



Environmental Advisory Committee – Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2010
Time: 6:30 pm
File: 0540-20

Present:

A. Schulze - Chair
B. Burnside
B. Campbell
C. Dragomir
M. Harcourt
K. Keshvani
G. Sahota
G. Sangha
B. Stewart

Regrets:

S. VanKeulen, Agricultural Advisory
Committee Representative

Staff Present:

C. Baron, Drainage and Environmental
Manager
O. Croy, Manager, Parks
L. Anderson, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved B. Stewart

Seconded by K. Keshvani

That the minutes of the Environmental Advisory

Committee meeting held on November 24, 2010, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Draft Ecosystem Management Study (EMS)

The Committee reviewed the presentation made at the November 24, 2010 meeting in order to consider any potential Committee recommendations to Council. A summary of the presentation was noted as follows:

- The key point is to retain natural areas away from population densities i.e. transit hubs and employment centers. Limit sprawl and look at green space preservation in more remote areas, i.e. Grandview Heights #4 where future transit options are limited.
- Preserve biodiversity. Even if logged in the past, all will be gone with development; biodiversity will be gone.
- The policies and guidelines around implementation of the EMS have yet to be developed, yet development is proceeding at such a rate that by the time the EMS itself is finished and policies are developed, it is felt that most of those lands will already be developed or will have been slated for development.

It was noted that Kevin Purton, Director, Surrey Environmental Partners (SEP), made a presentation to Council at their Council-in-Committee meeting on Monday, December

13, 2010. The Committee was advised of the 18 main points of that presentation (a detailed copy of which will be included in the minutes of that meeting).

Owen Croy, Manager of Parks, provided (on table) a written response to some of the issues raised during the SEP presentation. The following was noted:

- The parkland acquisition ratio remains at 4.2 ha per 1,000, as per the current OCP. The Parks, Recreation and Culture 2008-2017 Strategic Plan recommended 1.2 ha per 1,000 for “City Parks”; this is only one classification of park recommended in the report, with the others being Destination Parks, Community/Town Centre Parks, Neighbourhood Parks and Regional Parks. These other park classifications include specific per capita ratios, save the Regional and Destination Parks, which are not calculated on a per capita basis, owing their nature. The report suggests not including park lands that are contained within the ALR in the total when counting the current provision ratio, not including the existing regional parks (Surrey Bend and Tynehead) and not including lands that serve infrastructure purposes (storm water, sanitary, water, etc.), which would tend to increase the per capita ratio of what is traditionally included in the per capita provision ratios.
- Natural lands, wildlife management areas and park lands within Surrey that are not owned by Surrey, are not included in the park inventory. The large dedicated urban forests are not included and have been kept out of the calculation since 1996.
- Over the last five years, the City has acquired 156 ha (385 acres). This is more than 50% of the total parkland acquired by the City and far exceeds the 0.8 ha per 1,000 provision standard contained within the current OCP. When all natural areas lands (including regional park natural areas and the Serpentine Fen Wildlife Management Area) are calculated, the City has close to the 5.0 ha per 1,000 that has been suggested by SEP.
- Each year at budget time, staff present funding requests for new natural area parkland in amounts that will satisfy the optimum natural area management program. When budgets are finalized, staff prioritize the work plan and attend to all critical and important issues in accordance with the budget funding that is available, utilizing the frame-work of the award-winning Natural Areas Strategic Management Plan to guide decision making.
- Surrey carries out a more comprehensive natural areas management program than any other lower mainland municipality, and does it within approved available budgets. The current budget for natural area parkland management is comparable to the operating budget for all of the City’s athletic facilities as a whole.
- SEP’s concern with parks is more with that of natural areas and not so much of a park to put in a ball park, etc. They would like to see habitat and natural land protected. There is confusion when using “park” as a description for natural areas. For example, Surrey Bend is identified as a park, yet the public’s perception of a park is that there should be benches, etc.

Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the following:

- Review of parks ratios and the definitions, as described in the Parks, Recreation and Culture Strategic Plan, for the following park land areas:
 - City parks;
 - Conservation areas;
 - Natural areas;
 - Athletic parks;
 - Large integrated use parks;
 - Natural and conservation areas within town centers; and

- Neighbourhood parks – large, mini, plazas, schools.
- The current OCP standards for each park type.
- Restricted covenants and the public’s perception of a park.
- Bonus density options and taking advantage of the concept as a means to preserve.
- Under land use there needs to be preservation on private lands. It is felt that Grandview Heights #4 NCP is trying to be more equitable.
- Eco credit transfer concept - transfer of eco credits in an area, ie. all pay, not just a few or the person who saved the trees vs. those who cut down trees, etc. For example, if one forested and one clear cut, clear cut develop and forest be enforced to maintain with some ability to transfer the wealth that is going to be generated by the clear cut area to the one who is going to sustain.
- The proposed EMS identifies key areas to preserve and also areas for missing links and rehabilitating. Keeping the links, etc., will be cheaper than trying to re-establish in the future.
- Surrey has some of the last major tracks of land that are going to be developed that hold very high environmental values.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

It was Moved B. Stewart
Seconded by M. Harcourt
That in light of the Environmental Advisory

Committee:

1. having reviewed the draft Ecosystem Management Study (EMS) and hearing from delegations expressing concerns with the draft and its application to lands proposed to development;
2. having grave concerns about the rapid rate of development proposed for the few remaining environmentally significant areas within the City, as identified in the EMS; and,
3. suggesting that insufficient weight is being given to environmental concerns for these areas within the planning process,

the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that Council give full consideration to finalizing the policy recommendations of the EMS before passing the next stages of NCP areas that contain significant privately held hubs, sites and corridors.

Carried with G. Sahota against.

Further discussion with regard to the Committee’s presentation to Council in January 2011, to outline work done to date and also to express concerns with the EMS and moving forward, was had. Bob Campbell agreed to lead the delegation with Bonnie Burnside, Al Schulze and Martin Harcourt to be in attendance.

D. NEW BUSINESS

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Update

An update from the AAC meeting of December 2, 2010, was provided as follows:

- The AAC received a presentation from Metro Vancouver on the Draft Regional Food System Strategy (a copy of which was available for EAC members to peruse). Key issues include the need to consider farm access and machinery access for farm vehicles.

2. Development Advisory Committee (DAC) Update

An update from the DAC meeting of October 28, 2010 was provided as follows:

- A presentation from Jeffrey Busby, Infrastructure Planning and Daniel Freeman, Project Lead, Translink, of the Surrey Rapid Transit Study, was provided. The following was noted:
 - Transit Plans and Community Plans need to go together.
 - The Study is jointly funded by Translink and the Province and will assess three rapid transit technologies: BRT, LRT and RRT.
 - There is a need to connect Surrey Town Centre with other Town Centres and to serve major activity centres today and in the future.
 - Environmentally sensitive areas will be taken into account.
 - To date, there have been four community events for public consultation.
 - Next steps include more detailed discussion on alternatives (early 2011) and refined design and evaluation (spring 2011).
 - Corridor densities will also be reviewed.
- A preview of the COSMOS view for developers was provided noting that some functions on the system have decreased (ie. printing and markups).
- A presentation of the Sustainability Targets and Indicators was provided.
- The DAC were advised that “secondary suite-ready homes” will not be a requirement by developers, however the City does encourage this.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Pesticide Bylaw updates

The Manager of Parks presented proposed updates to the Pesticide Control By-law, ie. By-law to control use of pesticides on City lands and residential lands – would become more encompassing to cover multifamily and mobile homes. Discussion ensued regarding the following:

- Issue of playing fields and pesticide use;
- Timing of changes to the by-law ie. wanted time for multifamily to phase in so people can change contracts. Can introduce amendments on January 10, 2011, however it is too late for sports fields (if held off until March then there will be time to get it in).

- Currently there is no broadcast spraying, only spot spraying when fields are not in play, for which notification is posted as to which field, as well as closing off the field and fencing off the areas (signs are also posted on the fencing).
- Section 4B of current by-law covers the sports field issue .

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

It was Moved Bob Campbell
Seconded by Martin Harcourt
That the Environmental Advisory Committee
recommend that Council amend Pesticide Control By-law No. 17160 by deleting Section
4B (ensuring the safety of pedestrian or sports surfaces), as it is one of the public's
major concerns.

Carried

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on January 26, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was Moved by G. Sahota
Seconded by B. Stewart
That the Environmental Advisory Committee
meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Environmental Committee adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Bob Campbell, Chair
Surrey Environmental Advisory Committee