

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION INDEX
Thursday, June 19, 2003**

J. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

1. Amendment of Environmental Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference

It was noted that the current Environmental Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference do not accurately reflect the number of voting members. The Agricultural Advisory Committee representative is considered a voting member and, when appointed, the Terms of Reference were not amended to reflect this additional voting member.

The Committee members were requested to pass a formal motion to amend the total number of voting members from 11 to 12.

It was Moved by Councillor Bose
Seconded by T. Godwin
That the Environmental Advisory Committee would recommend that
Council approve the amendment to the Environmental Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference to amend the total number of voting members from 11 to 12.
Carried

City of Surrey

***Environmental Advisory Committee
Minutes***

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2003
Time: 7:00 p.m.
File No. 0540-20 EAC

Present:

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

Absent:

J. Grewal

Staff Present:

O. Croy, Manager, Parks
Rachael Jones, Environmental Coordinator
C. Kiverago, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Environmental Advisory Committee

The minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee held on May 15, 2003, were amended to reflect that B. Stilwell was present at the meeting.

It was Moved by R. Wetzel
Seconded by B. Stilwell
That the minutes of the Environmental Advisory committee meeting held
May 15, 2003, be adopted, as amended.
Carried

Note: At the Regular Council – Public Hearing meeting held on May 26, 2003, Council received the minutes and adopted the recommendations of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting held on May 15, 2003.

Minute excerpts were provided for information.

B. DELEGATIONS

C. DISCUSSION OF DELEGATIONS

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Environmental Website

The Chair solicited input from the Committee as to how the City's website could be improved with respect to the environmental concerns of the community of Surrey.

The Committee then offered the following comments, observations and suggestions:

- The Mud Bay Park website page is unreadable, as the text is too small and it cannot be expanded.
- The Existing Bicycle Network map was too small and very hard to read. The green colours used for the Park Sites and the Agricultural Land Reserve areas are too similar. The Legend showed that the Agricultural Land Reserve areas should be coloured in yellow, but on the map they are shown in a light greenish colour. There was a slight colour difference, between the legend and the map, with respect to the colours used to depict the School Sites. If a person were red/green colour blind, they would not be able to read the map. The map should be developed to be more user friendly.
- The Nature Trails link was misleading, as it did not immediately show maps of nature trails. Instead, it showed a map entitled Parks by Community Area. The 6 different community areas in Surrey could then be clicked on to bring up information regarding the parks in those areas and then each individual park could be clicked on to show trails within the park. It was suggested that the Nature Trails link should be changed to Park Locations and Nature Trails.
- The Parks section was incomplete, as a lot of parks were not identified on the maps and often there was no information on a particular park.
- The suggestion was made that lawn sprinkling water restrictions should be included under the Environment – Frequently Asked Questions section. It was also suggested that there should be more items listed under that section including items such as garbage pick-up information.
- The Chair directed the Committee Clerk to incorporate the Lawn Sprinkling Regulations, from the website, in the minutes.

Lawn Sprinkling Regulations

From June 1 - Sept 30 sprinkling is allowed 4am - 9am & 7pm - 10 pm, Wednesday and Saturday (EVEN numbered addresses), and Thursday and Sunday (ODD numbered addresses).

- Special permits are available for more frequent watering of newly planted lawns. Contact the City for more information.
- These regulations do not affect the watering of vegetable and flower gardens. You may water your garden as often as needed, ideally, using a watering can or a hose with a spring-loaded shut-off nozzle to reduce water waste.
- The Environmental Advisory Committee was hard to find on the website. There should be a direct link to the Environmental Advisory Committee.

- There should be more links to environmental information included in the Land Development & Building section of the website.

It was noted that the Environmental Coordinator supplied some of the text for the environmental sections of the website. Environmental sections are a part of most of the City's departments. It was suggested that all of the departments' environmental sections should be coordinated and interrelated.

A question was posed as to whether anyone had looked at other City's websites and it was agreed that J. Trimble would do this and report back his findings to the Committee at the next meeting.

The Chair stated that the website is still a work in progress and that it is quite comprehensive and an extremely valuable source of information.

The Chair directed the Committee Clerk to forward these EAC minutes, containing the Committee's comments, observations and suggestions, to the City's Website Coordinator.

2. Environmental Workshop

A minute excerpt was provided in response to the recommendation put forth by the Committee to Council requesting that Council instruct the City Manager provide the Committee with the City's environmental information, guidelines and policy statements referring to environmental concerns and protection.

A draft outline of the Environmental Workshop Agenda was provided for the Committee's review.

The Chair invited the Committee's comments and suggestions with respect to the draft Environmental Workshop Agenda.

The Committee then offered the following comments, suggestions and additions:

- Environmental concerns with respect to Land Development should be identified and addressed as a separate item on the agenda.
- The question "What is Ecology?" was posed and it was explained that ecology deals with how all living organisms are interconnected to each other and the earth.
- Some focus should be put on urban and industrial ecology that would be energy sustainable.
- Environmental sustainability should be an item on the agenda.
- A list of 10 principles for sound environments should be included.
- The environmental mandate of the City should be included.
- A question was posed as to whether the public should be included?
- Monitoring of the quality of the environment should be included.
- Add environmental practices to environmental policies and philosophy.
- How to take it forward into the future?
- The target audience would be all of Council and the Senior Management Team or their representatives.
- The purpose would be to create more synergy, interaction and communication between the departments, with respect to environmental issues and concerns.
- The City Manager should be involved, as he is involved in developing a Best Practices model with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.
- A keynote speaker could be invited, to speak to the issue of sustainability, such as Professor Bill Rees from the Urban Planning Department of UBC or Sebastian Moffat from Victoria who works with the GVRD. It was decided that the Chair would approach Bill Reese with the prospect of being a keynote speaker and Councillor Bose would approach Sebastian Moffat.
- Rob Costanzo, Contracts & Solid Waste Manager, whose responsibilities include solid waste and recycling in the City, should be invited to discuss the Surrey Transfer Station.
- All Department Heads should be in attendance to ensure that environmental considerations are given high priority in each of their departments and to investigate where there may be some shortfalls.
- The environmental philosophy should also be conveyed to all contract managers as the City contracts

out huge amounts of work.

- Each of the departments may be working in different directions and this would facilitate all departments working towards a common goal.
- Surrey is operating with the lowest number of staff per capita compared to other cities in the region, therefore the Committee should be cognisant of the fact that if the list of invited staff is large, some invitees may be too busy to attend.
- To achieve and sustain industry best practices would involve a continuous improvement cycle.

The Chair stated that the purpose of the meeting was not to focus on the negative, but to investigate ways of improving our environment, in the future, to establish Surrey as the environmental leader in British Columbia.

It was Moved by J. Trimble
Seconded by D. Maher
That the Chair would speak with the City Manager before preparing a revised draft Environmental Workshop Agenda.
Carried unanimously

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. EWOS Information Meeting

A minute excerpt was provided to the members for information regarding a future delegation appearance by Mr. Ross Grierson, President, EWOS.

Councillor Bose stated that Ross Grierson, President of EWOS came before Council and gave a presentation at the Council-in-Committee meeting held last Monday, June 16, 2003.

Councillor Bose reported that EWOS was a manufacturing plant located on 132nd Street that produces fish food. The manufacturing process involved using fish waste, which contained amines in the fish oil and these amines created a volatile odour. EWOS undertook a very extensive consulting process and they have taken measures to control the odours. They have enclosed their unloading areas and they have modified the wet scrubber to include an acid spray to neutralize the amines. They have to complete all of the installation of their odour control equipment by the end of this month, to meet the GVRD requirements. The next step will be a report back from the GVRD regarding their findings.

It was Moved by R. Wetzel
Seconded by B. Stilwell
That the GVRD's report on EWOS become a pending item on the EAC's Outstanding Action List.
Carried

Councillor Bose volunteered to be the liaison person with EWOS.

2. Water Wise Wisdom for Gardeners

A draft article regarding Water Wise Wisdom for Gardeners, for inclusion in the City Page, was put forward for the Committee's review and the following additions were agreed upon:

- (a) The following text should be included after "Select drought-resistant plants":

(preferably native plants)
- (b) The following italicized text should be included as an additional reason to water in the morning:

(to minimize evaporation and allow leaves to dry before nightfall *so as to become less disease susceptible*)

- (c) That lawn sprinkling regulations, from the City's website, should be included under "Observe watering restrictions".

The regulations are set out in these minutes under item D.1. above.

The Chair directed the Committee Clerk to forward the amended article to staff to be published in the City Page.

F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

G. UPDATES

1. Outstanding Action List (For Review)

With respect to BC Hydro PCB Contamination at Bear Creek item, 2nd report expected next month, the Committee Clerk was directed to change the item from action completed to pending.

R. Wetzel will inquire as to the status of the report and will report back to the committee at the next meeting.

Sumas II

A newspaper article was provided from the Province Newspaper, dated Thursday, May 27, 2003, regarding the Sumas II hearings.

2. Grandview Corridor Update

A minute excerpt was provided regarding a status report on the Grandview Corridor, which would be brought forward to Council on June 9, 2003.

Councillor Bose stated that a status report regarding the Grandview Heights/Highway 99 Corridor was brought before Council at the Regular Council - Land Use meeting held on Monday, June 9, 2003.

Councillor Bose reported that the residents in the area are requesting more public consultation with respect to environmental issues and other concerns. They are also requesting more time before the implementation of the plan. Council passed a motion to authorize staff to undertake additional public consultation, as documented in the report, but did not extend the timeline before the plan is implemented.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Proposed Development Concern

Correspondence sent by Ms. Margo Johnson concerning the proposed two-acre development alongside the Semiahmoo Heritage Trail between 20 Avenue and 22 Avenue, was provided in the Addendum Agenda.

The Manager of Parks stated that the proposed development is adjacent to the southern tip of the historic

Semiahmoo Heritage Trail. This portion of the Trail has a variety of trees that are exhibiting signs of failure and decline. The decline of these trees has been exacerbated by adjacent developments. If the proposed development is given approval, it will have a significant impact on the trees and it is anticipated that some proactive removal of a number of larger trees will have to be undertaken.

The Manager of Parks passed around a location map (Appendix A) and an aerial map (Appendix B) depicting the southern tip of the Semiahmoo Heritage Trail and the adjacent subject property for the proposed development.

The Chair directed the Committee Clerk to attach the two maps to the minutes.

It is likely that many of the trees on the private property would have to be removed due to the actual construction itself and some of the larger trees on the park property would have to be removed because of the risk management factor involved, of unstable trees that could possibly fall on residential and commercial properties.

Tree removal in parks is decided on a site-specific basis.

Councillor Bose reported that the public would like the trail broadened, to help save some of the existing larger trees, which would mean that the developer would have less land to build on and the number of proposed townhouses would have to be reduced.

The Manager of Parks then offered some information on the causes and effects of tree failure and decline. He also offered some statistics on the provision ratio of parkland in Surrey.

2. Application for Amendment of Special Waste Storage Permit PS-8610

Correspondence sent from Carrie Baron, Drainage & Environment Manager, to Mr. N. Chambers, BC Hydro – Surrey Oil Operations, was provided in the Addendum Agenda.

Discussion of this item was tabled, by the Chair, until the Drainage & Environment Manager is present.

I. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. FresH₂Outlook Magazine – May 2003

Copies of the FresH₂Outlook Magazine, May 2003 publication, were provided on table.

2. 2003 Farm Tour

The Chair passed around a signup sheet for the 2003 Farm Tour. He is not able to attend the event this year, as he will be out of the Province, but he stressed that it is well worth attending and is extremely informative. S. VanKeulen stated that his farm is hosting the chicken barbeque that takes place after the Farm Tour.

J. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

1. Amendment of Environmental Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference

It was noted that the current Environmental Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference do not accurately reflect the number of voting members. The Agricultural Advisory Committee representative is considered a voting member and, when appointed, the Terms of Reference were not amended to reflect this additional voting member.

The Committee members were requested to pass a formal motion to amend the total number of voting members from 11 to 12.

It was Moved by Councillor Bose
Seconded by T. Godwin
That the Environmental Advisory Committee would recommend that Council approve the amendment to the Environmental Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference to amend the total number of voting members from 11 to 12.
Carried

2. **Langley Environmental Partners Society (LEPS)**

T. Godwin offered some information concerning the Langley Environmental Partners Society. LEPS is an umbrella, partnership organization that pulls together 26 different environmental organizations from the community and government. Their mandate is “protecting, preserving and restoring the natural environment through education, cooperation and action”.

Their goals and objectives are:

- To promote and conduct watershed protection and restoration activities in Langley.
- To provide technical support to community volunteer groups conducting environmental work.
- To provide education and work experience for students in areas related to environmental sciences.
- To foster community cooperation in the Langley area through environment-oriented partnerships among government, teaching institutions, community associations and businesses.

Their funding comes from various organizations. They map all creeks, streams and ditches and enter them into the Geographic Information System (GIS), which is a digital map. Their work goes beyond what the SHaRP mandate encompasses and they run all year round.

3. **Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) Study**

Councillor Bose raised the question of the status of the Environmentally Sensitive Areas Study. The Manager of Parks stated that the original study was done in the early 1990's. It was updated, for staff reference, several years ago and is used for analysis at a broad contextual level.

The Chair suggested that the Committee could request an ESA update from staff.

4. **BC Hydro's Power Smart Program**

F. Perello distributed some information on BC Hydro's Power Smart program. He stated that there are different levels of participation in the program and he noted that the City of Surrey has achieved the level of a Power Smart Partner. He would like the Committee to encourage the City to strive to achieve the next level, which is to become a Power Smart Certified energy efficiency leader.

The Manager of Parks stated that their department is the largest consumer of energy in the City due to the large amount of energy that the various recreational facilities consume. They have worked at reducing their consumption of energy not only for environmental reasons, but also to reduce their costs of operation.

The Manager of Parks suggested that a representative from the City's Energy Management Committee could bring forward a status report to the Committee.

5. **Surrey Transfer Station**

H. Locke briefly stated that he attended a status report meeting last night regarding the Surrey Transfer

Station. The ground breaking will take place in two days and it is expected to be completed by next April. The GVRD has transferred the project over to a private contractor (Vanmar Construction).

6. City's Use of Styrofoam Cups and Plates and Internal Recycling Program

- (a) The Manger of Parks made a request, through Legislative Services, to use ceramic cups and plates instead of styrofoam, at all EAC Committee meetings.
- (b) The Manger of Parks stated that the City is now recycling styrofoam internally. All City departments can now use the internal courier service (Argus Couriers) to transport their packing styrofoam, etc. to the worksyard.

7. Recycling of Corplast

Councillor Bose suggested that the City should look into recycling corplast.

K. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, July 17, 2003, at 7:00 p.m., in the Executive Boardroom.

It was

Moved by Councillor Bose
Seconded by F. Perello
That the meeting do now adjourn.
Carried

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Chairperson