

**Present:**

A. Schulze - Chair  
B. Burnside  
B. Campbell  
C. Dragomir  
J. Purewal  
G. Sahota  
G. Sangha  
B. Stewart

**Regrets:**

Councillor Bose  
M. Harcourt  
K. Keshvani  
S. VanKeulen, Agricultural Advisory  
Committee Representative

**Staff Present:**

C. Baron, Drainage and Environment Mgr.  
O. Croy, Manager  
L. Luaifoa, Legislative Services  
T. Neufeld, Manager, Park Operations South  
Y. Asadian, Park Partnership Coordinator

**Guests:**

Ron Meadley	Bert Fraser
David Riley	Phillip Milligan
Bill Kippan	David Riley
Deb Jack	

**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

It was

Moved by C. Dragomir

Seconded by B. Campbell

That the minutes of the Environmental  
Advisory Committee meeting held on October 26, 2011, be adopted as amended.

Carried

**B. DELEGATIONS****C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS****1. Community Gardens in Surrey**

Y. Asadian, of Parks, Recreation and Culture provided a PowerPoint presentation.  
The following overview was provided:

- Surrey has 11 active community gardens of which 5 are located on park land (Dunsmuir Community Garden, North Surrey Organic Community Garden, Hazelnut Meadows Community Garden, Intergenerational Therapeutic Garden, Holly Park Community Garden), 1 is on school property (Guildford Secondary School), 3 are on Social Services property (Oak Avenue Hub, SOURCES White Rock/South Surrey Food Bank, OPTIONS Healthiest Babies) and 2 are at BC Housing complexes (Ted Kuhn Towers and Len Shepard Manor)
- Challenges facing community gardens are vandalism, theft, pests, visual aesthetics, invasive fauna, illegal fauna and neighbourhood support

- Provision Guideline for Community Gardens
  - one community garden per community area in 2012 (Whalley, City Centre, Guildford, Newton, Fleetwood, Cloverdale, and South Surrey)
  - provisions will thereafter be guided by resident initiatives and demand per community
  - provision of gardens will only occur when a non-profit group approaches the City to create a garden
  - non-profit groups must consist of at least 70% of persons who are residents of the City of Surrey
  - groups must have membership of at least 12 people
- Provision Guideline for Community Garden Rationale
  - license agreements with the non-profit to ensure maintenance for more than 3-5 years, safe environment through mandated policies and procedures, City regulations followed, open to general public
  - neighbourhood support through community consultation
  - long term park planning taken into account
  - educational opportunities
- Provision Guideline for Community Garden
  - Location Attributes
  - Environmental Attributes
  - CPTED + Exposure Attributes
- Provision Guideline for Community Garden Rationale
  - visible area with natural surveillance to ensure gardens safety and discourages theft and vandalism
  - easily accessible by general public
  - the garden is located where there is a need for a community garden
  - proper composting to prevent pest issues
  - procedures to ensure produce is safe to eat
- A chart displayed the community gardens in the Metro Vancouver area and outlined the population of each city in 2006, the # of gardens on park land, the land size and density
- City goals for 2012 are to improve the information on the website to provide people information on existing gardens in Surrey, to create brochures on how to start a garden in your community and to seek out community group partners in Cloverdale. (Staff reported that Cloverdale residents have contacted City staff expressing their interest in community gardens).

Staff reported that these community gardens have been successful and some gardens have had to increase the number of plots, due to the high demand from the public. The gardens provide a range of services such as contributing to the community kitchen program which helps to feed over 300 families, helping integrate new immigrants, donating food to the Surrey Food Bank and involving youth with community gardens. One community garden is managed by a senior centre that has a program which entails seniors teaching preschoolers about the importance of gardening.

The Committee ensued discussion and the following comments were made:

- Whalley and City Centre have been identified as town centres, however; there are really no community gardens there.  
*Staff responded that the City is focusing more and more on community gardens each year and will focus on one town centre at a time. Community gardens require community support to be successful. In the past, a community garden in the City centre existed, but did not do well.*
- In response to the question of how the Committee can assist staff with gaining support for the development of community gardens, staff suggested that the Committee seek non-profit groups that are willing to partner with the City to facilitate and organize community gardens.
- Non-profit organizations/groups do not have to be registered charities. A group of 12 volunteers or more can register as a non-profit society.
- In response to the question of how advertising for interested non-profit groups is done, staff reported that the City's website is used and staff is looking to improve the website to provide information about the existing community gardens in Surrey as well as create brochures in the future.
- With the 2011 Green City Award, the EAC requested that communication about the nominees and what they were doing, be conveyed to the community. Staff may consider consulting with communications staff to get more information out into the community about environmental initiatives that people can engage in. There are some great successes with community gardens and examples of working with diversity such as Oak Avenue Hub, and those stories should be in the newspapers as examples to the community members.
- With Hazelnut Meadows Garden, the City has been assisting with infrastructure which totals approximately \$1000 a plot.
- Gardens tend to struggle if there is no infrastructure in place, like water.
- Most gardens were developed by fundraising or by a grant.
- The City does not have resources for the infrastructure and maintenance of community gardens which is why the City model is to develop relationships with non-profit groups and have those groups take leadership.
- Groups such as Boy Scouts and/or other sports groups are suggestions for potential volunteers for community gardens.
- The Committee sees community gardens as a positive initiative and would like to encourage the City to set aside a small amount of funding (based on Provision Guidelines) for groups interested in starting a community garden, similar to what was done with the City's Beautification Grant program.

### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

It was

Moved by B. Burnside

Seconded by J. Purewal

That the Environmental Advisory Committee

recommend that Council set aside seed funding for groups interested in starting a community garden.

Carried

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

It was  
invite Don Luymes, Manager, Community Planning Division, to the January EAC meeting to provide:

Moved by B. Campbell  
Seconded by B. Stewart

That the Environmental Advisory Committee

1. an update on the status of the Annieville NCP, specifically, the fate of environmentally sensitive areas on the proposed plan, and
2. information on the EMS and how it is being incorporated into the OCP

Carried

**E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL****F. CORRESPONDENCE****G. INFORMATION ITEMS****1. Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Update**

No update; representative was unable to attend the meeting.

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

The DAC meeting was cancelled.

**H. OTHER BUSINESS****1. 2012 Proposed Meeting Schedule**

The Committee was requested to pass a motion to adopt the proposed 2012 Meeting Schedule. The Committee agreed there will be no meeting in August, 2012 which coincides with the Council's schedule.

It was

Moved by B. G. Sahota  
Seconded by B. Burnside

That the Environmental Advisory Committee accepted the 2012 Meeting Schedule with the exception of August, where there will be no meeting.

Carried

**2. Councillor Bose Dedication**

The Committee discussed dedicating an unnamed segment of greenway (such as a park, trail or environmentally sensitive land) in Councillor Bose's name to honour his years of service with the City of Surrey in various capacities. The Committee

will also send a letter to Councillor Bose thanking him for his contributions to the EAC and cc. Mayor and Council. It was suggested that the assistance of the City archives staff be enlisted if needed, to compile historical information about the accomplishments of Councillor Bose.

O. Croy, Manager of Parks, Recreation and Culture provided general information on the process of naming a park and will provide the Committee a copy of the Naming Policy.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

It was  
recommends to Council to dedicate an unnamed segment of greenway (park, trail or environmentally sensitive land) in Councillor Bose's name to honour his years of service to the City of Surrey.

Moved by B. Burnside  
Seconded by G. Sahota  
That the Environmental Advisory Committee

Carried

**3. Insurance Coverage for Volunteers**

The Committee had a brief discussion on insurance coverage for City volunteers. O. Croy, Manager of Parks, Recreation and Culture will provide the Committee with a report regarding insurance coverage.

**I. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held January 25, in the Executive Boardroom at 6:30pm.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

It was  
meeting adjourn.

Moved by B. Stewart  
Seconded by J. Purewal  
That the Environmental Advisory Committee

Carried

The Environmental Committee adjourned at: 8:20 p.m.

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Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

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Al Schulze, Chair