



City of Surrey

Environmental Advisory Committee

Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2006
Time: 6:34 p.m.

Present:

R. Wetzel - Chair
C. Dragomir
H. Locke
D. Maher
Dr. F. Perello
S. Li
B. Stilwell
Councillor Bose
K. Lambertson, B.Sc R P Bio
D. Rylli, Chair, Little Campbell
Watershed Society

Absent:

R. Gray
K. Keshvani

Staff Present:

C. Baron, Drainage & Environment Manager
T. Atva, Planning & Development
J. Reimer, Legislative Services

Agricultural Advisory Committee **Representative**

S. VanKeulen

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Environmental Advisory Committee - Minutes

It was Moved by C. Dragomir
Seconded by F. Perello
That the minutes of the Environmental
Advisory Committee meeting of September 20, 2006 be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Environmental Assessment of South Port Kells Area 1: Anniedale "A": Neighbourhood Concept Plan

T. Atva, Planner and K. Lambertson, B. Sc R P Bio, Phoenix Environmental
Services Ltd., presented the draft environmental recommendations for the
Anniedale "A" NCP to the EAC.

T. Atva, Planner updated the Committee on the environmental assessments of the
Anniedale A Neighbourhood Concept Plan.

- May 2005 Council adopted a plan for all of Port Kells. The plan outlined distinct neighbourhoods, Anniedale A and Anniedale B, Tynehead and Port Kells. The pastoral ambiance was to be maintained and the adjacent ALR was to be respected.
- Golden Ears Bridge connector road runs through Anniedale A.
- The Planning Department has been working with other departments within the City and residents regarding the plan for this area.
- Hydro and gas lines right-of-way act as a buffer.

- K. Lambertson, B. Sc R P Bio, Phoenix Environmental Services Ltd. has been working on this with the Planning Department. He attended the Community Advisory Committee meeting and the ERC meeting last month.

K. Lambertson, B. Sc R P Bio, Phoenix Environmental Services Ltd. made the following comments:

- Watercourses and catchment boundaries were shown and areas where fish have been identified were outlined.
- Setbacks in the area were shown and discussed.
- There are wildlife areas that can be retained but some will need to be replaced.
- Treed habitats, mostly deciduous, were shown.

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

Sue Li entered the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

- There are no deer in this area. Wildlife movement corridors were shown.
- Priority areas for tree retention have been identified.
- There are two connector roads crossing 172nd Street, and the possibility of another.
- It may be more beneficial to create some large wildlife and tree preservation areas rather than try to save several smaller areas.
- It is difficult to have a strong plan that is sensitive to the environment that is primarily driven by development.
- There will be more meetings and an open house regarding Anniedale A to address overall land use and roads in the area.
- Anniedale B must be looked at in conjunction with the plan for Anniedale A.
- The City will be looking at a bio-diversity plan.
- A Committee member wondered about guiding principles regarding retention of habitat land and treed areas, and in certain cases, to protect some areas, there are levies placed on certain lots.
- Other areas of Surrey have large portions of land that have been reserved and have been purchased through park acquisition.
- An open house will be planned, but no date has been set yet. The Committee will receive an invitation.

T. Atva, Planner and K. Lambertson, B. Sc R P Bio, Phoenix Environmental Services Ltd. left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**1. City of Surrey Tree By-Law**

At the last meeting, it was requested that a copy of Surrey's current Tree By-Law (adopted in September, 2006) be available for the next meeting. A copy of the previous By-Law was made available on table.

C. Baron, Drainage & Environmental Manager gave an update. There is a one-year grace period for existing applications, though they will be encouraged to abide by the new By-Law. Discussion items, which took place included:

- Council has adopted amendments to the Tree By-Law.
- The Ticketing By-Law must also be amended.
- The Planning & Development Department is producing pamphlets and these will also be done in multiple languages.
- The maximum amount of the fines is set Provincially.
- Taking violators to court may be more effective, but it is very expensive.
- An appeal could be made to the Provincial Government to allow Surrey to raise the amount charged for ticketing.
- Forested areas could be preserved and saved before developments go in.
- In the area of 128th Street and 20th Avenue, trees that have been marked for preservation. Excavation has been taking place too close to their root systems, and it is questionable as to their survival.
- More staff are being hired to deal with tree issue and enforcement.
- Section 46 of the Tree By-Law contains a clause demanding a security deposit for subdivision development.
- The possibility of levying fines should be discussed with Legal Services.
- David Rylli brought up discussion on whether threats to riparian areas need to be addressed by the City and introduced into the By-Law – this area is covered under Fisheries legislation at the current time.
- If there is a setback, developers may not touch the vegetation due to the Federal Fisheries legislation.
- There are restrictive covenants (RC) on certain properties, but they are often ignored. Penalties should be imposed in these cases by the holder of the RC.
- Al Johnson could be invited to a meeting to update the Committee on this issue.
- A lot of trees could be saved through setbacks and covenants.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

It was Moved by S. Vankeulen
Seconded by C. Dragomir
That the Environmental Advisory
Committee recommends Council review the penalty schedules regarding the
Tree By-Law with a view to seeking legislative amendments to accommodate
higher fines and penalties to appropriate levels, when appropriate.
Carried

2. Members Status

A copy of Environmental Advisory Committee members list and their status was forwarded to each Committee member.

3. Transportation Issues

Councillor Bose brought an update on transportation issues within the City of Surrey. The following comments were provided:

- Translink's Terms of Reference deal with major issues rather than smaller issues.
- The Gateway Project is a major Provincial initiative, involving the widening of Highway 1, SFPR, Golden Ears and the enlargement of Highway 10 and 15.
- The governance of Translink has been before Council and a panel has been appointed consisting of 3 members to examine these issues.
- The Urban Transportation Showcase has 6 major components. The Urban Transit Village showcase project will affect Surrey. It is funded by the GVRD, Translink and the Federal Government; centered around the Surrey Central Skytrain station; and is designed to create an urban context to better support public transit.
- South Fraser Perimeter Road is part of the Gateway Project. The Committee would like to be kept informed on this issue, along with the Urban Tramway project.
- Surrey has many low-density areas, which does not support public transit.
- Council has made the decision to double the density in city centres, and this will support a better public transit system.
- Translink operates with a short-term 3-year plan and a rolling 10-year plan.
- The Transit Planning & Visioning Workshop is a new initiative south of the Fraser. It was designed to develop citizens' views on transit routes through 2031.
- B-Line buses will soon be servicing City core areas.
- Compressed natural gas bus technology may be supported.
- The Fraser Valley Heritage Rail Society has been raising funds to have the heritage train operating again. They are proposing hydrogen fuel cell

technology. Prior to 2010 they will have the trains running as a tourist attraction.

- Surrey is well positioned, as the PowerTech facility storing the necessary fuel is located in Surrey.
- Bus stop pull-offs need to be considered on major routes.
- The widening of Hwy 1 may disturb the fish habitat. Construction mechanisms will minimize disturbance of the fish habitat.
- Some members would like more of the area along the Fraser River to be converted to recreational land.

4. Tree Planting Program in the City of Surrey

At the last Environmental Advisory Committee meeting, the Committee asked for information on the tree-planting program in the City of Surrey. Information was presented on table to the Committee.

5. 2006 Update on Pest Control in City Parks

An update was provided by the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department on Pest Control in City Parks.

6. Surrey Futures Program

At the last meeting, it was requested that information regarding the Surrey Futures Program be on the next agenda. This item was deferred to the next meeting.

7. Elgin Creek Base Flow Augmentation Project Corporate Report R205

A brief discussion ensued. The members noted that the stakeholders' group was quite pleased with the information contained in the Corporate Report.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Solar Powered Trash Compactor

Bill Watson, inventor of the "Big Belly Cordless Solar Compaction System" would like the Committee to review information on his invention, and consider having him appear as a delegate.

- This information should be referred to Owen Croy, Manager of Parks and Rob Costanzo, Deputy Operations Manager.
- High profile areas should be targeted.

It was Moved by B. Stilwell
Seconded by F. Perello
That information on the Solar Powered
Trash Compactor be forwarded to O. Croy, Manager of Parks, and R. Costanzo,
Deputy Operations Manager, by the Administrative Assistant.
Carried

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

**1. Zoe Campbell, Municipal Program Coordinator
ERA Ecosystem Restoration Associates Inc.**

Z. Campbell, Municipal Program Coordinator requested to appear before Mayor & Council to present the Community Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (CERI) program and to share the program benefits. Council referred her to the Environmental Advisory Committee.

Action Item:

The Committee would like to invite the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department to attend their next meeting on December 6th, 2006.

It was Moved by B. Stilwell
Seconded by C. Dragomir
That the Environmental Advisory
Committee invite Z. Campbell, Municipal Program Coordinator to their next
meeting on December 6, 2006.

Carried

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

H. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

1. Val Schaeffer's book "Urban Biodiversity"

Councillor Bose distributed copies of Val Schaeffer's book "Urban Biodiversity" to committee members.

2. Level of Latimer Lake

A Committee member mentioned an article that was in the local paper about the low water level of Latimer Lake. The Committee member wondered what impact the low levels and the draws on this lake from Langley are having.

C. Baron, Drainage & Environmental Manager commented that the Township of Langley has commissioned a study by Golder and Associates on the Brookwood aquifer. She noted that in this report, the Brookwood aquifer is said to have lowered 12% since 1961 and is expected to lower an additional 8% by 2018. The effect of the groundwater table lowering from Langley's development and extraction has not been linked to Latimer Lake levels at this time. Latimer Lake levels are a function of the groundwater table and rainfall in the area.

3. Next Meeting

R. Wetzel stated that he would not be in attendance at the next meeting. The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be December 6th, 2006.

I. NEXT MEETING

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

L. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by F. Perello
Seconded by C. Dragomir
That the meeting do now adjourn.
Carried

The Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Certified as true and correct:

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Ross Wetzel
Environmental Advisory Committee