



City of Surrey

Environmental Advisory Committee

Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2007
Time: 6:37 p.m.
File: 0540-20

Present:

M. Deo
C. Dragomir
S. Li
D. Maher
G. Sangha
B. Stewart
B. Stillwell
Councillor Bose

Absent:

F. Perello
K. Keshvani

Staff Present:

C. Baron, Drainage & Environment Manager
J. Boan, Transportation Manager
L. Anderson, Legislative Services

Agricultural Advisory Committee
Representative

Absent: S. VanKeulen

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m.

The agenda was varied to deal with the following item:

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Environmental Advisory Committee (“EAC”) Minutes - February 21, 2007

It was Moved by Councillor Bose
Seconded by D. Maher
That the minutes of the Environmental
Advisory Committee meeting of February 21, 2007 be adopted.
Carried

ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

1. The Committee was requested to appoint a representative to the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

It was Moved by Councillor Bose
Seconded by H. Locke
That Bill Stewart be appointed as a
representative to the Agricultural Advisory Committee.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Sustainability Charter Update

M. Allison, Senior Planner, was present to provide an update on the Sustainability Charter. The EAC were given a memo dated March 21, 2007 from M. Allison that addressed the current status of the progress toward creating a Sustainability Charter for the City of Surrey, incorporating the points made from the stakeholder group at the Sustainability Workshop held on January 20, 2007. An overview and comments were provided as follows:

- There are three phases in development of the Sustainability Charter:
 - Phase I – Definition of Sustainability and Charter Scope;
 - Phase II – Development of Sustainability Charter/Implementation Options; and
 - Phase III – Development of an Implementation Strategy
- The Sustainability Charter is intended to address three key areas:
 - Incorporating sustainability practices into corporate operations (i.e., the City's operations generally, what the fleet looks like, what type of vehicles are being bought, etc.);
 - Adopting sustainability practices in areas under direct municipal jurisdiction, such as land use regulation, development approval, transportation planning and green buildings; and
 - Promoting sustainability in areas that affect the City but are under the jurisdiction of other levels of government or the private sector, such as provincial highways, building codes and federal/provincial infrastructure programs.
- The first phase of the project is well underway.
- An Interdepartmental Steering Committee has been formed and that committee has reviewed the scope of the charter and will coordinate departmental roles and responsibilities in the process.
- Research has been conducted into how sustainability policies are addressed in other jurisdictions and into how best practices in sustainability have been implemented.
- The Community Energy Association estimates that up to 50% of energy consumption and contributions to greenhouse gases could be influenced by local governments (e.g., engineering standards, compact urban form that requires less driving, building practices, etc.).
- At the workshop conducted with the EAC in January 2007, the EAC recommended that a public Steering Committee for the process involve the EAC, representatives of key City committees representing Economic, Social and Cultural interests and a community umbrella group involved in sustainability, such as the Surrey Association for Sustainable Communities.
- It was decided that feedback on the various process phases from other community stakeholders would be solicited through questionnaires and that the general public should be involved through an Open House to review proposals for the Charter.

- Staff are in the process of identifying members from the stakeholder organizations for the steering committee. A list of community stakeholder groups has been compiled and a letter introducing the charter process and soliciting feedback on Phase I scope issues has been issued to approximately 60 different community groups (e.g., David Suzuki, Smart Growth), economic groups (e.g., Surrey Board of Trade) and social groups (e.g., United Way) with responses being requested by March 21st.
- There will be a Public Open House with a draft Sustainability Charter and implementation plan by the summer with the completed Sustainability Charter anticipated in the fall.
- June 9, the Saturday of Environmental Week, has been set aside as the tentative date for the Open House.
- The Sustainability Charter process is intended to support resident quality of life while addressing the three pillars of sustainability: economic, environmental and social.

M. Allison proposed the commonly used Brundtland Commission definition of sustainable development to specifically identify the three main aspects of sustainability and to stress that the achievement of sustainability should be done in the context of improving the quality of life. A preamble would also specify the municipal role in achieving sustainability. The proposed working definition of sustainability, that was agreed upon by the EAC, is:

“Sustainability is the principle of meeting the needs of the present generation in terms of the environment, the economy and social systems while promoting a high quality of life but without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

S. Li joined the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

The Chair made note of an article regarding global warming and encouraged the Committee to review.

J. Boan joined the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Various comments were made regarding global warming in relation to past history and present sustainability efforts. It was noted that there is acceptance of the general theory of climate change by the large majority of the scientific community.

C. Dragomir joined the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

M. Allison continued the presentation by providing an overview of the memo received on table by the EAC clarifying each of the areas that are tied into the Sustainability Charter as follows:

- Based on discussions with staff and stakeholders, including the EAC workshop held on January 20th, the items that have been identified for consideration in the Charter process have been broken down into three groups which were then further split to those that relate directly to Surrey and are influenced by Surrey:

- Economic
 - *Corporate Operations* – infrastructure maintenance and replacement; new and retrofitted buildings/facilities standards; and sustainable fiscal management practices.
 - *Municipal Jurisdiction* – business licensing requirements; influencing and educating the building industry; promoting green technology development and businesses; and economic/employment/industrial strategy.
 - *Influencing Other Levels of Government* – taxation policies and financial incentives (e.g., tax shifting, carbon taxes, energy efficiency rebate programs, fuel efficient vehicle standards, distance based car insurance); retain the viability of agricultural and employment land base – supply management instruments; building/energy codes and standards; and “green” infrastructure grants.
- Environmental
 - *Corporate Operations* – vehicle fleet and employee trip reduction programs and “green” procurement policies – including consultants and contractors.
 - *Municipal Jurisdiction* – engineering standards and practices (e.g., drainage, sewers, water); land use planning and development (e.g., transit oriented development); and public realm design: parks, streets, sidewalks, greenway/trail systems.
 - *Influencing Other Levels of Government* – Transit, cycling, HOV funding from TransLink, province, federal government; bio-diversity/wildlife/fisheries – habitat management tools and assistance; and urban forestry management programs.
- Social
 - *Corporate Operations* – personnel policies/staff training and awareness.
 - *Municipal Jurisdiction* – Plan for Social Well Being (areas under municipal responsibility); and municipal outreach/public education and awareness (harnessing, fostering and empowering communities of interest and neighbourhoods e.g., nature matters).
 - *Influencing Other Levels of Government* – social infrastructure and services; coordination with SD 36 - education on Surrey’s sustainability issues; and Plan for Social Well Being (areas under responsibility of other governments).

Discussion ensued regarding social opportunities and it was suggested that Aileen Murphy, Senior Planner (Social), be invited to provide a presentation on what the City is doing to address the social aspects of sustainability.

It was agreed that the proposed Sustainable Charter theme will be “Sustainable Surrey”. Implementation is key – institutionalizing sustainability by putting into

corporate operations, engineering, land use, planning and how the City makes this the way of doing business.

It was requested that ideas be brought back of sustainability prototypes (ie. False Creek). A sliding scale graphical approach may be used to show present sustainability indicator statistics: average kilometres, average energy consumption, etc., and then compare these to other locations around the world.

In place of a further workshop, it was agreed that, in order to move ahead, M. Allison will provide a review session at each meeting and that there be a major workshop at each phase. It is anticipated that the first stage draft report will be provided at the April meeting.

2. City of Surrey Transit Plan

J. Boan, Transportation Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the transit planning for the City. The following review and comments were made:

- The largest projects at present are the Gateway – Highway 1 / South Fraser Perimeter Road (SFPR).
- Golden Ears Bridge is already under construction.
- Work was started on the Transport 2031 and GVRD Livable Region Strategy in mid 2006.
- Updating the Surrey Transit Plan has recently started.
- The last update to the Transit Plan was done in 1999; Surrey has grown 25% since then, requiring a transit plan that will have a greater focus on alternatives to the automobile.
- Transit is important for:
 - Accessibility - not everyone has a vehicle;
 - Efficiency – each full bus removes approximately 100 cars off the road; transit plays a huge role - increasing the use of transit addresses the road size requirements.
 - Environment & health – add bike racks to buses encourages leaving cars at home.
 - Economy – reduce congestion. Congestion will never be gone, but it does help in terms of how long it takes to get to work.
- An improved transit system will provide:
 - more travel choice;
 - healthier communities;
 - protection of natural environment;
 - economic well-being; and
 - sustainable growth and development.
- The South of Fraser Area Transit Plan (“SoFA TP”) encompasses six areas: North Shore; Vancouver/UBC; Burnaby and New Westminster; Richmond; Northeast Sector; Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows; and South of Fraser.
- The SoFA TP sub-sector study areas are broken into four groups: Ladner/Tsawwassen; Surrey/North Delta; South Surrey/White Rock; and East Surrey/Langley/Cloverdale.

- SoFA Goals:
 - Create a long range transit “vision” for the future. Previous transit plans have not looked at long range.
 - Improve land use-transit integration. Integrating land use and transit together will provide an opportunity to determine how much land is needed to protect for future transit services.
 - Increase transit mode share in the region.
 - Raise awareness and interest about transit.
 - Provide support and input to LRSP and Strategic Transportation Plan updates.
- SoFA TP Deliverables:
 - Integrated Long Range Transit Strategy.
 - Rapid Transit Strategy.
 - Custom Transit & Community Shuttle Strategy (lower cost).
 - Review & Revise Existing Network.
 - Four Sub-Sector Improvement Plans (5 Year Implementation Plans) – first stage to look at longer range and then look at the shorter to tie into the long range plan.
 - Capital Fleet & Facilities Plan including Park & Ride, exchanges, etc. - prime corridors: King George, 152 Street, Fraser Highway, 104 Avenue; working towards a 15 minute schedule on these routes to ensure bus service within 15 minutes.
- Looking at 2031 (possibly sooner) for a rapid bus on Highway #1.
- Surrey Transit Goals from SoFA TP:
 - Transit “vision” for the future – ability for City to protect & plan for future rapid transit.
 - Investment that reflects the current & future position of Surrey – population, employment.
 - Defined and detailed new routes, service improvements and additional service hours.
 - Identified priorities for future improvements but flexibility to meet changing growth patterns.
 - Proactive rather than reactive approach to implementing new transit routes.
- Other transit initiatives are being reviewed such as the TransLink Accessibility Audit, City of Surrey Bus Bench & Shelter Contracts, City of Surrey signal co-ordination, the 10 Year Servicing Plan, protection of right-of-ways (as developments come in, look to see what is being provided to protect) and CMBC liaison.

Discussion ensued regarding alternate transport options and the following comments were made:

- There needs to be a long term plan to connect long distances with non-polluting forms of transport such as the skytrain (electricity or hydrogen minimizes pollution).

M. Allison left the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

- An option for metro is very expensive, it needs to be staged. There is potential for inter-urban rail that may become future.

- There is a shuttle in Fraser Heights where the demand is so high that a further route has to be implemented.
- Using the community shuttles has allowed more service to be provided as the size of the buses work well.
- East Clayton is also an area that will be given community shuttle options very soon.
- Large buses cannot be sustained with minimal ridership; community shuttles offer a greater service at lower costs, providing an opportunity to offer service in 15 minute intervals that will be more reliable and desirable.
- Surrey is a large region with transportation demands throughout however there are parts of Surrey that are very low density that are hard to service.
- The hours of the buses in relation to the skytrain are being reviewed; there is a need to align the operating hours of the buses to that of the skytrain that will encourage greater use of the bus routes.

J. Boan left the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Environment Assessment Office

The Drainage & Environmental Manager provided an overview of the Environment Assessment Office and the assessment process, as requested by the EAC. The information was collected from the website of the Environment Assessment Office and relates to the Gateway projects at this time.

It was Moved by Councillor Bose
 Seconded by B. Stewart
 That the information provided to the
 Environmental Advisory Committee on the Environment Assessment Office and
 the assessment process be received.

Carried

2. Public Meeting Dates

The Drainage & Environmental Manager provided a tentative schedule of stakeholder and public meetings for various environmental projects. It is intended to assist EAC members with priority planning for the year. The following comments were provided:

- At the previous meeting of the EAC there had been discussion regarding upcoming key projects, delegations, etc.
- The tentative schedule that has been distributed already requires some changes (eg. the Gateway delegation would prefer a date in May rather than April). Further changes are anticipated.

- It was suggested that further changes to the schedule be circulated to the EAC by Staff, via email, as the changes occur instead being placed on each meeting agenda.
- It was further suggested that a legend of abbreviations be incorporated in the schedule (ie. ISMP = integrated storm water management).

The tentative schedule was received by the EAC as information and work in progress.

3. City of Surrey Website

At the EAC meeting held on February 21, 2007, the Committee was asked to review the City's web page for the EAC and to provide comments at the March meeting.

M. Deo left the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

It was noted that the website will be updated regularly as the Sustainable Charter develops further.

An brief overview of information that is available on the City's website was given.

4. EAC 2007 Priority Items & Work Plan

A copy of the Draft (2/21/07) EAC 2007 Priority Items & Work Plan was provided to review and/or amend as required.

It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting of the EAC.

D. NEW BUSINESS

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

- 1. 2007 Salmon Habitat and Restoration Program: "ShaRP"**
Corporate Report No.: R022
File No.: 4807-905; 1855-01; 5250-20-48

At the Regular Council Public Hearing Meeting held on February 26, 2007, Council requested a copy of the above noted report be provided to the EAC for information. The report was received for information by the EAC.

2. Built Green™ and Energy Efficiency for Residential Buildings
Corporate Report No.: R030
File No.: 6700-01

At the Regular Council Public Hearing Meeting held on February 26, 2007, Council requested a copy of the above noted report be provided to the EAC for information only. The report was received for information by the EAC and further comments were given as follows:

- A well attended workshop was held recently regarding energy efficiency and green built residential homes.
- Many City staff were present, representing various departments which reflects well on the level of integration of people involved on this issue.
- There was a fair amount of discussion regarding the public's willingness to pay for green built homes.
- What was missing in the discussion was the life cycle costs and how the more energy efficiency home could reduce the ongoing operating costs; the payback is immediate.
- Payback on the City's initiatives in this regard have already produced an impressive return for the redesign work done at City Hall; the demand for lighting is only half of what it was prior to the redesign.

David Rylli of the Little Campbell Watershed Society, was present as an observer to the EAC meeting. The Chair gave permission for David Rylli to be heard. The following comments were made:

- As a certified R2000 builder, I can confirm that the R2000 houses built in the 1980's have had the investment paid for by now.
- Current consumers are not willing to put money into new homes built green.
- Developers are taking little steps towards building green, but are cautious, ensuring they are paid in return as it is a hard sell and the developers are usually at the margin of affordability.
- Banks will not agree, they don't know the costs will be proven.
- Commercial development is strong and it is very strong in custom residential, but there is still a long way for the typical residential consumer to be willing to pay the extra.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Sustainable Region Initiative Task Force Reports

Excerpts from the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) Board meeting of February 16, 2007 were provided by Mayor Watts to the EAC and received by the EAC as information.

H. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the EAC will be held on April 18, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

L. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Bose
Seconded by B. Stewart
That the Environmental Advisory

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Chairperson (name and Committee)