

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION INDEX
Wednesday, September 21, 2005**

F. CORRESPONDENCE

**1. (c) Deb Jack, President
Surrey Environmental Partners**

It was Moved by S. VanKeulen
Seconded by B. Gray
That the Surrey Environmental partners be invited to appear as a
delegation at the October 19 meeting of the Surrey Environmental Advisory Committee, to discuss concerns
related to the draft tree preservation by-law; and

That the Manager, Long Range Planning & Policy Development be invited to attend; and to achieve a balance
in representations,

That the General Manager, Planning & Development be asked to extend an invitation to a member of the
Development Advisory Community to also attend the October 19 Surrey Environmental Advisory Committee,
to represent the views of the Development Community.

Carried

City of Surrey

***Environmental Advisory Committee
Minutes***

Staff Lounge
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21,
2005**
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Present:

R. Wetzel - Chair
B. Gray
Dr. K. Hoekstra
A. Keshvani
H. Locke
J. Lotzkar
Dr. F. Perello
B. Stilwell
Councillor Bose

Absent:

Dr. Dragomir
D. Maher

Staff Present:

R. Dube, Drainage Planning Manager
K. Swaele, Legislative Services

Agricultural Advisory Committee

Representative

S. VanKeulen – 6:45 p.m.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Environmental Advisory Committee - Minutes

It was Moved by F. Perello
Seconded by A. Keshvani
That the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of
July 20, 2005 be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Riparian Area Regulation (RAR) Pilot Project

R. Dube, Drainage Planning Manager noted that the Drainage and Environment Manager had provided the

Environmental Advisory Committee with a copy of the draft City of Surrey Riparian Setback Determination Project. Mr. Dube continued:

- That the Province and Fisheries and Oceans have come to an agreement and that there may be some small changes to the recommended regulations.
- That the Environmental Advisory Committee is asked to review the report and provide comments for discussion at the October 2005 meeting of the Committee.
- That the City legislation is to be in place by March 2006.

The Chair asked Environmental Advisory Committee members to review the document and noted that the topic will be brought back for discussion at the October meeting.

S. Van Keulen arrived 6:45 p.m.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Sub-committees / Work Plan

Recommendation for Ratification

That the Environmental Advisory Committee should be engaged in the earliest stages of development of general and local land use plans.

Action:

The Environmental Advisory Committee asked that the formation of a work plan be undertaken at a retreat.

2. Retreat to Review Terms of Reference

The Environmental Advisory Committee discussed holding a retreat to review the terms of reference and develop a work plan.

Action:

R. Wetzel, Chair, will explore potential sites, dates and costs, as well as a presentation by Val Schafer on Urban Biodiversity. Once a format is firm, the Environmental Advisory Committee will request funds from the Council Initiative Fund.

3. Vancouver Island High Voltage Power Line Project

The Drainage Planning Manager commented that the Drainage and Environment Manager would like to know if the Environmental Advisory Committee is interested in including the Vancouver Island High Voltage Power Line project on the work plan.

Action:

The Environmental Advisory Committee expressed an interest in this project and asked that the Drainage and Environment Manager contact the proponents to see if they are available to attend the October meeting.

The Environmental Advisory Committee discussed High Voltage Power Lines and noted that while there may be no documentation on health risks, there is a lot of electrical flux and interference, and they can be very inconvenient to those living nearby.

D. NEW BUSINESS

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

1. Tree Preservation By-law, 1996, No. 12880

Ms. J. McLeod, Manager Long Range Planning & Policy Development was present to provide an overview on the Tree Preservation By-law. The presentation noted:

- That in November 2004 Council considered Corporate Report No. R270, “Tree Preservation in the City of Surrey”, and authorized staff to “proceed with a public consultation program regarding changes to the City's Tree Preservation By-law and other by-laws and policies related to trees and the preservation of trees in the City.”
- That 176 people attended 3 public open houses and 110 comment sheets were received.
- That all community associations were contacted and meetings held with representatives of Surrey Environmental Partners, Surrey Association for Sustainable Communities and other groups.
- That presentations were made to City Advisory Committees (Agricultural Advisory Committee, Environmental Advisory Committee, Heritage Advisory Committee, and Development Advisory Committee).
- That all commentary was documented in a Corporate Report and considered by Council on July 25, 2005.
- That, at that time, Council supported the recommendations in principle but directed that they be forwarded to the Environmental Advisory Committee and other committees of Council prior to a report back with a draft by-law.
- That Council supported additional staff consisting of a “Tree Administrator” position in Planning & Development for on-going administration of the by-law, and a By-law Enforcement Officer for additional enforcement focusing on evenings and weekends.
- That there be a standardized definition of “Tree Survey” and standardized report form for arborists.
- That arborists be required to be independent of tree services.
- That new design standards for “protective tree barriers” be incorporated into the by-law, with requirements for securities for monitoring and maintenance.
- That tree pruning be required to be to ANSI Standards (no topping, lolly-popping, etc).
- That 2 for 1 replacement be required if protected trees are removed, with a 1 for 1 replacement for alder or cottonwood.
- That, where possible, replacement trees be required to be on the same lot.
- That cash-in-lieu be collected for trees that cannot be accommodated on a lot (\$300 per tree to a maximum of \$15,000 per acre).
- That for any acre that is cleared, there would be approximately 50 replacement trees.
- That an owner of a lot be allowed to remove a tree if it is wrong for the location, subject to a replacement tree or cash-in-lieu.
- The definition of “Protected Tree” has been revised to include multi-stemmed species.
- That security posting be required (based on double value of replacement trees) for 1 year for trees to be preserved through development.
- That in the ALR, restrictive covenants are required on title confirming that clearing is for agricultural purposes only for 5 years – no subdivision or development other than for agriculture.
- That the Heritage Advisory Committee and others be encouraged to participate in recognition/reward programs to be established for exemplary tree preservation programs.
- That a Green City Reserve Fund be put in place for tree management and tree plantings (2% of building permit revenues, all Cash-in-lieu payments and one-time payment of \$500,000).
- That Municipal Tickets (MTI) be used for infractions under the Tree Protection By-law.
- That having a tree by-law is something a municipality “may” do. Only about half of the municipalities in the Lower Mainland have a tree by-law.
- That staff welcome feedback/comments from Advisory Committees and others.
- That it is hoped that the Tree By-law Administrator will provide the educational component of the by-law.
- That once they have received the feedback, a final report and By-law Amendments will be prepared for Council's consideration.

The Environmental Advisory Committee discussed the Tree Preservation By-law and noted:

- That more than one By-law Officer may be necessary to enforce the by-law

- That it seems to be an onerous task to monitor the by-law on a day-to-day basis.
- That the process seems to suggest that some trees are more valuable than others.
- That the replacement values of trees should not be capped.
- That there should be more scientific data provided on the basis for the numbers of replacement trees.
- That the overall objective should be to preserve the number of trees presently in the City.
- That it would be impossible to obtain 100% compliance with the by-law but it will go a long way towards tree preservation.
- That significant trees could be “tagged” so that there is an awareness of them, which could help preservation efforts.
- That staff presentations should be coordinated to be heard at the same meeting as a delegation on the same topic rather than fragmenting the issue by hearing the delegation at one meeting, and the staff presentation at another.
- That if staff are excited about this by-law and feel that it will work, they should be encouraged to go forward.
- That the public should be educated on the value of the tree preservation by-law as they are the eyes and ears of the project.
- That when a tree is being removed, the City should require the tree cutting permit to be placed in a visible spot so that neighbours and the community expect to see a permit when trees are cut down, and will be aware when violations take place.
- That there should be a cap on the number of trees that can be removed on a property.
- That if there are fundamental challenges to the development industry, the Environmental Advisory Committee should be aware of them so that they can be dealt with.
- That tree preservation is important to obtaining biodiversity in an urban setting.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

It was

Moved by B. Bose
Seconded by B. Stilwell
That the correspondence be received.
Carried

1. (a) Surrey Environmental Partners

Correspondence received September 8, 2005, from
D. Bowyer, Director at Large, Surrey Environmental Partners.

(b) Fraser Valley Conservation Coalition

E-correspondence of July 21, 2005 from D. Passmore.

(c) Deb Jack, President Surrey Environmental Partners

Request to appear as a delegation to discuss the recommendations contained in Corporate Report R185 concerning the Tree Preservation By-law.

It was

Moved by S. VanKeulen
Seconded by B. Gray

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G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. West Nile Treatment Update

The Drainage Planning Manager provided an update on the West Nile Virus and noted that it has not yet been found in B.C. Some birds and mosquitoes tagged in Alberta and Washington State were found to have the virus, but it has remained on the other side of the mountains. Mr. Dube continued:

That the UBCM provided funds to the City to monitor West Nile Virus.

That the City monitored 250 catch basins and a larvicide was used to prevent outbreaks of mosquitoes. ShaRP undertook an education program.

Action: The Environmental Advisory Committee asked that the Drainage and Environment Manager provide information on funding, and whether the larvicide had been successful in reducing the mosquito population.

2. Council Resolutions – July 25, 2005

Memorandum of July 26, 2005 from Legislative Services.

H. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

J. Lotzkar felt that the notes on the meeting with the Mayor and Council were incorrect in that the Committee did not agree that the Curbside Large Item Pick up go back to its original recycling component.

Action: That the Contract and Solid Waste Manager be invited to attend the November 16 meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee to provide an update on the curbside/large item pick up and whether there had been any increase in the amount of garbage on the roads.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on October 19, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

J. ADJOURNMENT

The Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

R. Wetzel, Chairperson Environmental Advisory Committee