



# City of Surrey

## *Environmental Advisory Committee*

### *Minutes*

Executive Boardroom  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2008**  
Time: 6:30 p.m.  
File: 0540-20

---

**Present:**

B. Stillwell - Chair  
M. Deo  
C. Dragomir  
M. Harcourt  
A. Keshvani  
G. Sangha  
A. Schulze  
W. Stewart  
Councillor Bose

**Absent:**

H. Locke  
D. Maher  
S. VanKeulen, Agricultural Advisory  
Committee Representative

**Staff Present:**

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

---

**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**1. Environmental Advisory Committee (“EAC”) Minutes**

It was Moved by K. Keshvani  
Seconded by C. Dragomir  
That the minutes of the Environmental  
Advisory Committee meeting of May 21, 2008 be adopted.  
Carried

**B. DELEGATIONS**

**1. EAC 2008 Priority Items & Work Plan**  
**Item 5. Transportation/Transit Plan Issues**

P. Bellefontaine, Engineering, was in attendance to provide an overview of the Draft Transportation Plan. A PowerPoint presentation was given on the Transportation Strategy (the “Strategy”) and the following comments were made:

- A new Strategy is required:
  - o as the last Transportation Plan was produced in 1999;
  - o to accommodate the City’s rapid growth and change in the City’s position in the region and the new issues and priorities that come from that; and
  - o to respond to and guide other Plans and Initiatives such as
    - Gateway, Golden Ears Bridge, South Fraser Perimeter Road;
    - South of Fraser Area (SoFA) Transit Plan;
    - Provincial Transit and Cycling Plans;
    - new Neighbourhood Concept Plans (NCPs);
    - the Sustainability Charter;
    - the 2008 update of the Official Community Plan (OCP); and
    - the GVRD Liveable Region Strategy/Transport 2040.

- The Strategy will provide a vision for how transportation will be delivered in Surrey.
- Over the last year the City has been looking at the level of transit in Surrey and meeting with TransLink, advocating on behalf of the Region; the recently produced Provincial Transit Plan, has some fairly significant numbers attached to it.
- The Strategy will identify, evaluate and prioritize the issues and challenges. It will also establish objectives and strategies, identify funding need (both short and long term) and will be a springboard for new policies and updates.
- For the first time, the Strategy will have a performance component which, once produced and adopted, will be monitored/reviewed every one or two years to ensure that expectations are being met.
- The Strategy will be shaped by consultation with input from stakeholders and the general public (including seniors, youth, people with mobility difficulties, service providers, community groups, etc.) in order to determine and understand the expectations, concerns and issues that affect everyone differently.
- Consultation components and activities include telephone surveys, focus groups, web page and survey (which received 1,100 responses), distribution of information packs to community groups and other stakeholders, individual meetings and internal liaison meetings.
- One of the challenges is that Surrey is not the same from one area to another; there are different issues, features, characteristics, etc.
- Issues of higher priority include:
  - o delays and congestion at signalized intersections;
  - o truck traffic;
  - o the need for quality transit;
  - o connectivity to arterial road network from neighbourhoods; and
  - o the City to complete planned road network,followed by:
  - o traffic noise;
  - o parking in residential neighbourhoods; and
  - o traffic calming.
- If targets are going to be set, the prediction of external influences must be ensured (e.g. TransLink changes, change in government, etc.).
- The Institute of Engineers recommend that a sustainable approach be taken in developing the Strategy. Surrey is perhaps the first to be following this type of suggestion.
- A lot of information is based on the Land Use Plans and NCPs.
- Surrey's roadwork system is the City's largest asset; it needs to be looked after and maintained in order to build on that.
- A very explicit link between land use and transportation was not made in the last Strategy. That Strategy was robust in itself with a good vision, but restrained in its thinking (e.g. external influences – gas prices, etc.), which have had some affect on the targets of that Strategy.

- A significant level of attention was not given to transportation 10 years ago.
- As the City becomes equipped with transportation issues, responses have to be in real time; the critical point where gridlock has made the demand so high has been reached.

Discussion ensued regarding public transportation factors – frequency and fare.

Comments continued:

- With regard to public transportation, frequency is the most powerful aspect in terms of increasing ridership.
- The principles of the Strategy will reflect a broader holistic view of transportation and align with stakeholder concerns and City priorities. It will also provide a structure that echos the broad range of City responsibilities, accommodates new initiatives and addresses public and stakeholder priorities.

M. Harcourt left the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

- Next steps include:
  - o Transportation Advisory Committee meeting at the end of July;
  - o A second round of consultation on the Draft Strategy;
  - o Production of a shorter “Handbook” version of the Strategy; and
  - o Council adoption – September.

The Chair thanked the P. Bellefontaine for the presentation and requested a copy of the presentation for various members of the Committee.

## **2. OCP Review**

The EAC 2008 Priority Items & Work Plan includes staff delegation requests to periodically speak to the Committee regarding various issues.

A request from the Planning Department was received to have Don Luymes, Policy Planning Manager, provide a presentation on the OCP review at the June meeting. The presentation has been re-scheduled to the September meeting.

## **C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

### **1. Summary of Organizational Planning Retreat - January 28, 2006**

At the May 21, 2008 EAC meeting, it was noted that a copy of the Summary of the Organizational Planning Retreat, that was held on January 28, 2006, should be included in the Agenda for June for discussion purposes and as background information for the new Committee members.

It was Moved by Councillor Bose  
Seconded by M. Deo  
That the Summary of the Organizational  
Planning Retreat, that was held on January 28, 2006, be received.  
Carried

**2. Campbell Heights Phase I Channel Rehabilitation**

At the May 21, 2008 EAC meeting, it was noted that A. Schulze and B. Stewart would review the information provided on the above and will provide comments to C. Baron as early as possible.

C. Baron advised that B. Stewart and A. Schulze had provided comments regarding the above to her directly and that the Campbell Heights Environmental Review Panel (CHERP) had a meeting and a walk through the site, comments from which are presently being compiled for review.

It was Moved by M. Deo  
Seconded by C. Dragomir  
That the information on the Campbell  
Heights Phase I Channel Rehabilitation be received.  
Carried

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

**E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

**F. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**1. Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

A. Schulze noted his attendance at the Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration held on May 31, 2008, and provided the Committee with an update. Additional comments were as follows:

- There was approximately 75 attendees.
- Roy Strang, previous member of the EAC, was honoured as a life member and will have a bench dedicated to him.
- Sunnyside forest looks very good.

The question of root rot was raised. It was noted that the problem with root rot has been contained but not irradiated. It was further noted that S. Godwin, Environmental Coordinator, will be in attendance at the July meeting and can talk more on this issue at that time.

In addition to attending the above, A. Schulze noted further his attendance at the 2008 Parks, Recreation & Culture Strategic Plan Public Open House, held on May 31, 2008 at the South Surrey Recreation Centre.

## **G. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **1. Canadian Cancer Society**

The June 18, 2008 email correspondence from B. Colero, Canadian Cancer Society, regarding the presentation on the use of pesticides given to the Committee in 2007, was reviewed.

It was  
Moved by Councillor Bose  
Seconded by B. Stewart  
That the correspondence received from  
B. Colero, Canadian Cancer Society, be referred to the Manager of Parks.  
Carried

The Chair provided a copy of a newspaper article from the National Post, dated June 17, 2008, regarding pesticide use and requested that the article also be forwarded to the Manager of Parks for information.

## **H. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

### **1. EAC 2008 Priority Items & Work Plan**

The 2008 Priority Items & Work Plan is provided as an on-going item as a guideline, for review and updates as necessary. Comments were as follows:

- It would be really helpful if the City has some demonstration plots (e.g. community gardens, what can be achieved, etc.), on the City's website.
- A presentation from the Planning & Development department should be considered for a future EAC meeting in order to provide an update.
- C. Baron to speak with G. Ward, Urban Forestry & Environment Programs and O. Croy, Manager of Parks, regarding the education component of the Work Plan.

## 2. Beavers

Due to the recent media coverage regarding the beaver population in Surrey and how that is being addressed by the City, C. Dragomir expressed his strong protest in opposition. In response, the following comments were provided:

- The beaver population is higher now in the province than it was in post trapper time, there are million of them.
- The beavers (rodents) have a very high rate of reproduction. The increased population makes it very difficult to manage.
- Until three years ago, the beavers used to be trapped and then relocated.
- The provincial government changed the rules regarding relocating the beavers due to their rapid increase in population.
- The beavers that are terminated are limited only to those that cause extensive nuisance, flood damage of houses, roads, etc. which, in 2007, totalled six.
- Natural predators of beavers are bears, coyotes and wolves.
- Dams that are removed are often rebuilt within hours.
- Complaints have been received from hundreds of areas. If the beavers are not a nuisance and the safety of public is not at risk because of these beavers, then there is no concern for the City and nothing done. Residents themselves have been taking matters into their own hands cleaning up the damage/mess made due to the beavers.
- The increased numbers have made the situation impossible, in some cases, to manage.
- Every pond has beavers.
- It is not simply one or two beavers per site, there are colonies, one of which the City has been monitoring for the past two years.
- Where beavers become an issue is with farmers. There is no room in the flat lands (because of the tides) where flood protection for the low houses is in place. The beavers cause a great deal of damage in these areas (railway tracks, homes, etc.).
- The last time King George Highway flooded was due to beaver dams.
- A meeting with the Ministry of Environment has been scheduled where the question of reverting back to relocating the beavers will be raised.

A brief discussion ensued regarding a potential re-establishment of a relocation program if a place was found to relocate the beavers.

## I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the EAC will be held on July 16, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by M. Deo  
Seconded by Councillor Bose  
That the Environmental Advisory

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

---

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

---

Bill Stilwell, Chair  
Environmental Advisory Committee