Development Advisory Committee

F. Perello was not in attendance and expressed his regrets. He advised that the Development Advisory Committee was a very worthwhile Committee for the Environmental Advisory Committee to sit on, that he will attend future meetings, and provide an update at the April meeting.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

R. Gray, Vice-Chair Environmental
Advisory Committee