

Present:

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

Regrets:

G. Sahota

Staff Present:

S. Godwin, Environmental Coordinator
L. Anderson, Legislative Services
P. Heer, Planning & Development
M. Kischnik, Planning & Development

**Agricultural Advisory
Committee Representative:**

S. VanKeulen

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Environmental Advisory Committee ("EAC") Minutes

It was noted that G. Sangha was absent and that G. Sahota was present at the meeting of September 16, 2009.

It was

Moved by C. Dragomir

Seconded by G. Sangha

That the minutes of the Environmental
Advisory Committee meeting of September 16, be adopted, as amended.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Preet Heer, Planner, Long Range Planning & Policy Development

File No.

On March 30, 2009, Council received Corporate Report No. R034 and authorized staff to prepare a Terms of Reference for the Preparation of a Neighbourhood Concept Plan (NCP) for the Anniedale-Tynehead area in South Port Kells. As part of developing the NCP, Madrone Environmental Consultants were retained on May 19th, 2009 to prepare an Environmental Assessment for the (NCP) area, which provided the necessary background information to strategically develop Land Use options. Based on the findings of the Environmental Study, as well as Transportation Analysis, staff are currently developing some preliminary land use options.

Staff presented the overall findings of the Environmental Study as well as the preliminary land use options that are being considered for the NCP. A copy of the

Executive Summary from the consultants was provided on table. Comments were as follows:

- The study updated the inventory of all vegetated areas, sensitive ecosystems, potential wildlife linkages, and other ecologically important features. The findings of the report are organized by the following categories:
 - Bedrock Geology and Surficial Materials
 - Soils and Terrain
 - Hydrology and Groundwater Recharge
 - Vegetation and Ecosystems
 - Riparian Areas and Fish Habitat
 - Wildlife Assessment
- The NCP area is divided by a broad, north-west/south-east ridge, separating the two distinct watersheds of the upper Serpentine River in the south-west, and the Fraser River to the north-east. Slopes are generally gentle, with a section of steeper south facing ridgeline adjacent to the ALR lands of Anniedale “B” area. Vegetation in the study area includes a mix of native second growth forest (37%), rural residential properties (33%), cultivated or old fields (25.4%), and wetlands (< 0.2%). There are over 150 hectares of high valued and important ecological significant lands noted in the report.
- Significant Riparian areas include the Serpentine River, Leoran Brook, Latimer Creek, and several modified roadside ditches and seasonal drainages. Fish habitats in some areas of the plan have been modified over time through ditches and channeling. The study did identify opportunities for habitat restoration and/or enhancement of stream flows. In addition, there are many opportunities to plan for and preserve connectivity between identified wildlife hubs. The relatively low impact of human development in the area is advantageous for reserving wildlife travel corridors and preserve ecologically significant lands in future development plans, and has been identified in the land use plan options.
- Main conclusions:
 - In-stream habitat enhancement
 - Riparian planting
 - Wildlife & Habitat: incorporate wildlife corridors as much as possible to connect areas with high habitat value.
- As 176 Street is a major divide going through the community, commercial development on either side is being considered as a way to connect the two sides. Some larger development in terms of retail will help in servicing an overpass.
- Housing is shown as some single family in the outer areas that transition to middle and high density townhouses and apartments.
- There will be pocket parks and there is potential for two schools.
- Talks with TransLink are on-going in order that they are aware of the densities and commercial/industrial plans as they develop.
- Hoping to take this plan out to an initial public house at the end of November. The work is very preliminary, no status at this point.

The Committee's comments were as follows:

- The Committee certainly appreciates having everything here together, the two Anniedales and Tynehead, to view. It makes more sense.
- This is an incredibly expensive area to develop. The problem is you need the densities to support the project.
- This kind of density (25,000 anticipated) without transit, is going to throw all that traffic onto Highway #1. It is a bad place for density.

Discussion ensued regarding major environmental preservation areas and the idea of transfer rights of lands with higher value with lands of lower value which will allow the property owners to pool their resources and provide financial equity as well as make serious progress in protecting the environment.

- There has been a recommendation to look at this area and how the drainage will be handled. The Planning and Development Department has been working closely with the Engineering Department's drainage group to address any concerns. The area does not have an ISMP, so the consultant is going to work on a mini ISMP.
- This seems totally contradictory to the Sustainability Charter, especially considering the absence of public transit.
- Frequent transit will not come until the densities are there. There should be rapid transit there now. There needs to be better transportation development. Development planning and transit planning need to be matched in time.
- The EAC should be more involved in processes such as these, not just paid the courtesy of hearing the results of the public hearing process, but really be able to spend time with the Planning and Development staff to ensure areas of environmental value are protected.

The Committee requested that staff bring back additional information as the NCP process continues and that staff report back on:

- how the cluster designations will work with regard to minimum parcel sizes for development in each environmentally sensitive area;
- the results of the ISMP work that will be carried out during Stage 2; and
- which specific wildlife corridors will be maintained.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. **Rob Costanzo, Deputy Manager, Operations**

File No. 2320-20 (Garbage & Recycling)

The memo from R. Costanzo, Deputy Manager, Operations, regarding a tour date of Emterra's (IPI) Single-Stream Materials Recycling Facility, dated October 13, 2009, was reviewed and members provided the dates they would attend.

2. **Pesticides**
File No. 5280-23

The Chair provided an update from the stakeholder meeting regarding pesticides, held on September 17, 2009. Comments were as follows:

- At the last EAC meeting it was noted that there was to be a stakeholder meeting the next day, but there was no proviso for the bylaw, as a consequence it was made available at the meeting. Copies were handed out and the issue was discussed at that meeting, noting support from all (approximately 30).
- The Committee is getting increasingly frustrated with the lack of progress. The recommended by-law is not going to change; a year has been spent in developing the by-law and the Committee agrees that it is in its final form.
- The whole issue has been put in abeyance for stakeholder meetings and to provide an eight month trial. When does that eight month trial begin? Eight months is unacceptable.
- This is an issue of broad public process. The EAC has completed its work and maybe there will be adjustments, but we have to have paper on the table to go further.
- Who is objecting to this? An attempt to get other opinions still noted support. We haven't had anyone come to the group to object.
- A recommendation to Council should be considered to introduce the by-law and hold a hearing on the by-law as it has been drafted. The results of the stakeholder meetings should also be provided noting that no objections have been identified.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

It was
Moved by C. Dragomir
Seconded by B. Campbell
That the Environmental Advisory Committee
recommends that the matter of pesticide control be brought forward to Council
with a recommendation to Council to introduce the Pesticide Control By-law.
Carried

O. Croy joined the meeting again at 8:05 p.m.

Comments continued:

- There was low turnout at the stakeholder meeting, although many invitations had been extended to various associations and societies.
- A questionnaire was sent out with only a few responses received. Those that were received were split with groups associated with sports/environmental, etc. Some groups chose not to respond; perhaps the questions were not understood.

3. Sustainability Indicators and Targets Task Force

The Chair provided a brief review of meetings that were held recently regarding indicators and targets. Attendance was good noting that there were people representing the three pillars of social, economic and environmental at the first meeting and only those representing the environmental pillar at the second meeting which was made up mainly of presentations. The next meeting will be scheduled for the end of October, early November.

4. Surrey Bend

O. Croy, Manager, Parks, provided a quick update on plans for Surrey Bend. Comments were as follows:

- The property was purchased for a garbage dump by Metro Vancouver. It is quite fortuitous that it was never used that way. The value of Surrey Bend as the surge way for the Fraser River is well documented.
- Surrey parks is heavily involved.
- A parking lot is the only intrusion in the area, it is for the ferry that goes to Barnston Island.
- Various plans have been considered including trail head facilities, visitor facility parking, trails with only a limited amount of picnicking, but all show slightly more trail development. Some areas are boggy and would require elevated pathways. No active recreation intended, just passive recreation.
- Under an agreement crafted with Metro Vancouver, it will be called Surrey Bend Regional Park. Managed by and costed by Metro Vancouver.
- Currently there is a major sanitary sewer that comes through the park. There is an existing road built up on fill that runs out to a Bayley Bridge, crosses and then follows the alignment of the sanitary sewer.
- The ditch that was dug through to address flooding still functions and has become a valuable sacred fish habitat, as many areas are.
- Actively dealing with provincial counterparts to still maintain a high quality access to the park. It is anticipated that this park will bring a much bigger draw than Mud Bay, which is also a co-managed facility with Metro Vancouver.
- It is further anticipated that the regular patronage of people, who are there for the right reasons, will eliminate motorcycles and those individuals that shouldn't be there.
- Once the passive development is there, the park will have staff that will be given the ability to ticket and remove offenders.
- There is a multi party steering committee to help move the process along. This Committee will be kept up to date as plans move forward.

5. 84 Avenue Extension

The Committee was briefed on the Corporate Report regarding the 84 Avenue extension that went to Council recommending a number of things including planning work and public consultation. The motion of Council was that the

recommendations of that report not be approved. Unfortunately that shut down the ability for the Engineering Department to do anything to address the congestion problem. A broad motion was then put forward that staff be authorized to proceed with the public consultation process regarding the central problem of the congestion of 88 Avenue and King George. The purpose of the motion was to authorize staff to continue to deal with the many myriads of issues involved in moving people around Bear Creek Park. Clearly there will not be work on 84 Avenue but it allows the opportunity to look at other options for the congestion on 88 Avenue and to review the impact on SFPR and other major road projects, and how that affects 88 Avenue. The limitations of Bear Creek Park as it stands should be looked at. Both motions will allow the Engineering Department to do a full evaluation which includes looking more carefully at traffic and environmental needs.

6. Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST)

With regard to the above subject line, it was noted that the participation of Surrey has been recommended in the program, which will be looking at the provisions made for car sharing within clustered neighbourhoods, etc. It is anticipated that this program could potentially reduce automobile buying by 50%. Comments were as follows:

- It is a great idea. There is obviously a need to find solutions to the increased traffic. For example, reducing the service of the #351 bus line directly to Vancouver has increased traffic from South Surrey, as the Canada Line was already at capacity the second day it opened, leaving transit by automobile as a necessity again instead of an option for getting from South Surrey to Vancouver.
- The Committee would be wise to focus its efforts on one major issue, to find a solution, perhaps transportation should be the Committee's challenge for 2010; getting out of cars and pushing for alternatives such as rapid transit. We need to look for incentives for people to get out of their cars.
- The community rail project on the BC Hydro line is another proposed solution to some of the congestion. There is a group in Langley taking the lead.
- It is only 5% of the cost to move on rail versus rubber. Certainly we are not far from a major shift when you consider the current prices of fuel and the cars that are "parked" on the freeways due to congestion.

D. NEW BUSINESS

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE**1. City of White Rock**
File No. 5280-01

A letter from the City of White Rock, dated September 23, 2009, regarding the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) Draft Vegetation Management Plan, was reviewed.

It was Moved by S. Van Keulen
Seconded by B. Stewart
That the letter from the City of White Rock,
dated September 23, 2009, regarding the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway
(BNSF) Draft Vegetation Management Plan, be received.
Carried

Comments continued:

- BNSF do use Round-Up, but not during berry season. They have tried steam vegetation management, however they see pesticides as the only method of vegetation management.
- It is a fire hazard not to have vegetation management of the rail tracks.
- A City Council by-law has no bearing on what a railway has to do, however there are rules they must follow.
- BNSF are obliged to file an integrated pest management plan (IPMP) and notice of the use of pesticides is to be provided in the local newspapers each year.
- There are certain pesticides that cannot be used during the fruit season (which is then done after the fruit fall off). Contact herbicides are used for other vegetation.
- CN Rail were using steam machines and had noted their effectiveness, however BNSF found this method not effective.
- Perhaps the Committee could ask, through Council, that BNSF provide a delegation to the Committee to talk about their vegetation management program, explain what products are used and where and how they are applied as their railway runs through miles of park land.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

It was Moved by S. Van Keulen
Seconded by C. Dragomir
That the Environmental Advisory Committee
recommends that Council request that Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway
representatives be invited to make a presentation on their vegetation management
plans to the Environmental Advisory Committee due to the substantial amount of
railway track passing through park land.
Carried

G. INFORMATION ITEMS**1. Tap Water Declaration
Corporate Report R161
File No. 5600-28**

At the September 16, 2009 EAC meeting, it was requested that the above subject corporate report be provided to the EAC, for the October meeting, as information.

2. Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Update

An update was provided noting that the AAC had requested to receive a copy of the R-91 road network plan in order to look at the functionality, given the current and proposed development, road widening, etc.

In considering the role the EAC may play in this regard, it was suggested that the EAC advise the Engineering Department that the Committee wishes to play a role and provide comment regarding the R-91 plan, and that a delegation request should be extended for an upcoming EAC meeting.

3. Development Advisory Committee (DAC) Update

The Committee's representative to the DAC was not in attendance to provide an update.

H. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**1. Review of Terms of Reference**

The Chair provided a brief review of the 2009 Terms of Reference, specifically member attendance expectations. Comments were as follows:

- Although there has been a meeting during the year where a quorum was not met, it is pointed out that none of the members have missed three consecutive meetings.
- Presently, the EAC meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month. As this meeting date conflicts with the meeting dates and times of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee meetings, and in order provide stronger support from that committee to the EAC, it was requested that alternative meeting dates be considered for the EAC. A memo outlining the proposed meeting schedule for 2010 will be provided at the next meeting for consideration.

It was

Moved by S. Van Keulen

Seconded by Councillor Bose

That the Environmental Advisory Committee

consider moving the regularly scheduled meeting dates to the second Wednesday of each month.

Carried

- It was further requested that the term expiration for each of the members be provided at the next meeting.

2. EAC 2009 Priority Items & Work Plan

The 2009 Priority Items & Work Plan was provided as a guideline, for review and update for 2010.

As noted earlier in the meeting, the Committee agreed that the major item to tackle for 2010 will be in the realm of transportation.

It was requested that there be a recycling basket provided at each meeting for agenda packages to be recycled.

J. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2009.

K. ADJOURNMENT

It was

meeting do now adjourn.

Moved by B. Stewart
Seconded by M. Deo
That the Environmental Advisory Committee

Carried

The Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:36 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Al Schulze, Chair
Environmental Advisory Committee