

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION INDEX
Thursday, April 17, 2003**

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

2. Pharmaceuticals in Groundwater

It was Moved by B. Stillwell
Seconded by T. Godwin
That the environmental tip *Medications Return Program* be forwarded to
the City Page editor for inclusion on the City Page.
Carried

H. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Aquaculture Minority Report – April 8, 2003

It was Moved by D. Maher
Seconded by T. Godwin
That the Environmental Advisory Committee recommend to Council that
Council encourage the Federal and Provincial authorities to fully implement existing legislation and
enforcement actions under the Fisheries Act in response to the April 8, 2003 Aquaculture Minority Report
prepared by John Cummins, M.P. Delta-South Richmond.
Carried

City of Surrey

***Environmental Advisory Committee
Minutes***

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2003
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Dr. R.M. Strang - Chair
J. Grewal
Dr. T. Godwin
H. Locke
D. Maher
Dr. F. Perello
J. Sarwal
B. Stillwell
S. VanKeulen
R. Wetzel
Councillor Bose

Absent:

J. Trimble

Staff Present:

C. Baron, Drainage & Environment Manager
K. Swaele, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Environmental Advisory Committee – Minutes

It was

Moved by T. Godwin
Seconded by D. Maher

That the minutes of the Environmental Advisory committee meeting of

March 20, 2003 be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Bicycle Paths/TransLink Bicycle Funding Program

Mr. Brad Fisher, Engineering Assistant, Transportation Planning, was in attendance to discuss Bicycle Paths and the TransLink Bicycle Funding Program. Mr. Fisher distributed copies of the bicycle plan and provided an overhead presentation, which included:

Bicycle Planning History

- The Bicycle Blueprint was established in 1994, and subsequently included in the 1998 Transportation Plan.
- The 1994 Bicycle Blueprint provided bicycle facility guidelines – bicycle lanes, wide curb lanes, paths, signage, and a proposed Bicycle Network.
- The 1998 Transportation Plan established Bicycle Policy, required almost all roads to be bicycle friendly, and set bicycle funding at 3% of the Capital Budget.
- In developing the Bicycle Network, public consultations were undertaken in 1996 and 1997.
- A recreational network and a transportation network were established to fit the needs of the two major bicycle communities.
- The Core Bicycle Network focuses on transportation cycling needs (major roads) includes higher priority Greenways, and has a shorter-term implementation (10 year plan).
- The Secondary Roads Bicycle Network focuses on casual and recreational cycling needs, includes road projects already planned, a longer-term implementation, all Greenways and focuses on collector roads.

Funding of the Bicycle Network

- In 1994 Council directed the engineering Department to identify/secure bicycle funding sources.
- In 1996 the Province introduced cost sharing for bicycle routes.
- In 1996 the Parks and Engineering Departments developed a Greenway/Bikeway funding partnership with each department committing to approximately \$500,000 per year, subject to budget approvals.
- In 1997 the engineering Department fixed annual bicycle specific funding at approximately 4% of the Capital Budget, and designated funding to be 50% growth (DCC) and 50% non-growth (general revenue).
- Surrey is the only municipality to have guaranteed annual bicycle funding.
- Other funding sources include partnerships with BC Hydro, GVRD parks, private partnerships and TransLink.

Bicycle Project Planning

- Functional design is done at year 1, land acquisition year 2, the design stage year 3, and construction in years 4, 5, 6.
- A project must be part of the Bicycle Network, with priority given to cost-share eligible projects.
- Priority is also given to regionally significant projects and cycling advocacy projects.

2003 Projects

- Patullo Bridge pathway replacement.
- Serpentine Greenway (near Kwantlen College).
- 64th Avenue Railway crossing.
- King George Highway shoulder replacement – Crescent road to Colebrook Road.

Upcoming Projects

- Highway #1 at 168th Street overpass.
- Fraser River Crossing pathway.
- Wildflower Greenway.
- Serpentine Greenway at BC Hydro's Ingeldow Substation.
- King George Highway – 8th Avenue to Crescent Road.

In response to questions, Mr. Fisher advised that:

- The Cascadia Group (British Columbia, Washington, Oregon) would like to establish a connection from the Coast Millennium Trail through Mud Bay and on to Tsawassen.
- The Engineering Department continually works with Land Development to coordinate the Bicycle Network.
- The Bicycle Network may not appear to make sense, but eventually all the pieces will connect.
- National standardized signage is now available and over the next 2 years they plan to sign the road network with bicycle friendly roads, at an approximate cost of \$250,000.
- A lot of the undesirable activity (such as bicycle lanes being used for right hand turns) can be corrected through design.
- There are certain roads where on-street parking lanes are a problem, and confusing to motorists and cyclists.
- Definition is now being given to parking lanes so that motorists and bicyclists are aware.
- The Municipality of Delta is still working through issues and the Mud Bay Park route is not being aggressively pursued at this point, but cyclists can go 17 km before having to use Delta streets.
- Langley advises that the 200th Street Overpass will most likely include bicycle facilities.
- Over the next two years, it is hoped to create another 1.5 feet of usable bicycle space on the Patullo Bridge, and to do some simple things to make the Bridge more bicycle friendly.
- Data on bicycle usage shows there has been slow growth over the last few years, but by putting facilities on the ground now, they will be there when critical mass is reached.

The Chair expressed appreciation to Brad Fisher, Engineering Assistant, Transportation Planning, for the excellent and informative presentation.

2. Environmental Website

C. Baron, Drainage and Environment Manager, was in attendance to speak on the environmental section of the City of Surrey Website.

Ms. Baron reviewed the website, which includes the following sections:

- Events and news – highlighting fun and educational events and programs happening in Surrey.
- Park natural Areas – providing information on the more than 500 parks and greenbelts in Surrey, with links to bikeways, birding walks, dog off-leash areas, lakes and ponds and other areas of interest.
- Air Water and Land – which provides information on the more than 1,400 km of urban streams running through Surrey neighborhoods and parkland, preserving water quality, water conservation, drinking water, when site profiles may be required in the development process, and liquid waste management.
- Nature Based Programs – birding walks, environmental extravaganza, SSNAP (Surrey Stewardship of Natural Areas Partnership), SHaRP (salmon Habitat Restoration Program), interpretive walks, outdoor programs, releaf tree planting and salmon homecoming.
- Protecting natural Areas – how the City protects natural areas, such as through the Official Community Plan, Strategic Natural Areas Management Plan, the City's 10-year Servicing Plan, and through establishing parks, open spaces, protected habitats and conservation areas.
- Environmental Connections – providing a list of other groups and organizations involved with Surrey's natural environment such as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, GVRD Parks, Little Campbell Watershed Society, etc.
- Garbage Collection, Recycling and Composting – provides information on garbage collection, the annual re-use weekend, multi-family recycling, and composting.
- Getting Involved – providing information on volunteering in Parks and in the City of Surrey.
- How to Contact Us – telephone numbers and email addresses for persons interested in finding out more information about environmental programs, drainage and environment, planning and development, hazardous spills, and mosquito and rodent control.

Ms. Baron noted that they have tried to make the site global. The site is still being developed and has the ability to be expanded to include things such as recycling facilities or environmental tips.

The Environmental Advisory Committee expressed its appreciation to the Drainage and Environment Manager and to City staff for the work that had been done to create such an outstanding site.

The Committee then discussed the web site and whether a printed Environmental Almanac is still necessary, or if it could now be included on the website. Committee members noted:

- That an Environmental Almanac was suggested to include translations to provide a bridge to ethnic groups, and for those who do not have access to the Internet.
- That the focus of an almanac would be to provide hands on tips, and these may not be the most useful if they are buried within the web site.

The Drainage and Environment Manager noted that a paper almanac could not cover all the information on the site and would need to be more succinct. A paper almanac could be narrowed down to home use and environmental practices, covering things such as paint and recycling depots and simple environmental tips.

The Chair asked the Environmental Advisory Committee to review the environmental section of the City of Surrey web site, and requested the following items be included on the May 15, 2003 meeting agenda:

- Discussion of a paper City of Surrey Environmental Almanac.
- Types of information the Committee would like to see on the environmental section of the City of Surrey web site.

C. DISCUSSION OF DELEGATIONS

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Representative to the Environmental Advisory Committee

The chair welcomed Mr. Stanley VanKeulen as a representative of the Environmental Advisory Committee, and noted his valuable contribution to the City of Surrey through the Agricultural Advisory Committee, and the Environmental Advisory Committee.

2. Pharmaceuticals in Groundwater

The Committee reviewed the proposed *Medications Return Program* environmental tip for the City Page and made minor wording changes. The Environmental Advisory Committee thanked H. Locke for his work on preparing this environmental tip.

The Committee noted that Europe is seeing significant effects in the food chain from pharmaceuticals in wastewater, and because of the high population they are getting very concerned.

It was Moved by B. Stillwell
Seconded by T. Godwin
the City Page editor for inclusion on the City Page. That the environmental tip *Medications Return Program* be forwarded to
Carried

3. Environmental Workshop

The Chair provided a proposed outline for an environmental workshop for review and consideration.

The Drainage and Environment Manager distributed a list of contacts featuring City of Surrey Environmental Roles and Responsibilities, and which shows how environmental issues are coordinated. The list includes a description of environmental issues, the lead environmental agency, City liaison department, and the lead City contact.

The Environmental Advisory Committee discussed an Environmental workshop and made the following points:

- That the Committee has some concern with communications between departments on environmental issues.
- That there does not appear to be a comprehensive standard for environmental protection that encompasses all departments.
- That perhaps an environmental workshop dealing with one issue such as aquaculture at Mud Bay would be better and capture more interest.
- That all Council Advisory Committees could be invited to a workshop as they also have a role to in dealing with environmental issues and liaising with Council.
- That other potential topics for an environmental workshop could include:
 - Dealing with mosquito control (West Nile Virus).
 - Development of an overall environmental protection plan, and more coordinated communication between departments.
 - Development of a yearly environmental publication explaining where Surrey is, and where it wants to go.

The Drainage and Environment Manager advised that environmentally sensitive areas in the City of Surrey are flagged, and when an application is received for any of these areas, environmental requirements and concerns are automatically part of the process. Applicants are required to deal with agencies such as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, or the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Pollution.

The Drainage and Environment Manager continued by noting that a sizeable part of Surrey does have environmental issues, and although there may be some redundancies and inefficiencies in the way things are done, departments are very coordinated in dealing with environmental matters.

The Environmental Advisory Committee continued discussion:

- That there does not appear to be any preliminary work done on environmental impacts that is provided to Council.
- That Council sets the development approval process in motion, but it is only later that departments put significant investment into environmental issues.
- That environmental issues do not appear to be dealt with until departments become accountable to other levels of government.
- That there may be a benefit to having environmental issues identified at the Neighbourhood Concept Planning stage.
- That once a plan for development is put forward environmental issues are being mitigated, rather than identified.
- That the first question in preparing a development plan should be what are the environmental impacts and can we live with them.

It was the consensus of the Environmental Advisory Committee that an Environmental Workshop is a good idea, but that it needs further refinement. The Chair will review this and bring suggestions to the May 15, 2003 meeting of the Committee.

E. NEW BUSINESS

F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

G. UPDATES

1. Outstanding Action List (For Review)

The Environmental Advisory Committee reviewed the Outstanding Action List, and expressed appreciation to A. Zonta, Administrative Assistant, for the excellent work she has done to prepare the list.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Aquaculture Minority Report – April 8, 2003

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Seconded by T. Godwin

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Carried

I. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. WaterWise Garden

WaterWise Garden pamphlets were distributed for the Environmental Advisory Committee.

J. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

1. Groundwater

The Drainage and Environment Manager noted the significant work being undertaken by the City of Surrey in mapping existing wells and wells with water licenses in Surrey. She advised that in the event of a failure in the GVRD line, the aim of the City is to be able to ensure sources of water South of the Fraser River. Additional water supplies could also be used to reduce the cost of buying bulk water from the GVRD.

The Drainage and Environment Manger advised that the Engineering Department has one staff member dedicated to mapping existing wells and wells with water licenses in the City of Surrey. The process will also look at the potential impact on the stream groundwater table if wells are used to offset GVRD costs.

The Environmental Advisory Committee asked that staff be invited to give a presentation on the groundwater mapping project at an upcoming meeting of the Committee.

2. West Nile Virus

The Environmental Advisory Committee discussed mosquito control and the West Nile Virus. It was noted that the City through the joint GVRD mosquito control contract has hired a contractor who will come up with West Nile Virus information and tracking. The virus can have a serious impact on raptors, and has the potential to wipe out significant bird populations.

The Environmental Advisory Committee invited Rachel Jones, Environmental Coordinator to attend the May 15, 2003 meeting of the Committee to give a presentation on the West Nile virus.

3. Surrey Transfer Station

H. Locke advised that vendors have been shortlisted, and negotiations are underway. It is anticipated that a contract will be signed at the end of the month with construction to follow shortly

after that. The Surrey Transfer Station will take approximately one year to construct.

The Drainage and Environment Manager noted that two smaller Transfer Stations are also planned for Surrey, once the first Transfer Station is operational.

K. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee is tentatively scheduled for May 15, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Chairperson