



City of Surrey

Environmental Advisory Committee

Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2006
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Present:

R. Wetzel - Chair
C. Dragomir
R. Gray
K. Hoekstra
K. Keshvani
Dr. F. Perello
B. Stilwell

Absent:

D. Maher

Staff Present:

C. Baron, Drainage & Environment Manager
J. Reimer, Legislative Services

Agricultural Advisory Committee
Representative

S. VanKeulen

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Environmental Advisory Committee - Minutes - May 17, 2006

It was Moved by R. Gray
Seconded by C. Dragomir
That the minutes of the Environmental
Advisory Committee meeting of May 16, 2006 be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Nature Matters

Stephen Godwin, Natural Areas Coordinator, Urban Forestry and Environmental Programs, Parks Division, assisted by the SNAP Leaders, presented information on this program, specifically the Surrey Natural Areas Partnership (SNAP):

- The SNAP Program is one of the programs under the City's Nature Matters initiative
- Nature Matters is a new year-round environmental stewardship program approved by Council in the fall of 2005.
- Nature Matters provides increased awareness, sparking community interest. It creates partnerships and builds on current successes like the SNAP & SHaRP programs.
- Within Parks the mandate is to focus on public education on natural ecosystems, develop educational programs, facilitate conservation efforts and to help community groups workers presented information on the SNAP Program.
- Key initiatives include involving youth, volunteer programs, school programs, environmental events, green infrastructure and SNAP.

- This is year 6 of the SNAP program in Surrey. Partners of the program include Green Timbers Heritage Society, Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society, and White Rock Surrey Naturalists.
- Snap focuses on restoration and enhancement of Park Natural areas through trail closures & maintenance, invasive species removal and native planting, yard waste and refuse removal, public education, school programs and involving volunteers.
- This year the program consists of 9 team members.
- Eco Rangers Program was also discussed
- Eco Ranger program is to raise people's awareness and knowledge of the natural diversity in parks with Green Timbers Urban Forest, Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest and Blackie Spit Park being the focus areas.
- In 2005 – the Eco Ranger program spent over 336 hours in the parks talking to over 750 park visitors.
- In 2006 new activities are planned in the park areas with this program which will include scheduled interpretive walks and events. There will also be information booths in each park to discuss further.
- The committee was invited to the Nature Matters kick off event to be held at Bear Creek Park on Saturday July 15.

2. Grandview Heights Neighbourhood Concept Plan #2 Environmental Assessment

T. Atva, Planner and G. Stewart, Consultant, presented information on the Grandview Heights Neighbourhood Concept Plan #2:

- T. Atva, Planner showed the area known as Grandview Heights neighbourhood.
- In devising a plan for this area, they are consulting with the Agricultural and Environmental committees for input.
- G. Stewart from Enkon gave an environmental review. Enkon makes recommendations regarding specific natural areas in this region.
- Their review involved 4 phases. The first reviewed goals. The second phase involved the collection and analysis of data. Phase three involved reporting, and the fourth phase involves the presentations of the results, which is ongoing.
- The surveys involved looking for endangered or threatened species in the area.
- Watercourse classification is complete, and significant trees, potential wildlife movement corridors, important wildlife tree patches, dominant vegetation areas, wildlife habitats, and slopes of more than 30 degrees have been identified.
- Recommendations are to retain wildlife tree patches, wildlife movement corridors, protect the habitat for species at risk, and to protect watercourses.
- The area has been divided into 5 zones.
- The ALR boundary is at 16th Avenue & 168th Street.
- The impact to area to the east needs to be addressed.
- There is a City study to be initiated to examine wildlife and biodiversity issues to assist with long range planning.

- Someone from the committee will attend the open houses and comments on progress will be passed on through this person.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. EAC Retreat Summary

A copy of the "Summary of Organizational Planning Retreat" was available.

- Councillor Bose will review the document. This item will be tabled until the next meeting.

2. Work Plan

The Environmental Advisory Committee worked on listing priorities for its work plan at the April meeting, which were reviewed by the Vice-Chair, R. Gray. In the May 17th meeting, Committee members asked that this item be brought forward for the June 21st meeting.

- The Budget for stewardship programs is determined well in advance. Any input into next years program needs to be done this year. Committee Members were asked to bring recommendation ideas to the July meeting for discussion and possible presentation to Council.
- Swimmers Itch is a problem in the Crescent Beach Mud flaps and intertidal pools. Swimmers Itch is carried by a certain type of snail.
- C. Baron, Drainage & Environmental Manager, will present information on how much funding is available under the Environmental Stewardship Program in the July meeting.
- It was discussed that large item pick up recycling should come forward to the July meeting.
- There has not been much opportunity to address Transportation and Transit issues this year.

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

C. Baron, Drainage & Environmental Manager, presented reports on the B C Hydro site.

- A number of reports have been submitted by B.C. Hydro. One of the reports is the screening level health risk assessment report. Another report deals with storm water.
- C. Baron, Drainage & Environmental Manager, will give a written report at the next meeting.

D. NEW BUSINESS**1. Guidelines for Legislated Landslide Assessments for Proposed Residential Development in British Columbia**

D. Maher was ill, and sent her regrets at not being able to present information on this topic, which will be presented at the July meeting.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**2. Item No. R102
Green City Initiatives
File: 6300-01**

Corporate Report R102 was referred by Council at its May 29, 2006 Regular Council Public Hearing meeting, to be received for information.

- Trees could be planted in a way not to interfere with storm drains. Places to plant trees are becoming scarce. Densities should be considered in areas that are protected for trees.
- A recommendation could be made to parks to investigate increasing the tree density in view of limited areas in the city where trees are allowed. Trees could be put into the areas of detention ponds.
- The Committee thanked Council for referring this item to them.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

It was
Moved by R. Gray
Seconded by C. Dragomir
That the Environmental Advisory
Committee requests that Council increase tree densities and tree populations,
where practical.

Carried

F. CORRESPONDENCE**1. Full Day Workshop for the Regional Biodiversity Conservation Strategy**

An invitation was received for a workshop hosted by the Greater Vancouver Regional District on July 13, 2006 at the Hilton Hotel, Metrotown, Burnaby.

- The invitation was received by the Committee. Legislative Services will send an e-mail to the members asking if anyone can attend.

2. Invitation to Highway 10 Community Open House

- Environmental concerns have already been dealt with. This was also dealt with extensively at the Agricultural level.
- There is no need for anyone from the Committee to attend.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Nicomekl Enhancement Society

At the Environment Advisory Committee meeting on May 17, 2006, correspondence was forwarded to the Committee from Mr. Waska, who had concerns regarding the formal status of the Chantrell Creek Rechanneling Project, for the consideration of the Environmental Advisory Committee.

Copies of Memo's sent to the Parks and Engineering Departments, and a copy of the letter that was sent to Mr. Waska are enclosed for information.

H. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

1. Erickson Creek Watershed Area

- B. Stillwell gave a summary on the Erickson Creek Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (ISMP) currently being conducted for the City.
- ISMPs are required under the Liquid Waste Management plan for the GVRD. All cities must complete ISMP on all their watercourses by 2012.
- When they start the neighbourhood plan, they have all the information they need to evaluate the site.
- The plan examined minimizing the impact on the environment from development.
- There is an open house planned for Tuesday June 27. B. Stilwell will continue to give the EAC updates on the plans' progress.

2. Meeting in August

At this time, there will be no meeting in August.

3. Environmental Advisory Committee Vacancy

There is still a vacancy on the Environmental Advisory Committee. No one has been appointed as yet.

C. Dragomir will be absent during the months of July and August. He will return in September.

I. NEXT MEETING

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

L. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by B. Stilwell
Seconded by K. Keshvani
That the meeting now adjourn.
Carried

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Chairperson (name and Committee)