

Environmental Advisory Committee - Minutes

Present:

Chair – Councillor Hayne
B. Campbell
C. Dragomir
G. Sahota
A. Schulze
B. Stewart

Regrets:

R. Grewal
S. Van Keulen (AFSAC
Representative)
J. Stewart
G. Sangha
G. James
J. Purewal

Staff Present:

C. Baron, Drainage & Environment Mgr.
L. Luaifoa, Legislative Services
A. Mathewson, Sustainability Manager
O. Croy, Parks Manager

Guests:

REVISED AGENDA

It was Moved by C. Dragomir
Seconded by B. Campbell
That the agenda be adopted as amended:
1) Under Outstanding Business, add – "Establishment of an Organics Biofuel Production Facility in Surrey".
2) Under New Business, add Carbon War Room Conference Update
Carried

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was Moved by B. Stewart
Seconded by G. Sahota
That the minutes of the Environmental
Committee meeting held on February 22, 2012 be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

Anne Mathewson, Manager, Sustainability

The Sustainability Manager provided a PowerPoint presentation update on EnergyShift: Community Energy and Emissions (CEEP).

The following comments were made:

- On the Community Side – CEEP is a 25 year framework for reducing energy use and GHG emissions in key sectors across the community.

- A number of climate commitments have been made with the most relevant being - Bill 27: Municipalities to include a GHG reduction target & policies and actions to achieve target in OCP's. This was completed in May, 2010.
- CEEP is tied in with EnergyShift and has commitments provincially with a lot of it coming from the Sustainability Charter.
- HBL/Golder is the consultant and the budget is \$300k. The Terms of Reference was developed in early 2011.
- Working on a number of things including; Rapid Transit Planning, Expansion, Alternate Fuel Vehicles, District Energy, Education and Awareness.
- A timeframe and deliverables analysis was completed of current plans, projections, where we are now, and where we will be with CEEP. In late March, the Options Paper was received from the consultant. The timeframe to have final CEEP is by Fall, 2012.
- The Current Status of Surrey GHG Emissions from 2007 is 2.3 m tonnes. This can be compared with 2.6m from Vancouver, 0.6m from Delta and 0.72m from Langley. GHG's come from buildings, transportation and solid waste.

The following comments were made by the Committee:

- We are in tune with the Rapid Transit Study and the linkage with CEEP. We are also aware of the OCP.
- TransLink has a certain approach with units per hectare. The model done will help at the Rapid Transit table.
- The City is considering monitoring growth and density to address this plan.
- Not factored into the reduction factors is technology. Everything done with emissions will improve. No one is going to approve products or transportation that takes us back with regards to emissions. Is there any way of doing modelling or predicting what we are going to be able to see in regards to technology?
The consultants have a sense of what is coming as far as standards in California. What we will have to do, is amend this plan based on how technology is evolving.
- We have to assume that, unless there is a breakthrough with vehicles (vehicle get better, or smaller, or people don't drive as much) that they will emit as much Co₂ as they produce from burning. The idea of having growth along corridors will reduce emissions.
- The population projection shows a 72% increase in population and increase in jobs. Where are the jobs going to be at? Looking at zoning for City of Surrey and realistically, the transit corridors go through there. They have to have that transit corridors.
City of Surrey has .73 per working capita. We want to increase that and have 100%, so people don't have to travel out of the region to work.
- At the May 7 Council meeting, Council will review new Greenways Plan.

A. Mathewson provided a brief update on the "Sustainability Dashboard". Indicators and targets were brought to the EAC in 2010. The website is currently being prepared to present to the community at the "Party for the Planet" on April 27.

- The website themes are loosely based on the three pillars (Socio-Cultural, Economic and Environmental) of the Sustainability Charter.
- The website will have interactive maps and charts and the ability to scan through different themes. The middle panel enables you to choose an indicator and be able to read about that indicator.

- The data is able to be downloaded as it is in Excel.
- There is a note the website is being launched. There is a Feedback option.
- The top 15 indicators are as follows:
 1. water consumption
 2. community waste diversion rate
 3. Proximity to amenities
 4. Vegetative cover
 5. Rental market
 6. Green buildings
 7. Recreational & cycling trails
 8. Community gardens
 9. Jobs
 10. Community energy & emissions – transport
 11. Community energy & emissions – buildings
 12. Youth –centres events
 13. Criminal code effects
 14. City volunteers
 15. Early childhood development

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Final Approval of 2012 EAC Workplan

The Committee reviewed the draft 2012 EAC Workplan and made the following comments:

- Add: Item 5 – environmental awards – this Committee should be actively involved in that process.
- Another item the Committee may want to consider adding to the workplan; recently made cutbacks to the federal budget include fish habitat. The Committee may want to take a look at changes to the Federal Fisheries Act and how it will affect municipalities. There may be a downloading of responsibilities and costs to municipalities.
- Each item in the workplan should have priorities or objectives attached to them. This will ensure that the Committee is doing what they want to be doing. The Chair and Secretary to draft one objective per item and bring forward to Committee for review.
- Environmental awards are awarded every second year for the City Awards program. Secretary to check whether it is yearly or every second year.
- The shade Tree management Tree Strategy will be brought forward to the Committee for comment in June, 2012.

2. Intergovernmental Committee Request

The Committee reviewed the following issue papers:

Establishment of an energy systems engineering program at SFU Surrey in support of a clean energy hub in Surrey

It was Moved by A. Schulze
 Seconded by G. Sahota
 That the Environmental Committee forward the position paper – "Establishment of an energy systems engineering program at SFU Surrey in support of a clean energy hub in Surrey" to the Intergovernmental Committee.

Carried

Pesticide Use Control

- When there is a ban on pesticides, such as carbaryl or glyphosate, then those pesticides are not purchasable.
- The ban of sales of pesticides to homeowners should be put forward by the province.
- Banning who purchases pesticides is one thing and banning the substance itself completely is another thing.
- The recommendation to the Intergovernmental Committee should be consistent with what was done for the City of Surrey and Surrey's By-Law should be modelled by banning sales of those pesticides (benign list) to homeowners.
- Pesticides that are considered to be benign aren't regulated (the sale of them).
- The wording is a little too broad; that would have them ban lawn pesticide.
- Retain a list of exempt pesticides.
- The City has no ability to stop use of pesticides for commercial and industrial properties, like golf courses.
- Training awareness should be increased when banning pesticides for residential homeowners.
- Under the second paragraph – the BC Centre for Disease Control did a presentation to the Committee; however, the presentation was not on the potential negative health impacts of pesticides.
- Recommend to strike out "BC Centre for Disease Control" in paragraph 2.
- Last paragraph – add after the word, B.C., "to homeowners, allowing for exemptions of benign products currently not regulated"
 Add another sentence at the end that says, "Please refer to Surrey Bylaw 17160 as an example of draft legislation" or, "the following recommendation is in a manner consistent to Surrey's By-law 17160".

It was Moved by B. Stewart
 Seconded by B. Campbell
 That the Environmental Advisory Committee endorse the amended issue paper – "Pesticide Use" and, forward to Intergovernmental Committee.

Carried

The additional comments were provided by O. Croy, Manager:

- Drop spreaders are the way to go for dispersing lawn products.

- The product "Weed 'n Feed" is a big issue. Not only do users load the pesticide in the lawn, it is hitting the sidewalks, driveway, road and drainage as well.

Establishment of an Organics Biofuel Production Facility in Surrey

- Under Benefits of Economical - This could be the future of more jobs; employment creation.
- There is P3 Canada Fund money available if the City of Surrey can come up with a viable proposal.
- Recommend that the province of BC take all steps to expedite permitting and licensing.

It was

Moved by A. Schulze

Seconded by B. Campbell

That the Environmental Committee meeting endorse the issue paper – "Establishment of an Organics Biofuel Production Facility in Surrey" and forward to the Intergovernmental Committee.

Carried

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Carbon War Room Conference

Councillor Hayne provided a brief update to the Committee on the Carbon War Room Conference held in Washington, DC in March, 2012. The interesting conference was worthwhile and looked at a variety of different areas of technology. The goal is to develop viable, profitable projects that reduce the amount of carbon being used.

A report will be forwarded to the Innovations and Investment Committee as well as the Environmental Advisory Committee.

2. Delegation Request - A. Schulz

Andrew Schultz of Surrey-White Rock Pesticide Free Coalition will be appearing as a delegation at the April 18 EAC meeting regarding a "loophole" in Surrey's Pesticide By-Law.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

H. OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee discussed the EMS and Biodiversity Studies. The following comments were made:

- These environmental sensitive lands may be developed before a policy framework is in place.
- Will we need a policy once these key environmentally sensitive areas are gone?
- The EMS applies to more than just new development. The EMS will be looking at old areas and reconnecting properties as well.
- Is the City going to acquire the land? What is realistic for us as a City? Can we afford as tax payers to acquire the land and how much do we acquire?

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, April 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the Planning Room #1.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by G. Sahota

Seconded by B. Stewart

That the Environmental Advisory Committee

meeting adjourn.

Carried

The Environmental Committee adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Hayne, Chair