



City of Surrey

Environmental Advisory Committee

Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2009
Time: 6:38 p.m.
File: 0540-20

Present:

A. Schulze - Chair
B. Campbell
M. Deo
M. Harcourt
D. Maher
G. Sahota
G. Sangha
B. Stewart
Councillor Bose

Regrets:

C. Dragomir
K. Keshvani
S. VanKeulen, Agricultural Advisory
Committee Representative

Staff Present:

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

Also Present:

Wilf Wedmann, Surrey/White Rock
Pesticide Free Coalition
Andrew Schulz, Surrey/White Rock
Pesticide Free Coalition

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Environmental Advisory Committee (“EAC”) Minutes

It was noted that the Minutes be amended in item E.1(a) by adding the word “Provincial” in front of “legislation” at the end of the paragraph immediately in front of the last motion for that item.

It was Moved by B. Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Bose
That the Minutes of the Environmental
Advisory Committee meeting of March 18, 2009 be adopted, as amended.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Update on Draft Pesticide Control By-law
File: 5280-23

Further to the draft by-law for consideration of a ban of the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes in the City, Owen Croy, Manager Parks, was in attendance to review the most recent updates to the Draft Pesticide Control By-law (“Draft By-law”), attached as Schedule “1”. Comments were as follows:

- A copy of the Draft By-law from the February EAC meeting, together with the EAC’s changes at their March meeting and a report from the

Manager Parks outlining the steps taken by the EAC, were presented to the Parks and Community Services Committee ("PCSC") on April 15, 2009.

- The PCSC did not debate residential use, keeping strictly to parks related issues and the impact on the City's parks system.
- The following motion was unanimously passed by the PCSC:

"That the Parks and Community Services Committee:

- 1) Recommends that some of the Draft By-law portions removed by the Environmental Advisory Committee at their meeting of March 18, 2009, be reinstated in the Draft By-law, with the portions to be reinstated, more specifically being:
 - i) the definition of Integrated Pest Management;*
 - ii) "(b)" under the definition of Sensitive Ecosystem;*
 - iii) 3.(e) "controlling or destroying pests which has caused an Infestation ..."; and*
 - iv) 3.(i) "managing landscape operations on public lands ...";**
- 2) Recommends that explicit exemptions for playing fields be retained in the Draft By-law for reasons of player safety and reduction of risk and liability, for both the amateur sport associations that use the fields and the City, which manages the fields; and*
- 3) Recommends that Council lobby the province to restrict the use of pesticides on private residential lands."*

The Manager Parks provided the EAC with an overview of the role of the PCSC and their policy to advise Council.

Discussion ensued regarding the use and non-use of pesticides on sports fields and the potential dangers. The Committee was advised that:

- the use of pesticides on sports fields is almost negligible;
- from time to time there is spot spraying for those weeds resisting cultural practices, at which time orange fencing is put in place to ensure there is no human exposure; and
- prior to any spraying on sports fields, a notice is given providing the date of the spraying, material used and a contact number for addressing any concerns.

A request to immediately provide additional notification on the City's website, prior to spraying, was noted. Comments continued:

- Surrey is the last large city not to have a pesticide control by-law.
- Education is certainly going to be key to implementing a successful ban of cosmetic pesticides. Dissemination of all the information is of great benefit, awareness will naturally follow and ultimately, there will be a change in demand.
- With the amendments made following the Committee's March meeting, the Draft By-law is near completion.
- Next steps will require that staff report back to Council. It is incumbent upon staff to take to Council a report that gives a full understanding. Council may choose to go through a more public process.

It was requested that Council be advised that the EAC has considered the comments from other committees during this process.

It was Moved by B. Campbell
Seconded by G. Sahota
That item "3(f)" of the Draft Pesticide Control By-law, be deleted.

Carried

Photos of sport surfaces and the safety of those surfaces were shown noting the demand from some sport users for "perfect" surfaces. There was further discussion regarding paved surfaces such as tennis courts as well as lawn bowling surfaces.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

It was Moved by B. Campbell
Seconded by D. Maher
That the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that Council receive the Draft Pesticide Control By-law for consideration of introduction and that prior to Council giving formal consideration, a delegation from the Environmental Advisory Committee, to explain the position the Committee is taking in presenting the Draft Pesticide Control By-law, be received.

Carried with M. Harcourt opposed.

Discussion and some concerns regarding the need for a list of permitted pesticides (Schedule "A"), ensued. Additional comments were as follows:

- The by-law examples that have been provided to the Committee have had a list of permitted pesticides.
- As a "living document", any changes in the Schedule (that will occur from time to time) can be reflected with a by-law amendment.
- Due to Surrey's vast amount of agricultural land, the City's Agricultural Advisory Committee supported the need to list various permitted pesticides in order to address any concerns the public may have.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

It was Moved by B. Stewart
Seconded by B. Campbell
That the Environmental Advisory Committee strongly recommends that Council, in conjunction with the adoption of a by-law controlling the use of cosmetic pesticides, request Staff to develop a public education program regarding the use of cosmetic pesticides.

Carried

2. Surrey Ecosystem Management Study Stakeholder Meeting

File No. 6440-20-2008

A second Ecosystem Management Study Stakeholder meeting was held on March 18, 2009. The EAC members that were in attendance provided a further update to the Committee noting that the next step will be a public open house and information session expected to be held early May.

D. NEW BUSINESS

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Official Community Plan (OCP) [2010] - Open Houses

The dates and locations for the Phase One Open House Sessions regarding the 2010 OCP Review were reviewed and Committee attendance was encouraged.

2. Sustainability Manager

Further to the recent announcement of the appointment of the Sustainability Manager for the City, it was requested that the Sustainability Manager, Anna Mathewson, be introduced to the Committee at a future meeting.

3. Development Advisory Committee (“DAC”)

G. Sahota provided an update from the recent DAC meeting, noting the following:

- There was discussion regarding the registration policy and the requirement of a one page form to complete in addition to having the agency letter informing that a consultant is acting on behalf of a developer.
- Concern regarding the sustainability development checklist, for developers, was expressed as there is no quantitative way of measuring how “green” the development is.

It was noted that the voluntary sustainability development checklist was developed in order to better inform Council of some of the aspects that were or weren't being considered in an application and the commitment being made for those applications. Further, it will inform and assist applicants that may be coming from another town/province/country of sustainable practices.

G. CORRESPONDENCE

H. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

1. EAC 2009 Priority Items & Work Plan

The Committee reviewed the 2008 Priority Items & Work Plan and updates for 2009 were discussed. It was suggested that solid waste management be reviewed, with an update regarding the single stream process provided on a regular basis.

In addition to receiving an update from the Deputy Operations Manager, it was requested that there be discussion regarding promotion of the brown kraft paper bags, available at various City facilities, that are considerably stronger than those purchased at regular retail stores.

It was
invited to attend the next EAC meeting to discuss solid waste issues.

Moved by G. Sahota
Seconded by M. Harcourt
That the Deputy Operations Manager be
Carried

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the EAC will be held on May 20, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was
Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Moved by B. Stewart
Seconded by B. Campbell
That the Environmental Advisory
Carried

The Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Jane Sowik, City Clerk

Al Schulze, Chairperson
Environmental Advisory Committee