

Present:

A. Schulze – Chair
Councillor Bose
B. Burnside
B. Campbell
C. Dragomir
M. Harcourt
K. Keshvani
G. Sahota
B. Stewart

Regrets:

M. Deo
G. Sangha
S. VanKeulen, Agricultural Advisory
Committee Representative

Staff Present:

C. Baron, Drainage & Environment
Manager
O. Croy, Manager, Parks
A. Mathewson, Sustainability Manager
L. Anderson, Legislative Services

Councillor Bose chaired the meeting until the election of the new Chair.

ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

1. The Committee was requested to elect a Chair for the 2010 calendar year.

It was

Moved by C. Dragomir

Seconded by G. Sahota

That Al Schulze be elected Chair for the 2010

calendar year.

Carried

2. The Committee was requested to elect a Vice Chair for the 2010 calendar year.

It was

Moved by B. Stewart

Seconded by B. Burnside

That Bob Campbell be elected Vice-Chair for

the 2010 calendar year.

Carried

3. The Committee was requested to appoint a representative to the Agricultural Advisory Committee for the 2010 calendar year.

It was

Moved by G. Sahota

Seconded by B. Campbell

That Bill Stewart be appointed as a

representative to the Agricultural Advisory Committee for the 2010 calendar year.

Carried

4. The Committee was requested to appoint a representative to the Development Advisory Committee for the 2010 calendar year.

It was Moved by B. Stewart
Seconded by C. Dragomir
That Gopal Sahota be appointed as a
representative to the Development Advisory Committee for the 2010 calendar year.
Carried

There was a round table of introductions.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was Moved by Councillor Bose
Seconded by B. Campbell
That the minutes of the Environmental
Advisory Committee meeting held on December 16, 2009, be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Sustainability Charter Update

Anna Mathewson, Sustainability Manager, was in attendance to provide an update on the City's Sustainability Charter, the accomplishments to date and the work plan for the year ahead (a copy of which was provided on table). A brief update from the Sustainability Charter Indicators and Targets Meeting held on Tuesday, January 26, 2010, was also provided. Additional comments were as follows:

- The corporate energy and emissions inventory was completed in 2009, which provided inventory of energy use in the City, spending amounts and the resulting green house gases.
- The inventory done as a base line. Private garbage collectors were also included in the inventory as all contractors providing a traditional service that was previously provided by the City must be included in the data. The single stream recycling may reduce 2009 numbers. The City will work with those various contractors to ensure maximum reduction in their consumption.
- An interdepartmental sustainability team, as well as a community based task force, has been established.
- A sustainability website is up and running, as well as an intranet site of what is going on, both of which will continue to improve over time.
- A district energy feasibility study for City Centre, for which various funding was awarded, will be completed by the end of March. It ties in with the new developments in that area (Library, City Hall, etc.).
- There is a community based Indicator & Targets task force looking at the sustainability indicators and targets for the City. A draft of the Sustainability Indicators is tentatively scheduled to go to Council in May. This report is intended to update Council on the progress and to get a sense of the level of

comfort for what is being proposed. Consultation with the advisory committees and the broader public is anticipated for early June, with an aim to have something by the end of the year that can be reported out to the community of the City's Sustainability Indicators.

- The task force has many members from the various Council committees on it.
- Eventually there will be an interface to link the Sustainability Indicators and the Sustainability Checklist. For example, it could be things that the checklist is tracking, that becomes an indicator to report on.
- One of the small things making an impact is the sustainability consideration in the closing paragraph for every corporate report. This section is requiring staff to take a pause and look at doing things in a different way.

The Committee made the following comments:

- It will be interesting to see the resulting data from the component of single stream recycling initiative now that there are fewer trucks on the road.
- How greenhouse gases break out in terms of buildings versus vehicles (small vehicles to heavy double axel, etc.) would also be worthy to note.
- With private automobiles representing 50% of the energy consumption, information on where public transit system fits into all would be good to see. A copy of the 2007 data produced for each municipality, by the Province, would be appreciated as further information for the Committee.

2. **Biodegradable "Doggie" Bags**

Owen Croy, Manager, Parks, was invited to discuss biodegradable doggie bags for locations frequently visited by dogs and their owners. A memo, dated January 25, 2010, providing background information and the results of an informal poll of a number of municipalities in the Lower Mainland and other Canadian cities of similar population to the City of Surrey, was reviewed. Comments were as follows:

- There is a growing issue of dog waste throughout the parks in Surrey.
- It is anticipated that the dog population in Surrey is approaching 100,000.
- The By-Law Call Centre estimates that they generate in excess of 500 files related to complaints about dog waste in parks annually.
- 50% of the cities polled indicated that they have doggy bag programs of varying scale in their parks system to encourage dog owners to pick up.
- 60% of the cities polled indicated that they launched awareness campaigns to enlighten dog owners regarding their responsibilities and the negative impacts of failing to comply.
- There is no park agency that has a comprehensive program of dog waste collection and in fact most programs focus solely on servicing of waste bins and disposal in the solid waste stream.
- With over 100 hectares of grass sport fields and 225 hectares of passive grass, the costs of a system-wide dog waste inspection and removal program for Surrey would be well beyond current fiscal capacity.
- Parks staff have examined the feasibility of doggy bag programs and determined that a sustainable program will require direct involvement and

support from dog owners. Staff have moved forward with the installation of bio-degradable doggy bag dispensers at the following park sites:

- Blackie Spit Dog Off Leash Park;
 - Dogwood Park;
 - Bell Estates Park;
 - Clayton Dog Off-leash Park;
 - Freedom Off-leash Park;
 - Tannery Park; and
 - Serpentine Off-leash Park.
- At four of the sites (1-4 above) there is an organized group of dog owners who are committed to supporting the program. The City is responsible for the initial installation of the dispensers and the dog owner groups are responsible for the servicing the dispensers and replenishing the bio-degradable bags, which are paid for by the groups. Additional dispensers and sites will be considered only when meaningful community partnerships are realized.
 - Parks staff are currently exploring additional signage options that would focus on education and awareness about the impacts of dog off-leash and dog waste in parks.
 - In 2007, a pilot dog-waste composting program was run in South Surrey, but was discontinued because of the high amount of contamination of conventional plastic bags and other refuse being placed in the composting containers.
 - It is felt that compliance can be achieved through education.

Three samples of bio-degradable bags were provided. Two of the bags have an ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) number, the designation of which is to be looked up. Print on one of those two bags stated “this bag will convert to water, carbon dioxide and biomass”. The Manager, Parks, advised that he would check with suppliers for the totally bio-degradable bags.

It was noted that one of the biggest problems for the single stream waste collection is the use of plastic grocery bags instead of bio-degradable bags. Again, education is key to eliminating a large portion of this problem. It was suggested that educational pamphlets could be produced and made available through the by-law office at the time of dog licensing as well as distributed to vet clinics, puppy training classes and the various neighbourhood community group newsletters (where available).

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Committee Presentations to Council

Further to the delegations received earlier in the meeting, future scheduled delegations and 2010 work plan items for the Committee, it was suggested that the Committee, through a delegation of the Chair and the Vice Chair, have an

opportunity to provide Council with an update, from time to time, of the Committee's work, observations and recommendations.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

It was
Moved by B. Stewart
Seconded by C. Dragomir
That the Environmental Advisory Committee
recommends that Council approve a periodic delegation presentation (3 times annually) from the Environmental Advisory Committee to provide progress reports.

Carried

2. Leadership/Stewardship Awards

The Committee was advised of a recent article in the Vancouver Sun newspaper regarding waste recycling programs. Information for the article was received by the Recycling Council of BC (RCBC), www.rcbc.bc.ca, that noted the initiatives that are being taken on by various corporations.

Based on that information, it was suggested that the Committee consider some sort of award program to recognize those individuals and/or companies that are showing some leadership/stewardship initiatives in Surrey, or those that have a particular impact to Surrey. It is about promoting and encouraging good practices. Those recommended to the Committee would be asked to come before the Committee to present and to be recognized. Perhaps this program could also be recognized by Council with further acknowledgement being given upon the recommendation of the Committee. The Committee was asked to consider the award program further for future discussion.

It was noted that the City has an environmental newsletter through the Natures Matters program and that the City's Economic Development office is compiling a list of "green businesses" in Surrey, both of which could provide information to consider for the award program.

A presentation from the RCBC, in late spring/early summer, regarding waste reduction initiatives, was requested.

It was
Moved by K. Keshvani
Seconded by Councillor Bose
That the Environmental Advisory Committee
invite a representative of the Recycling Council of BC to provide a presentation on waste reduction and recycling initiatives.

Carried

3. Tour to Emterra's (IPI) Single-Stream Materials Recycling Facility
File No. 5380-01

As the next meeting of the Committee will focus mainly on recycling (delegation from R. Costanzo, Deputy Operations Manager), the Committee was advised that a further tour of the IPI single-stream materials recycling facility has been scheduled for February 10, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Update

An update from the recent AAC meeting was provided. In particular, the following two items were noted:

- Proposed commercial composting facility in the ALR in South Surrey (176 St. at 12 Avenue):
 - To use yard and food waste as the primary components to produce "Class A compost" which will qualify for use as a "soil amendment";
 - Approximately 95% of the compost would be used off-site, with 5% being applied to crop land located on the property;
 - Concerns were expressed that the proposal would see 12.5 acres of agricultural land taken up by buildings and paved areas and the potential for leachate to move into Samhill Creek; and
 - The AAC was opposed to this facility being located in the ALR, as it is not an agricultural operation.
- Proposed 5 storey hotel and casino in South Surrey (between Hwy 99 and 168 St., south of 12 Ave.):
 - The site is across 168 St. from the ALR;
 - In line with the Highway 99 Corridor Plan; and
 - Environmental issues, which include:
 - Traffic issues for which an evaluation is in the preliminary stages;
 - Storm water run-off from the paved and built-up areas; and
 - The proximity of the site to Fergus Creek and to City-owned land to the north, which is designated as an environmental reserve.

Subject to those concerns, the AAC appeared to be satisfied with the proposal.

It was further noted that Stan Van Keulen was appointed the AAC representative to the Environmental Advisory Committee for the 2010 calendar year.

2. Development Advisory Committee (DAC) Update

An update from the recent DAC meeting was provided. The following was noted:

- In an effort to wrap up the four months of discussion regarding options for DCC charges, suggestions were submitted and it was determined that the DCC charges will decrease by 1% in the short term with staff continuing to monitor the market conditions.
- Questions were raised with regard to financing for parks. In particular, installation of new parks at the time of development was discussed, noting that new parks are installed once full amenity funding for park development has been received, through DCCs, for that particular NCP area. What happens, from time to time, is that two or three developers may complete their development, however there is further development that may have been put on hold, which then delays the balance of the NCP funding needed for the amenities for that area.
- The developer's consensus was that they would prefer to see the parks be installed very quickly as it is an added feature that assists in the sale of homes.
- A policy has now been created that will allow developers to advance funding for the NCP area and as the area's development is completed, the advanced funding will be returned to the developers.

**3. Ministry of Environment
Public Consultation Paper**

The information and deadline response date regarding the Ministry of Environment Public Consultation Paper on the Cosmetic Use of Pesticides Consultation Forum and response form was reviewed.

Discussion ensued regarding the status of the City's pesticide by-law and it was noted that the resolution passed by Council in July included the following components: conduct additional public consultation; develop a comprehensive education program to show alternatives; and develop a pilot program to be launched for City landscaping on City arterial boulevards for an eight month trial period. Further to the Committee's recommendation, a second resolution was passed in November to introduce the by-law. At the time of the original direction, pesticides had already been applied which delayed the trial period.

The Committee expressed their frustration with the delay, noting that the Committee has worked hard to draft the by-law, which needs no further review by the Committee. The Committee was then advised that staff will be providing a presentation to Council, scheduled for March 1, 2010.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. EAC 2010 Priority Items & Work Plan

The 2009 Priority Items & Work Plan was provided as a guideline, for review and update for 2010. It was noted that agenda items for the upcoming three meetings have been determined and that the 2010 Work Plan should be reviewed again at the April meeting.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on February 10, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

meeting do now adjourn.

Moved by B. Campbell
Seconded by G. Sahota
That the Environmental Advisory Committee

Carried

The Environmental Committee adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Al Schulze, Chair
Surrey Environmental Advisory Committee