



City of Surrey

Environmental Advisory Committee

Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 2007
Time: 6:25 p.m.
File: 0540-20

Present:

B. Stillwell - Chair
D. Maher
M. Deo
C. Dragomir
A. Keshvani
G. Sangha
B. Stewart
Councillor Bose

Absent:

F. Perello
H. Locke
S. Li
S. VanKeulen - Agricultural Advisory
Committee Representative

Staff Present:

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:25 p.m.

The following items were added to the agenda:

- D.2: Use of Herbicides for Weed Control in Street Landscaping;
- D.3: Update on 2007 Salmon Habitat and Restoration Program: "SHaRP"; and
- D.4: Recycling Depots

It was Moved by Councillor Bose
Seconded by B. Stewart
That the agenda of the Environmental
Advisory Committee meeting held on July 18, 2007, be adopted, as amended.
Carried

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Environmental Advisory Committee ("EAC") - Minutes

It was Moved by Councillor Bose
Seconded by C. Dragomir
That the minutes of the Environmental
Advisory Committee meeting of June 20, 2007 be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Gateway 40

At the June 20, 2007 EAC meeting the EAC passed the following resolution:
"That Gateway 40 representatives be invited to attend, as a delegation, to the July 18, 2007 meeting." Further to that resolution, Gateway 40 representatives Donna

Passmore, Fraser Valley Conservation Coalition, Deb Jack, Chair, Surrey Environmental Partners and Kevin Purton, Surrey Environmental Partners, were in attendance to express concerns to the EAC regarding the Gateway Transportation Plan.

It was Moved by Councillor Bose
Seconded by B. Stewart
That adequate time be given to the Gateway
40 delegation to provide their presentation to the EAC.
Carried

The delegation was introduced and provided the Committee with a copy of their recently published report on global warming. In addition to the information provided on table, via email, a further overview of the collective concerns of the Gateway 40 members was given with the following points being made:

- The Gateway 40 Network represents over 40 community groups that are working together to point out the flaws in the Gateway Program and offer alternatives that will keep the Lower Mainland the most liveable region in Canada.
- We are surrounded by marine and fresh water eco systems overlapping farmland, marshes and wooded areas, known as environmental sensitive areas.
- It is felt that the solutions to the serious transportation issues on Highway 1 were imposed on the population, rather than proposed, without any discussion or meaningful consultation.
- The South Fraser Perimeter Road (SFPR) route is within 1 km of 16 schools in Surrey and Delta,
- It has been suggested that there may be as many as 6,500 to 20,000 trucks per day on the SFPR before being disbursed on to other routes.
- There are seven entire neighbourhoods that are going to be completely encircled by a new highway.
- The SFPR will cross 110 streams and watercourses through its length.
- The SFPR project, which ends at the door to Barnston Island, represents a massive loss to farm land, a negative impact to wildlife and an upset of hydrology.
- Something that needs to be considered is that the SFPR will not be truck exclusive, however it does not provide for public transport.
- 73% of the residents affected directly by the Highway 1 project have expressed a preference to having monies spent on public transit rather than roads.
- Food land loss is absolute, it cannot be mitigated, restitution is not possible and feeding our children will not be there.
- There are serious air pollution and traffic congestion concerns. It has been said in the past that a few cars taken out of congestion can make a dramatic difference. For this reason, there should be no delay (6 years) in adding buses when busses can be added beforehand to see what the difference is and reap the benefits of a healthier environment.

Sincere appreciation to the delegation for the time and effort that had been made and the important principles that were touched upon by the delegation was expressed by the Committee.

C. Baron noted that there have been three further papers issued regarding the Highway 1 project, EAC members are to look at the BC environmental website if interested as the comment period is of short duration.

It was
the Gateway 40 delegation for their very informative presentation.

Moved by Councillor Bose
Seconded by C. Dragomir
That the EAC express their appreciation to
Carried

Discussion ensued regarding EAC attendance at various open houses in order to be exposed to what the community has to say.

As there is a strong sense that the focus is on building the infrastructure without considering traffic management regimes and the consequences, etc., it was noted an additional Committee meeting in September should be considered in order to devote time specifically to this issue.

It was
meeting in early September to consider all of the issues that have been the subject of discussion on SFPR and Port Mann Highway #1 widening in the view of making recommendations to Council.

Moved by Councillor Bose
Seconded by M. Deo
That the EAC convene an additional
Carried

The Committee was requested to be prepared to meet at the call of the Chair in early September.

D. Passmore and K. Purton left the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

2. Sustainability Charter – Social Aspects

At the EAC meeting held on March 21, 2007, it was agreed that A. Murphy, Senior Planner (Social), be invited to provide a presentation on what the City is doing to address the social aspects of sustainability. A. Murphy was in attendance to provide an update, together with a PowerPoint presentation and various handouts regarding the action plan components of the Plan for the Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents. Additional comments were as follows:

- Goal is to provide strategic direction for the City's actions relative to social issues in Surrey.
- Priorities are: (1) children & youth; (2) community development & diversity; (3) crime & public safety; (4) housing & homelessness; and (5) substance abuse & addictions.

- The City has primary responsibility in the following 5 issue elements:
 - create a child and youth friendly city;
 - programs and recreation for children and youth;
 - initiatives to encourage citizen engagement with social issues and social planning activity;
 - city clean up programs and civic pride initiatives; and
 - ethno and culturally appropriate services, opportunities and programming.
- The 2006-2007 highlights of Surrey's plan for the social well-being of its residents are:
 - Community Engagement and Collaboration
 - Social Planning and Multi-Cultural Advisory Committees
 - Mayors Task Forces
 - Youth Engagement
 - Local and Regional Committees
 - Surrey Homelessness & Housing Fund
 - City Of Surrey Crime Reduction Strategy
 - Surrey Urban Enrichment Initiative
 - Parks, Recreation and Culture Programs
 - Surrey Public Library Programs
 - Community Schools Partnership Initiative

A. Murphy provided each of the Committee members with the following handouts:

1. "Plan for the Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents, Public Open House and Meeting"; and
2. "Action Plan for the Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents, 2006-2007 Annual Report".

In closing, A. Murphy reviewed the Vision Statement of Social Sustainability that was created by the participants at the June 2007 Sustainability Workshop as well as the top issues from the youth portion of the workshop. A strong emphasis on a caring and compassionate city was noted.

A. Murphy left the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Highway 1/Port Mann Twinning Project

At the June 20, 2007 EAC meeting the EAC passed the following resolution:
"That Engineering staff undertake to make a presentation at the next meeting of the EAC on the whole transportation model on the basis of the assessment of the Port Mann project."

Further to that resolution, the following link was provided for the Committee to review: "Item 4. Regional Transportation Implications of the Provincial Gateway Program", dated July 7, 2006.

www.translink.bc.ca/WhatsNewandBoardMeetings/Board_Reports/2006/20060719.asp

Engineering staff will provide a follow-up at a future meeting if members have comments on the Translink materials presented.

2. Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM)

C. Baron, Drainage & Environment Manager, was in attendance at the Local Government and the Environment Conference held on June 27th and 28th, 2007, and provided a brief update. The following was noted:

- The conference was well received with most municipalities having representation from staff and councillors.
- Many of the attendees were from the lower mainland providing a great deal of information and networking opportunities.
- Multiple sessions on various topics were covered.
- One of the big items was the proposed change to the *Wildlife Act* (which had been shelved since 2004) and the approach to wildlife to make it more holistic; it doesn't make sense to be individualistic, make it more the needs of the community.
- Most of the information was provided in PowerPoint's and discussion, with talk of having the information available through the UBCM's website/civicnet.
- It was noted that Dawson Creek has been creating a sustainability charter for the past two years; although they are not as big as Surrey, discussions with their staff was very informative.
- The conferences are held every couple of years.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Draft Preferred Land Use Concept for Grandview Heights Neighbourhood Concept Plan #2 Public Open House – June 21, 2007

The EAC member(s) in attendance at the Open House regarding the above provided a brief follow-up. The following comments were made:

- Only a couple of concerns were raised:
 - why there is no highway access from 24 Avenue; and
 - wanting higher density, yielding more money for the land.
- The density projected in that area averages approximately 10 units per acre, medium density.

It was noted that the environmentally sensitive areas identified appear to be having too many trees taken away.

The Agenda was varied.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

1. Green Fleet Management Plan

At the June 25, 2007 Regular Council – Public Hearing meeting, Council passed the following resolution: *“That the letter dated June 15, 2007 from Gil Mervyn, Municipal Clerk, The Corporation of Delta be referred to the Environmental Advisory Committee”.*

A above mentioned letter with attachments was discussed and the following points were made:

- Purchasing hybrid electrics whenever possible is essentially paying a premium for technology, a premium that could be invested elsewhere for a “bigger bank for the buck”. It may be better to “right size” instead of buying in order to invest those premiums elsewhere.
- There is no inclusion of maintenance and costs. In a municipal application, vehicles will sit all weekend and evenings; batteries will not last if they are not charged. There is also the issue of what to do with the old batteries.
- Fleet management requires a need to examine the wide range of vehicles in all different configurations in order to make the best of the overall situation.
- There is a common use of traditional suppliers due to the import dealers typically not going for fleet business opportunities.
- There needs to be some sort of business to respond and to build in how that decision is going to be evaluated. Some of that can be by looking at carbon trading (there is a certain value of trading CO2 credits).
- Figures that were considered in the Delta report where the old sticker figures.
- Biodiesel fuel operationally might not be the best as technologies are not necessarily warranted to biodiesel, most technologies at present are B5. Beginning next year with heavy duty trucks, B20 will not be allowed. The difference is the renewal component of the oil. Ideally B20 can be great, but it will cost the City at the end of the day if not set up for the other components needed.
- Stage 3 of the Sustainability Charter is where the EAC has influence and will provide an opportunity to discuss the choices for the City in greater detail.
- It would be worthwhile to appoint a fleet trainer to look at the fuel consumption that the City goes through, and where the opportunities lie to save further; internally promoting awareness to the costs of driving could also be considered.
- Dollars and sense are important, but perception is important too.

It was

Moved by Councillor Bose

Seconded by M. Deo

That Engineering fleet management staff be invited to provide a presentation on their program and an update at the point where it is appropriately advanced or reviewed.

Carried

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

**1. 84 Avenue Extension: King George Highway
to 140 Street
Report on Public Input – Open House #1**

At the July 9, 2007 Regular Council – Public Hearing meeting, Council passed a resolution approving the recommendations of Corporate Report R165. A copy of Corporate Report R165 was provided to the EAC for information.

The recommendation of the staff was that this item be placed in abeyance until a thorough study be done due to concerns that have developed on this issue.

It was noted, based on the attendance outlined in the Corporate Report, that there is an understanding of the impact to the area west of 84 Avenue, however there is concern that the residential area between 123 Street and Scott Road are not aware of the potential impact and that the modelling being done does not extend far enough.

D. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

**2. Use of Herbicides for Weed Control in Street Landscaping
Corporate Report C016**

It was noted that the presentation to Council of Corporate Report C016 did not provide information regarding how the City is moving from one set of regimes to the next; what is being phased out and added. A request to have this information put together and brought to the Committee was discussed. It was noted that O. Croy, Manager, Parks, who has the technical experience, has been keeping stats of this information.

It was Moved by B. Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Bose
That O. Croy, Manager, Parks, be invited to
provide further information regarding Corporate Report C016.
Carried

3. Update on 2007 Salmon Habitat and Restoration Program: "SHaRP" Corporate Report R145

The following information was provided regarding SHaRP program:

- Funding for the program to have the number of students that there have been in the past was withdrawn from the HRDC and Provincial AEPI.
- Funding was sought from Council to offset the loss and to maintain a larger team.
- Council allocated funding and a letter from the Mayor will be sent to the appropriate Federal and Provincial ministries to encourage the reinstatement of historic funding to the SHaRP program.

It was

Moved by B. Stewart
Seconded by B. Stilwell
That Corporate Report R145 be received.
Carried

4. Recycling Depots

It was noted that there does not appear to be many recycling depots for products such as empty paint cans. A request to have an update on the question of product care was made. With the upcoming renewal of the garbage pick up contracts, it will be timely to include this concern as part of the review. A presentation to the Committee by Robert Costanzo, Deputy Manager Engineering Operations, is anticipated early in the fall.

H. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

1. Sustainability Charter Meeting

C. Baron requested that the Committee provide a date, prior to September, for the next Sustainability Charter meeting for a review of Phase 2 findings. It was agreed that August 22 and 29, 2007, were the most suitable dates. Once the availability of the meeting room is confirmed, the Committee will be advised and a summary for the workshop will be sent.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the EAC will be held on September 19, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

L. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Bose

Seconded by M. Deo

That the Environmental Advisory

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Bill Stilwell, Chair