

**Present:**

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

**Regrets:**

M. Harcourt

**Agricultural Advisory Committee****Representative:**

S. VanKeulen S. VanKeulen, Agricultural  
Advisory Committee Representative

**Staff Present:**

C. Baron, Drainage and Environmental  
Manager  
G. Ward, Manager, Urban Forestry &  
Environment  
L. Anderson, Legislative Services

**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

It was Moved by G. Sahota  
Seconded by C. Dragomir  
That the minutes of the Environmental  
Advisory Committee meeting held on January 26, 2011, be adopted.  
Carried

**B. DELEGATIONS****1. Peter Russell, Sustainability Manager**

Further to the discussion at the January EAC meeting with regard to an environmental stewardship award program, Peter Russell, Sustainability Manager, provided an overview of a similar program that is being proposed through the City's Sustainability Office. A PowerPoint presentation was provided and guidelines were discussed. Comments were as follows:

- There are no programs in place to formally acknowledge the outstanding contributions of community or non-profit groups and individuals, specifically for their commitment to sustainability within the community.
- The City envisions developing a series of new City awards and programs to address the lack of meaningful recognition opportunities.
- There are four new annual awards being proposed: Civic Beautification; Social Planning; Urban Design; and Environmental Sustainability. A report to Council for their consent is targeted for the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- The EAC was asked to consider acting as the jury for the Environmental Sustainability Award, subject to approval by Council.
- A review/inventory of all existing awards, Surrey specific, should be undertaken first to avoid duplication. For example, the Surrey Board of Trade has an environmental award for businesses.

- There needs to be discussion, perhaps through a sub-committee, about the criteria, nomination process, scope of the award, categories (i.e. topic, outstanding individual/non-profit, youth, etc.), whether there should be sub-categories (i.e. tree planting, stream stewardship), etc., in order to define the terms and the process of which is applied.
- Strategically, the award could start slow with just three or four priority categories and then can roll out over time as it matures with the process.

S. VanKeulen left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

- As there is limited time and limited meetings, it was suggested that the Sustainability Manager research the existing Surrey specific awards as well as information on what other municipalities are presently doing, in order to have a base to start with. Once that information has been gathered, a meeting with a few EAC members (perhaps a sub-committee) would be set, with the goal of establishing an outline to present to the Committee at their March meeting.
- It was determined that B. Burnside, B. Campbell, J. Purewal and G. Sahota would form the sub-committee for which an initial meeting would be scheduled as soon as possible.

## C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

### 1. SHaRP, SNAP and other Nature Matters Programs

As requested, an overview of the subject programs in relation to education on the reduction in the use of pesticides by the public, alternatives to pesticide use, etc., was provided. Comments were as follows:

- The request was specific to pesticides. The SHaRP group focuses mainly on stream issues (not lawns, gardens, etc.). The general message is that everything runs down stream so don't pollute.
- SNAP does special events, outreach door-to-door about the impacts to natural parks. It is really a focus so far in terms of City assets care and respect, etc., with some overspill of information on natural care with use of mulches, etc. of shrubs and trees (which don't require pesticides). The mandate however has not been related to the care of private lawns and gardens, and is not in regard to pesticides per se.
- Information on pesticide alternatives is available through the City's website through the various links that are provided (to avoid duplication). For example, the Health Canada "Healthy Lawns" link provides a document that is very instructional in finding information on how to establish a new lawn or maintain an existing one, how to prevent and identify pest problems, and how to apply Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques. It also details the standards for education and training on pesticides that retailers, lawn care and landscape professionals must follow to ensure that pesticides are sold and used safely in Canada.
- It would be beneficial to know how much information is being accessed by the public through the internet; if there could be some form of recording usage.

- With the City's new website, it may be possible to track the use, however the system is still in its infancy stage and many of the new features have not been utilized by staff at this point.

## 2. Facilities Management Pesticide Use

Further to the Committee's request to invite Facilities Management for the City and Facilities Management for School District No. 36 regarding their policies and practice with respect to pesticides applications, the following was noted:

- With regard to the City's facilities, it was reported that there is no overarching policy that pertains to all facilities. Each facility is maintained individually with an operating agreement with Facilities Management for maintenance of each particular building.
- Further information may be available once the formal request from the Committee is received (following receipt of the EAC minutes of January 26<sup>th</sup> by Council), which can be reported at the next meeting.
- There has been a ban on herbicides in schools for years.
- A request to School District #36 had not been responded to at the time of the meeting. As this is an issues that should be addressed, the Committee suggested there be a further attempt at inviting a delegation and/or gathering the requested information for the Committee's meeting in March.
- It is the hope that requesting the information from the School District, or receiving a delegation from them, with regard to their policies on the use of pesticides, will provide awareness.

## 3. Clayton Neighbourhood ISMP

An update from the Committee member that was in attendance at the stakeholder consultation on January 28, 2011 for the Clayton Neighbourhood ISMP, was deferred until to the March EAC meeting.

## 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 February 3, 2011, was provided as follows:

*Residential Uses of ALR Land:*

- The AAC received a delegation from the Ministry of Agriculture concerning guidelines being developed for municipal by-laws to regulate residential uses of ALR land. There is concern throughout the Fraser Valley about future agricultural uses of ALR lands being compromised by construction of very large homes and associated structures. At the same time there has been very significant push-back in certain municipalities (including Surrey) when the topic of restricting house size arises. Surrey has delayed introduction of a by-law on this subject pending release of the provincial guidelines. It appears emphasis will be placed on regulating location of the building site with each property rather than actual home size.
- Related discussion included the importance of restricting approvals of second residences to situations where they are required for the farm operation.

*Species at Risk Act (SARA):*

- DFO is reportedly taking increased action to protect habitat deemed to be critical for species that are at risk of extirpation. Current focus is on two species, the Salish Sucker and the Nooksack Dace. DFO actions include expanding setbacks from watercourses to as much as 30 metres on each side and controlling water flows in drainage ditches at critical times. These actions will cause many farmers in the eastern Fraser Valley significant hardship due to flooding of their lands. Although Surrey will likely not be affected as a result of work on these two species, AAC members are concerned about what species may be next on the list.

*Flavours of Surrey:*

- It was confirmed that the 2011 version of the “Flavours of Surrey” will be held as an integral part of the “Fusion Festival” at Holland Park in July.

*Clayton Neighbourhood ISMP:*

- Those AAC members who attended the Clayton Neighbourhood ISMP stakeholder consultation reported that they were not impressed as they felt the actual issue of “storm water management” was not properly addressed.

## 2. **Development Advisory Committee (DAC) Update**

A brief update from the DAC meeting of January 27, 2011, was provided as follows:

- A review of the status of the Public Art Program, specifically the Private Sector Contribution Policy, was provided by S. McKinnon, Arts Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture.
- D. Luymes, Manager, Community Planning Division, discussed the small lot review on the City’s single-family residential zones that is underway. The review is linked with a Council request to review the East Clayton neighbourhood in advance of planning for the West Clayton area. Main issues related to the development of neighbourhoods using small lot residential included:
  - high percentage of site coverage with buildings and pavements, resulting in storm drainage issues;
  - parking issues, particularly along arterial roads with no on-street parking and where there are many coach houses and secondary suites;

- aesthetic issues related to density, site coverage and building form; and
- urban forest issues related to the difficulty of growing canopy trees in dense single-family developments.

Participation in a sub-committee of DAC to work with staff to produce options that address these concerns was requested. These will then be reviewed by DAC and other stakeholders before potential policy and zoning amendments are brought to Council for consideration.

- D. Luymes reviewed the progress towards developing a Sustainable Development Checklist and the proposed approach to implementing the Check List.

## H. OTHER BUSINESS

### 1. EAC 2011 Priority Items and Work Plan

The 2010 Priority Items and Work Plan was thoroughly reviewed and updated for the 2011 calendar year. The 2011 Priority Items and Work Plan will continue to be an item on the agenda for periodic review and further updates.

### 2. Earth Day Celebrations

Earth Day celebrations will be held on April 15-16, 2011 at the Surrey Centre/SFU Concourse. The two day event will involve all City departments and will provide displays and interactive activities that will appeal to all ages. Attendance is anticipated to be over 10,000. The idea is to make the event fun and provide environmental messaging.

## I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on March 23, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

## J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by B. Campbell

Seconded by K. Keshvani

That the Environmental Advisory Committee

meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Environmental Committee adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

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Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

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Al Schulze, Chair

Surrey Environmental Advisory Committee