
Present:

M. Deo
A. Schulze
B. Stewart
Councillor Bose

Regrets:

B. Campbell
C. Dragomir
M. Harcourt
K. Keshvani
D. Maher
G. Sahota
G. Sangha
S. VanKeulen

Staff Present:

C. Baron, Drainage & Environment Manager
O. Croy, Parks Manager
N. Dyrbye, Legislative Services

Quorum was not established at the start of the meeting.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

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

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

B. DELEGATIONS

1. **Kyle Kijowski, TAP IN**
File No. 5600-01; 0550-20-10

Kyle Kijowski appeared as a delegation to promote local water systems by putting a ban on the sale and distribution of bottled water in all municipal facilities and to ensure that there is sufficient access to drinking water fountains for employees and the public.

The following comments were made:

- Tap In is a student led group from Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Since the beginning of June, they have been hosting many events and collecting signatures for a petition for the ban of bottled water use.
- An element of the City of Surrey's commitment to sustainability is to minimize consumption and promote zero waste. Tap In is proposing that the City of Surrey eliminate the availability and sale of bottled water in all its buildings and facilities and to increase access to tap water by providing sufficient fountains for use.
- Through their research, they have found that bottled water is not a sustainable practice; it is very inefficient in the bottling, packaging and transportation compared to a local distribution system. Not all plastic from the bottles actually gets recycled. The process for bottling water can take up to three litres to produce one bottle.

- The truth is that Vancouver has some of the best drinking water available in the world and to ensure water is at its highest quality, Surrey collects water samples weekly for testing. In 2007, over 2000 samples were collected and all the information is available on Metro Vancouver's website. As for the water bottle companies, they are not required to make their water testing results public.
- It is important to raise awareness and provide education for the public on this issue because the bottled water industry has worked to convince people that it is unsafe to drink tap water. This is simply just not the case. A lot of effort goes into protecting and maintaining our water drinking supplies.
- People need to be encouraged to choose to drink tap water and they are hoping that the City of Surrey will pass a resolution that drinking fountains will be incorporated into their buildings and eliminate bottled water.
- Modern drinking fountains are designed to be installed into existing buildings with the cost ranging from \$600 to \$1,200 depending on the features chosen. These days, the fountains have taps to refill water bottles which helps to eliminate the mouth to fountain contact.
- Installing these water fountains would give the City of Surrey more opportunities to sell stainless steel water bottles which would be long lasting, sustainable and not pose the leaching problems like plastic bottles do.
- Dispensing systems and other available options where water can be collected, cooled and filtered would cost \$50 per month to rent or under \$700 to buy.
- During a short campaign to gather public support resulted in over 800 signatures on a petition, from people who live, work or attend events in Surrey.
- Also received an endorsement from Surrey Civic Coalition, which agrees bottled water should not be sold in Surrey municipal buildings.
- This is more than an environmental issue. The industry makes \$50 Billion per year. 1.1 billion people do not have access to clean water; 6,000 children die every day from water related diseases; World Health Organization estimates that by 2025 two thirds of the world will not have access to clean water. We all deserve the right to clean drinking water.
- The delegation hopes that the City of Surrey will consider a proposal to promote and provide access to tap water to further Surrey's commitment to sustainability.
- The delegation thanked the committee for the opportunity to sharing ideas and working together on this issue.

The Committee made the following comments:

- The group should make this presentation to Metro Vancouver.
- This is not seen as being a huge challenge as many people have fridges with cold water dispensers built in. The issue is transportation of water jugs for water dispensers.
- Bispol A had been in the news recently regarding a report about chemicals leeching from plastic bottles, mostly when plastic is heated up by the sun, and more, also an issue during transport of water.
- The question was raised whether the City will have a program to make bottles available at a reduced rate.
- Aquafina is *Vancouver* water. Education is needed to get people to know what they are purchasing.

- The water lines running to the water fountains in parks are so long and usage is so low that sampled water from the fountains reveal there is no chlorine left and bacteria counts are too high. The City is retrofitting fountains into buildings to avoid problems with long infrequently used water systems like remote fountains.
- The Corporate Report concerning water conservation and the bottled water issue will go forward in September 2009.

The Chair thanked the delegation for their presentation.

The delegation left the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Solid Waste Management and Single Stream Recycling

File No. 5380-01

R. Costanzo, Deputy Operations Manager to provide an update regarding the planned tour of single stream recycling facility and solid waste management.

This item was deferred to September, 2009.

2. Draft Pesticide Control By-Law

File No. 5280-23

Owen Croy, Manager, Parks, discussed the Corporate Report that went forward to Council on Monday. He also presented the committee with a copy of the City's pesticide usage and a copy of the Pesticide Use Control Bylaw comparison matrix. The matrix outlined various municipalities and their current bylaw features.

The following comments were made:

- After EAC meeting, the draft by-law was presented to council. Council directed staff to come back with report. The report was presented on July 13, 2009.
- A number of facts and figures were included in the total amounts of pesticides used, for information.
 - One can see from the volumes used that approximately 65% of pesticide usage is in street landscaping. It is difficult to carry out work on street medians.
 - Schedule for maintenance of street landscaping areas is once per month through the growing season and annual winter cleanups.
 - Trees in tree wells are also treated with granular herbicide. This not for aesthetic purposes but to keep mowers and weed whackers away from tree trunks. Both weeds and grass are more effective at competing for nutrients than are tree roots. This can help to assist in tree growth.
 - In landscaped gardens and other areas, the largest use is granular.
 - Natural areas use is mainly to supplement hand eradication of evasive species in sensitive areas which displaces native habitat.

- Sports fields use a concentrate, mixed into tanks – primarily used for burning corners into sports fields. Uses a very small amount of herbicide and takes care of over 200 sports fields.
- Bowling greens - turf is cut very short. Demand is there from players to keep pristine turf – fungicide usage. Treat both proactively and reactively.
- This is a summary of where pesticides are used throughout the city.
- Do not use a lot, mostly in planting beds, etc. Used when other things have failed (within budget) to meet service needs.
- Survey of Municipalities:
 - Snapshot in time as to what has been done in other communities. Changes every year. More cities adopting pesticide bylaws all the time.
 - Did this in 2007, went back and updated – a lot of places that said they would implement bylaw in phases, have now completed, gone through public education, policy of reduction on city lands, then policy for private residential lots.
- Corporate Report R126 approved by Council July 13, 2009.
- Council suggested we speak to stakeholders, mentioned landscape industry – also to find somebody to speak for retailers and had suggested an open public meeting about pesticides may attract same people, may not provide useful information.
- It was suggested that a telephone survey be done for residents to determine a benchmark of numbers and information, and develop a public education program to bring back to Council for consideration.
- 8 month trial program to be set into place for key areas of street landscaping and to look for alternative practices.
 - Grass is a tricky issue and dealt with this through the engineering department. The approximate costs have been determined and can provide some good numbers and examples. An RFP can be put forth.
 - The older medians show a poorer performance to treatment and are tough to deal with. The challenge will be to see how well new medians work out compared to the old medians. The limiting factor for good growth of plants is water. It is important to choose the right types of plants.
- A presentation on best practices for planting medians will be provided in either September or October 2009.
- The concept of a synthetic turf bowling green at Bakerview Park is being looked into. The design work is currently being done; if and when funding becomes available they can move forward. They are thinking adding a roof over top for phase 2 so that the field can be used year round.

3. **Flavours of Surrey**

File No. 8200-20

The second annual Flavours of Surrey event is taking place Sunday, July 26, 2009, noon - 4:00 pm, at Historic Stewart Farm and will feature local chefs who will prepare a delicious array of food with a focus on Surrey grown ingredients. Along with food-tasting, there will be wine and beer sampling and live entertainment from the Wheat in the Barley and Jennifer Kennedy.

New this year, the event includes a farmer's market where you can buy local produce direct from Surrey farms as well as local artisans selling pottery, paintings, jewellery, and photography.

There will also be plenty of kids' activities including interactive educational information, farm animals, seed planting, face painting and potato sack races.

It will be an afternoon of food, fun, and festivities for the whole family!

Adults: \$25.00

Youth (ages 9-14): \$10.00

Children (ages 8 and under): Free (with paying adult admission)

This is a spectacular event for the entire family to attend.

D. NEW BUSINESS

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

H. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Delegation Request

Memo dated July 9, 2009 from the Park Planning, Research and Design Manager requesting staff and Wild Play Element Parks representatives come to the September Environmental Advisory Committee meeting to present a proposal for Redwood Park.

The Committee agreed that they would like to hear the delegation at the September meeting.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on September 16, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Board Room. THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN AUGUST.

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Jane Sowik, City Clerk

Al Schulze, Chairperson
Environmental Advisory Committee