



City of Surrey

Environmental Advisory Committee

Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2006
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Present:

R. Wetzel - Chair
C. Dragomir
B. Stilwell
F. Perello
H. Locke
D. Maher
A. Keshvani

Absent:

Councillor Bose

Staff Present:

C. Baron, Drainage & Environment Manager
J. Dean, Real Estate Division
T. Lewis, Deputy Fire Chief
G. Wood, Manager, Urban Forestry &
Environmental Services
J. Reimer, Legislative Services

Agricultural Advisory Committee
Representative

S. VanKeulen

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of April 19, 2006

It was Moved by C. Dragomir
Seconded by B. Stilwell
That the minutes of the Environmental
Advisory Committee meeting of April 19, 2006 be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Lease of City Property at 5288 – 168th Street (Mound Farm)

Recommendation by the Real Estate Division for the Environmental Advisory Committee to support and endorse the proposal for the City, subject to Council approval, to enter into a long term lease of 30 years with the existing tenant, Heppell's Potato Corp., at market rent.

J. Dean, Property Appraiser, from the Real Estate Division presented information about the details of the lease:

- Corn, onions and potatoes are currently being grown. The current rent is \$120/acre per year. The land has become infested with wireworms, and is no longer suitable for root farming.
- The current proposal is to extend the lease to 30 years beginning this year.
- Tenant wants to develop a specialty organic berry farm, on the farm. They want to plant a variety of berries and develop the land over a 4-year period, spending \$10,000. per acre on land levelling, drainage improvements, irrigation, trellises, etc.
- The tenant needs 30 years to amortize his costs, and the plants have a long productive life.

The Committee Members made the following comments:

- This was presented to the Agricultural Committee as well.
- The Agricultural Committee members made comments about escape clauses. At present the lease can be set-aside with 1 year's notice by either party. An escape route from the 30-year lease would be difficult.

H. Locke entered the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

- There is no impact from an environmental standpoint.
- The City purchased this property under referendum, and sale of the land would not be possible without another referendum.
- This lease situation seems good for the City and the tenant.
- The berries will be marketed through a separate company, and if the berry farm fails, the City would get the land back.
- A trap crop will be planted between the rows of berries. The wireworms migrate to the roots of the trap crop instead of the roots of the berries.

It was

Moved by S. VanKeulen

Seconded by C. Dragomir

That the Committee Members support the 30 year lease be negotiated on this property as presented to the Committee.

Carried

2. Urban Forest Fire Plan

T. Lewis, Deputy Fire Chief, and G. Ward, Manager, Urban Forestry & Environmental Services, provided information on the Urban Forest Fire Plan.

The Manager, Urban Forestry & Environmental Services presented the following information for the Parks, Recreation And Culture Department:

- Natural areas include forests, meadows, bogs, wetlands and shrub lands. Each has a different risk to fire.
- The principle of the plan is to protect the integrity of the natural area.
- Most of these areas abut private property.
- Fire management goals are to minimize risk to persons and property.
- The objectives are to minimize the risk of ignition and reduce the incidents of fire in these areas.

D. Maher entered the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

- People are generally more aware of fire prevention measures after the large fires in the interior of B.C.
- Fire Management Program Plans have been implemented in a couple of parks already. Sunnyside and Green Timbers are two examples. The plans appear to be reducing the risk of fire in these parks.

- Fire behaviour, risk of ignition, structures at risk and suppression constraints are considered in the Fire Management Plans. Zones are set up according to risk. These measures are controlling fires where implemented.
- There is an annual program in place and parks are watched closely for hazards.

The Deputy Fire Chief presented information for the fire department:

- Quick notification to the fire department is essential to assist the Fire Department in extinguishing the fire while it's small.
- Instant command models make the process move quickly and allow information to get where it needs to go.
- The Surrey Fire Service Operating Guideline covers how the Fire Department will respond.
- The City has 17 fire stations and 328 fire fighters. Response times are generally 3-5 minutes.
- The Fire Department dealt with over 25,000 responses last year.
- Maps and trails are available to response teams enroute.
- The Parks Department is notified if there is a fire within a park.
- The Department is able to educate the public in risky areas on how to fire-proof their yards.
- Permits are required for fireworks.
- There is synergy between all the departments and they are far more organized than they were during the fires in the interior in 2003. Responsibilities have been well defined, and collaboration and cooperation are in place. Measures are in place to address issues more quickly to prevent escalation.

The Committee Members made the following comments:

- A Committee Member wondered about water sources within parks. The Fire Department representative noted that while there may not be water sources in all parks, surrounding water sources in the area have been identified.
- The Battalion Chief and Duty Chief will make decisions quickly based on a reported incident.

3. Planned Park Acquisition

T. Mack, Manager, Parks Planning, Research & Design provided the following information:

- This ongoing program looks at ways to improve the functionality of the parks.

- 22 acres per year on average is dedicated because of developing subdivisions.
- Current land values are high for acquisition.
- The Official Community Plan (OCP) has mandated 10 acres of parkland per 1000 people in the city.
- Currently 1.4 hectares of parkland is reserved per 1000 people, and 2 hectares is required. This is currently a focus.
- The Parks Recreation & Culture Master Plan will be updated in 2006 to 2007. This plan focuses on parks, services, programs, and facilities.
- Stakeholder meetings and community forums will be conducted to elicit input.
- Sources of funding for acquisition are DCC's, and Parkland Dedication through subdivision where 5% of land in a new subdivision is dedicated, or cash is given in lieu. Eco gifts and other gifts, and special area levies are also sources of revenue.

The Committee Members made the following comments:

- A Committee member commented on linear trail systems and the Committee was informed that walking trails in general are most requested.
- Surrey Property Department has land that could be used for parks. The type of land and location need to be right.
- Hydro right of ways are perfect areas for parks. These are good for hiking and bicycle trails.

D. Maher left the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

- Provincial properties that are not being used could be acquired.
- The Committee agreed that the Manager, Parks, Planning, Research & Design should be invited back early in the fall for another update.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. EAC Retreat Summary

The Environmental Advisory Committee asked that this item be brought forward at the next meeting on May 17, 2006.

It was Moved by S. VanKeulen
Seconded by A. Keshvani
 That the EAC Retreat Summary be
 discussed at the next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee.
Carried

2. Letter from Pierre Rovtar Concerning Tree Cutting Development

In the April meeting, it was moved that this issue be referred to the General Manager of Planning & Development for more information. A copy of the memo

to the Planning & Development Department, and their response are attached for information and discussion.

A letter should be sent to Mr. Rovtar informing him that the Committee doesn't have the authority to deny Tree Cutting Permits. A copy of the memo from the Planning & Development Department should be attached for his information.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Nicomekl Enhancement Society

A thank you letter was received from the Society for the information of the Committee.

2. Summary of Meeting on BC Hydro Surrey Sites Near Mahood Creek

Carrie Baron, Drainage & Environment Manager, provided an update on this meeting:

- The Human Health study is incomplete at this point.
- Storm water safety information has been received.
- The volume of water is too big for sumps to be effective.
- There are other contributors of metals in the water besides the storage practices of B C Hydro and this is part of their argument.
- PCB's are also a problem on this site.
- Covering their storage areas, and more frequent cleaning has been suggested.
- The Manager, Drainage & Environment will keep the Committee Members informed as this issue progresses.

3. West Nile Virus Response Plan – 2006

C. Baron, Drainage & Environment Manager gave information on the Response Plan:

- The 2005 plan has been updated for this year.
- The main issue is when to treat the water.
- Our weather is not ideal to sustain the life of these mosquitoes.
- There were incidents in Washington last year.
- The risk in B.C. is very small, but we need to be prepared for it.
- They bite horses and birds as well. Robins are able to handle the disease.
- The North American population is building an immunity to West Nile in areas where it has been.
- The percentage of the population that succumbs to this disease is very minimal.
- Engineering met with Fraser Health last week on the issue.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**1. Provincial Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR) Implementation Update**

- The Committee Members received the information referred by Council.
- C. Baron, Drainage & Environment Manager provided the Committee with an update.

2. 2006 Environment Stewardship Program – Nature Matters Corporate Report R068

- The Committee Members received the information referred by Council.
- C. Baron, Drainage & Environment Manager provided the Committee with an update.

F. CORRESPONDENCE**1. Nicomekl Enhancement Society**

A member of the Society hand delivered a letter regarding the formal status of the Chantrell Creek Rechanneling Project, for the consideration of the Environmental Advisory Committee.

- C. Baron, Drainage & Environment Manager, presented maps of the area over the years showing the changes in the area of concern.
- The original plan was to move the creek back but it is very expensive. The budget won't allow it at present. This may be an option for the future.
- The developed park also makes this difficult.
- The fish currently have access through the culverts.
- The area has a fish release program.
- Part of the plan was to make some spawning areas within the park.
- Request information from Parks and Engineering for the Committee to review. Once the Committee members have reviewed the memo, it can be forwarded to Mr. Waska, with copies to Joe and the Rescue Department.
- A response should be prepared to Mr. Waska to let him know the Committee received his letter and are requesting information from the Parks & Engineering Departments.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS**1. Get Back to Nature**

An invitation was presented regarding a walk that has been planned on the Semiahmoo Trail.

H. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, June 21, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

L. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by S. VanKeulen
Seconded by B. Stilwell
That the meeting be adjourned.
Carried

The Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Chairperson (name and Committee)