



City of Surrey

Environmental Advisory Committee

Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2006
Time: 6:32 p.m.

Present:

R. Wetzel - Chair
K. Hoekstra
H. Locke
D. Maher
B. Stilwell
Susan Li
Councillor Bose

Absent:

R. Gray
F. Perello
C. Dragomir
K. Keshvani
S. VanKeulen
Agricultural Advisory Committee
Representative

Staff Present:

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

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The new committee member, Susan (Suying) Li was introduced and Committee members introduced themselves.

1. Environmental Advisory Committee - Minutes - June 21, 2006

It was Moved by B. Stilwell
Seconded by Councillor Bose
That the minutes of the Environmental
Advisory Committee meeting of June 21, 2006 be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Garbage and Recycling Programs

R. Costanzo, Deputy Operations Manager, provided an update on the Garbage and Recycling Programs initiated by the Engineering Department.

- A chart was presented showing the first 6 months of 2006 vs 2005, showing curbside garbage collected in the City. There is a downward trend regarding tonnage per household the last 8 years or so.
- Recycling tonnages have increased slightly.
- Waste and metal drop-off participation figure is significantly higher than 2005.
- Large item pick-up was implemented in 2005 and replaced clean-up week. There has been a slight increase in calls for pick-up.
- Yard waste is picked up separately from garbage.
- The costs for garbage that is dumped instead of being disposed of properly due to cost should be tabulated. This is a large issue in our city.

- This type of garbage is searched for some sort of identification of who dumped it. The homeowner is invoiced for the cost of proper disposal.
- Surrey's Waste management is part of the GVRD system.
- Styrofoam is a problem for the recycling system. Recycled Styrofoam has only 60% of the integrity of new Styrofoam.
- Surrey is one of 6 cities in the Lower Mainland that weekly picks up seasonal waste curbside.
- Other recycling options are the Surrey Reuses Program (this system is being heavily used), and also charities.
- There are items that fall through the cracks and do not meet the criteria for any of these programs. If the items are small enough to place in a box, they can be picked up.
- Some inexpensive ways of advertising being used are grocery store separators, the City website, and sponsorship on television.
- Pharmacists are under law to take back expired prescriptions.
- RCBC can provide information on how to reduce waste or where a transfer station is. They can also provide information on companies to contact who can pick up items that cannot be picked up at the curb.
- Municipal education and outreach programs are in place. The Swap for 5 Program focuses on 5th graders to educate them on reducing, reusing and recycling our natural resources.
- Future initiatives include reviewing alternative services, automated collection, compost collection, and alternative waste disposal technologies.
- Reducing greenhouse gases should be a goal.
- There is an environmental concern surrounding two vehicles picking up green waste and garbage separately.
- Further feedback can be e-mailed to Rob at racostanzo@surrey.ca, or phone (604) 590-7287.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. EAC Retreat Summary

Councillor Bose commented on the EAC Retreat Summary.

- The document will be revised and re-submitted to the Committee.
- There are standing committees that may be appointed by the mayor and include only council members. Other committees are appointed by council.
- Seabreeze and the almanac should be deleted from the Workplan.

ACTION ITEM:

Councillor Bose will e-mail the revised document to the Committee when it is completed. The Committee will review it at the September meeting.

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

C. Baron, Drainage & Environmental Manager, provided an update on BC Hydro reports.

- PCB's on the site have begun a chain of events. More critical issues on the site are discharges to the creek and groundwater.
- Executive summaries have been copied.
- Different areas of the site have different issues.
- Sediment data is outstanding.
- The Drainage & Environmental Manager will keep the Committee informed of further information as it becomes available. The possibility of a tour of the facilities will be investigated.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Guidelines for Legislated Landslide Assessments for Proposed Residential Development in British Columbia

D. Maher presented information on this document.

- Environmentally sensitive sites are sometimes sensitive because of the slopes.
- These areas can also be health hazards due to slides.
- A guideline is included in the document presented to assist with the presentation of information.
- More processes and a better way of evaluating these types of situations is necessary.
- Professionals in the field currently take responsibility and reports are required during the planning stages.
- The City's development policy on this issue needs to be examined.
- The City of Surrey does not review private land unless there is a questionable property adjacent.
- This issue is linked to ravines in the areas of erosion and slope stability.

It was

Moved by Councillor Bose

Seconded by B. Stilwell

That the Environmental Advisory

Committee refer the report to the Acting General Manager of Planning & Development to advise of policy developments that arise from their review of this document, and further report back to this Committee.

Carried

2. Unhealthy Areas In Surrey

- High voltage areas are too close to residential areas.
- The distance should be more than 100 meters between hydro lines and residential areas.

- Guidelines are set out for the acquisition of hydro right of ways.
- They are under legislation that allows preeminence over City jurisdiction. Right of ways have existed for a long time. The magnetic fields may have been increased by increases in the power to the area. Hydro is responsible for public health and to inform citizens on this issue of electromagnetic field affects.
- This may be a provincial issue.
- Concerns could be addressed to the Ministry of Health.
- Data collected is inconclusive.
- B C Hydro may respond to inquiries as a corporate citizen.
- B C Hydro should be requested to give an update on power transmission.
- In some areas the power lines are being raised to allow high voltage power transmissions.
- The Administrative Assistant will send a letter to B C Hydro inviting them to attend the September meeting or at a more appropriate date at their convenience, to address the health guidelines and distances of right of ways between residential areas and high power voltage lines.

3. Public Transportation in Surrey

- Due to greenhouse gases, the frequency of public transportation should be increased.
- The Transit systems south of the Fraser River is being reviewed by TransLink. The review is looking to better balance the needs of residents in this area.
- Propane powered mini buses would be a good alternative.
- The public needs to be educated on this issue.
- Councillor Bose agreed to provide an update on TransLink's progress on this issue in the future.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Chantel Creek Rechanneling Project

- There is spawning habitat on Chantrell Creek.
- The fish can still access the spawning areas due to fish ladders.
- Realigning Chantrell Creek through Elgin Creek would not have created a lot of new spawning areas.
- A lot of fish have been stocked in this creek.
- The budget has not been approved at this point, as it is an expensive undertaking.

It was
Committee receive this correspondence.

Moved by Councillor Bose
Seconded by B. Stilwell
That the Environmental Advisory
Carried

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

H. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, September 20, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was
Committee meeting now adjourn.

Moved by D. Maher
Seconded by B. Stilwell
That the Environmental Advisory
Carried

The Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

R. Wetzel, Chairperson
Environmental Advisory Committee