

Environmental Advisory Committee - Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2009
Time: 6:40 p.m.
File: 0540-20

Present:

B. Campbell
M. Deo
C. Dragomir
M. Harcourt
K. Keshvani
D. Maher
A. Schulze
B. Stewart
G. Sangha

Councillor Bose

Regrets:

Guests:

Gord Ross, Wild Play Element
Parks

**Agricultural Advisory
Committee Representative:**

S. VanKeulen

Staff Present:

C. Baron, Drainage & Environment
Manager
A. Mathewson, Sustainability Manager
G. Ward, Urban Forestry & Env. Programs
N. Dyrbye, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Environmental Advisory Committee - Minutes of June 17, 2009 to be adopted.

It was Moved by C. Dragomir
Seconded by K. Keshvani
That the Environmental Advisory Committee
minutes of June 17, 2009, be adopted
Carried

Comment was made that with respect to the presentation made by the Deputy Operations Manager concerning the Solid Waste Management and Single Stream Recycling, it should be made clear in the minutes that the City currently does not promote the compost program to the public.. As well, there was some discussion surrounding kitchen green waste and the fact that this material could be put into the current green waste stream. This item should be promoted to the public.

2. Environmental Advisory Committee - Notes of July 15, 2009 to be adopted.

It was Moved by C. Dragomir
Seconded by K. Keshvani
That the Environmental Advisory Committee
notes of July 15, 2009, be adopted
Carried

D. Maher arrived at the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

B. DELEGATIONS**1. Anna Mathewson, Sustainability Manager**

Anna Mathewson, Sustainability Manager, was in attendance to provide an update on the climate action plan for the City.

The following comments were made:

- The City has started to look into the carbon indicators and create a task force to work on becoming carbon neutral by 2012. Most municipalities have signed on to the Climate Action Plan which would enable them to be eligible to receive the carbon tax back if they become carbon neutral by 2012.
- The process of the energy usage survey is not yet completed for Surrey, but the numbers will be available within a couple of weeks.
- The City has been working with the Pembina Institute which focuses on alternative energy solutions. They have been using a 'cool tool' which tracks emissions and energy usage. As part of this study, two workshops have been conducted involving staff; the first in July and the second in August as a follow-up and to review the preliminary results of the study.
- The Provincial Government released a discussion paper in June concerning having a carbon neutral government explaining ways to track consistency. There is still a lot to come from the Province on what exactly 'carbon neutral' will mean.
- The analysis being conducted includes data from 2006 – 2008. The base line that they will be reporting from will be 2006, which was tied to when the Charter came into effect and there were a number of facility upgrades.
- In the City, facilities and the fleet are the largest energy consumers. The plan is to have a Corporate Report prepared to go to Council in October. As well, this discussion will return to the EAC to report further.
- Right now, talks have been around goal setting and focusing on reducing emissions up to 2012. There are a variety of activities that will be implemented to accomplish this and the Province will require the remaining emissions to be offset. The unit cost for offsetting emissions is \$20.00 per tonne. Based on the preliminary numbers it looks as though there will be a requirement to purchase between 200,000 and 300,000 offsets per year.
- It has not been determined exactly where the offsets would be purchased at this time, but the hope is that it would take place locally. Suspicion is as a municipal government the purchases would be through Pacific Carbon Trust, but final direction from the Province has not yet come through. As well, there has not been a direction as to what municipalities must use as a baseline so other regions may use different years.

The Committee made the following comments:

- Question was raised concerning land clearing and tree cutting and where in the equation this would fit into. There has been nothing specific in the provincial plans regarding trees, focus has been on corporate operations.
- The emission from regional activities such as solid waste (Metro Vancouver transfer stations) and Translink are to be handled independently of the Cities numbers.

- This study is looking mainly at Co2 and methane is not a large part of their research and focus at this time. Diesel produces more Co2 emissions compared to gas, but on the other hand, diesel is a more efficient fuel to use.
- The City is working on focusing on the budget for 2010 and where there are reduction opportunities. As well, we are looking at the corporate targets. With respect to offsets needed in the future, it looks at this point as though the rebate and offsets could be quite similar in amounts.
- The other thing the City is working on is an indicators and targets task force; the Sustainability Charter commits us to developing targets. The City is working to bring together a group from the community which will be involved with developing the Charter. The role will be to provide recommendations for indicators and targets and monitor the progress. The first meeting of the task force is scheduled for the end of September and they are aiming for recommendations to start going to Council in early 2010. Al Schultz agreed to be the committee's representative on the indicator and targets task force.

A. Mathewson left the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

2. **Wild Play Element Parks for Redwood Park**
Greg Ward, Urban Forestry and Environmental Programs Manager and
Gord Ross, Wild Play Element Parks
File No.: 6140-20/R

Gord Ross of Wild Play made a presentation on the Wild Play concept and a proposal to create a facility within Surrey. Following are key points of the presentation:

- Wild Play offers play and challenges in a wilderness setting. It consists of tree to tree adventure courses in a variety of ability levels with over 65 elements and games.
- There are facilities in Nanaimo, Whistler and Victoria. Each facility requires approximately 2 Ha of forest.
- It is modelled after adventure play grounds in Europe with the sites in France collecting about \$2.5 million annually.
- The elements are installed through compression fittings making sure the trees are not harmed and sap can flow.
- Only untreated wood and ropes used.
- Every effort is made to make sure not to disturb the forest floor.
- Tree-to-tree adventure course – series of ladders, nets, swinging bridges, zip lines, special courses for children right up to adult. Courses start easy low to ground and get harder and higher.
- The City has been involved with this project from the start and has been working with Wild Play for approximately two years in identifying a suitable place within the parks system for this type of recreation facility to occur.
- After having reviewed a number of parks and forest sites for this project, the focus turned to Redwood Park. An RFP went out and Wild Play were the chosen proponents.
- Currently, the City is in the process of gathering feedback from the stakeholders involved. One request has been to have a buffer zone between the facility and the road (as requested by the City's Agricultural Advisory Committee). The Surrey Heritage Advisory Commission gave their general

support for the facility as long as it would not go into the property that was deeded by the Brown Brothers.

- The proposal is not for this facility to be situated within the historical ground of this property. The proposed land site was acquired by the City long after the property deeded from the Brown Brothers.

The Committee reviewed the information provided:

- Memo from the Park Planning, Research and Design Manager, dated July 9, 2009 re: Wild Play Element Parks Proposal for Redwood Park;
- City of Surrey Redwood Park Treetop Walkway and Obstacle Course Impact Assessment; and
- Context colour map of Redwood Park

Staff made the following comments:

- Numerous sites were reviewed for this project and for one reason or another, none of them worked as well as Redwood Park will.
- The City plans to have on-site security.
- There will be and patrollers keeping people on pathways away from tree roots and inspection criteria for keeping everything up to date and safe.
- Life on construction considered about 10 years, can be taken down at any time, without a heavy footprint on land.
- Benefit and be part of the community by working with people to benefit (raising funds) various societies (e.g. Schizophrenia Society, MS Society, Cops for Cancer, Haven House, etc.) Donations for silent auctions, supporting youth and education as main focus. Also providing employment opportunities.
- Capacity of the facility is about 300 to 350 per day. Weekdays are anticipated to be approximately 200, with a lower attendance during off-season, however the facility would stay open all year round.
- People given climbing harness, go through training session and demo course, shown how and given a demonstration on how to use equipment. There will be monitors on ground.
- The City does not carry liability, there is a \$5 million policy.
- Douglas Fir is the tree of choice. It is very healthy, not susceptible to disease and has a thicker bark than Hemlock Fir.
- It will be WildPlay's responsibility to construct the road into the facility. The City will negotiate the various requirements once a site is agreed to.
- If the program is able to proceed at the current proposed site, there will be further steps still required (i.e. detailed design) for which the Committee's comments will also be required.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

It was

Moved by M. Harcourt

Seconded by C. Dragomir

That the Environmental Advisory Committee

recommend to Council that the submission be received as information and that particular attention be given to bird habitat.

Carried

The delegation left the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

M. Deo left the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The following items were added to the agenda as business arising from the minutes:

1. Tap Water Declaration

File No. 5600-28

A Corporate report on tap water usage in City facilities recently went to Council. The report follows similar direction as the July delegation to EAC from the Tap-In group. The Corporate report on drinking water is to be included in the October EAC minutes for information.

It was

Moved by B. Campbell

Seconded by K. Keshvani

That the Environmental Advisory Committee

write a letter to Council advising that there was a presentation to the Committee from Tap In providing an awareness of the initiative and that the Committee supports and encourages Council to continue pursuing the matter.

Carried

2. Emterra Single-Stream Materials Recycling Facility

File No. 2320-20

Discussion ensued with regard to a tour, for the Committee, of Emterra's single-stream materials recycling facility.

It was

Moved by S. VanKeulen

Seconded by B. Campbell

That the Environmental Advisory Committee

requests staff be directed to organize a tour of the solid waste management facility, for the Committee, at the earliest possible date.

Carried

Further discussions on actual volumes of material, solid waste, recyclables and compost also took place. The Committee questions whether single-stream is more efficient than the previous collection system and if the City is doing enough to divert materials from the land fill.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

It was Moved by Councillor Bose
 Seconded by C. Dragomir
 That the Environmental Advisory Committee
 recommend to Council that staff provide a comprehensive evaluation of the
 quantity and volumes of products handled under the single stream process
 compared with the previous program.
Carried

3. Pesticides
 File No. 5280-23

The pesticide issue was discussed and concern was expressed noting that other municipalities are going forward with bylaws, with Surrey being delayed. The following was noted:

- The proposed City series of stakeholder meetings do not mention the draft bylaw put forward, for which there is concern.
- Staff have been directed to come up with a draft education program and an eight month trial program. In addition, there is a stakeholder meeting planned with industry groups. Council is cautious to advance a bylaw until assurance has been given that the various industries and other groups have been consulted.
- EAC members felt the draft bylaw should be presented to the public to comment on at these meetings.

It was Moved by B. Campbell
 Seconded by K. Keshvani
 That the Environmental Advisory Committee
 request that staff give copies of proposed bylaws to stakeholders at the meeting
 scheduled for September 17, 2009, in order to expedite the process for the draft
 bylaw to be presented, and that the result of deliberations of the Environmental
 Advisory Committee be a part of the consultation.
Carried

The Committee was advised that Owen Croy, Manager, Parks, will be requested to ensure a copy of the bylaw will be presented at the stakeholder meeting of September 17, 2009.

D. NEW BUSINESS

The following items were added to the Agenda as New Business:

1. 84th Avenue Extension

The Committee was advised that a delegation will be attending the upcoming Regular Council Public Hearing meeting on October 5, 2009, regarding the above subject. Councillor Bose provided a history of the project noting that it is one of

the more complex issues for Council to deal with and that staff Staff have made significant progress in helping define the issue within a broader context.

K. Keshvani left the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

C. Baron explained that if Council recommends going forward with the plan then there will be an environmental stakeholder formed to look at environmental issues.

A request for the Committee's full engagement in this issue was put forward and it was suggested that the 84 Avenue extension issue, on a broader concept, be part of the Committee's mandate.

D. Maher left the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Chemical Fire at 13140 – 88th Avenue and fish kill in Bear Creek Park

C. Baron provided an update on the chemical fire that occurred in August that affected the downstream Bear Creek system. The following comments were made:

- The fire occurred at an electronics manufacturing firm. Chemicals involved in the fire required the temporary evacuation of the immediate area
- There was no way to contain the waters used to fight the fire as public safety comes first and many inlets were in the fire zone at the time.
- Engineering and Fire staff did look at the creeks, when able, to see if any pollutants were moving through.
- It was determined the next day that there was fish kill as a result within Bear Creek Park. Staff were water testing afterward and saw spike go through full system on Wednesday.
- The electronics company has been ordered, by the Ministry of Environment, to do full environmental assessments and ecological health resulting from the fire.

2. Boundary Bay Sampling Program

C. Baron provided an update and preliminary results from the Boundary Bay Sampling Program as follows:

- The program is trying to coordinate the results here with those in Washington state.

- The challenge is finding sediment in the Bay area. There is not a lot of sediment because of transition of materials; finding sand out further in the Bay and only fine sediments on certain areas.
- Looking at possibly doing deeper coring as well to carbon date and to look at sediment distribution over time.
- Will report on this more after fall sampling is completed.
- This is the first time a comprehensive study has been done on the Bay area and its contributing streams.

3. Metro Vancouver proposed regulatory requirements for emissions from on-road diesel machines

The two discussion papers concerning the proposed requirement for non-road diesel machines owned in both the private and public sectors respectively were reviewed.

It was

Moved by S. VanKeulen

Seconded by B. Stewart

That the Environmental Advisory Committee

moved to receive the reports entitled “Non-Road Diesel Engine Emissions Reduction Initiative – Regulatory Discussion Paper” and “Non-Road Diesel Engine Emissions Reduction Initiative – Regulatory Discussion Paper for Public Sector Fleets”, as information.

Carried

4. Agricultural Advisory Committee Update

B. Stewart, the Committee’s representative to the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC), provided a report, on table, as a review of the AAC’s meeting held on September 3, 2009. Issues of note concerned the delegation regarding noise from Blueberry cannons.

H. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

1. Review of Terms of Reference

Chair to provide a brief review of the 2009 Terms of Reference, specifically member attendance expectations.

This item was deferred to the October meeting for discussion.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on October 21, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

J. ADJOURNMENT

The Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Al Schulze, Chairperson
Environmental Advisory Committee