

Present:

Vice Chair – B. Campbell
C. Dragomir
A. Schulze
B. Stewart
J. Stewart
G. James
S. Van Keulen (AFSAC
Representative)

Regrets:

Councillor Hayne
G. Sahota

Guests:

Staff Present:

L. Luaifoa, Legislative Services
S. Godwin, Drainage & Environment Section
D. Luymes, Mrg., Planning & Development
C. Gillespie, Surrey Nature Centre

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Colleen Gillespie, Environmental Project Coordinator, Surrey Nature Centre provided a Power Point presentation to the Committee re: the Surrey Nature Centre at Green Timbers.

The following comments were made:

- In 2008, 77 acres, including Centre buildings and grounds were transferred from the Province to Surrey and the first programs were offered in summer, 2008.
- Some of the trees planted in the Surrey Nature Centre were planted in 1930. The funders of Surrey's Fusion Festival also contributed funding to the Centre which helped to develop a Concept Plan for the site. The Surrey Nature Centre's concept is to have an interactive place for people to connect with nature and learn about nature. The Centre has nature play areas for children and little gardens around the 77 acres.
- The Centre has had some site improvements which included planting of 77 types of trees, removing invasive plants and building renovations. The Centre also had a Pole Forest built which has been very successful with the kids.
- There are numerous school programs offered at the Nature Centre as well as public programs such as "Mother's Day Nature Tea Party" and "Halloween in the Forest". One of the most successful programs is "Learn to Fish". The man-made lake is stocked by freshwater fisheries 4-5 times a year. The program encourages people in urban areas to fish. BC Fishing Regulations apply and the program is free for kids under 15.
- The Centre is public land and open from dawn to dusk similar to other parks. Currently, the Centre is not as easily accessible due to the RCMP construction, but once the construction is complete, the driveway to the Centre will be a City road and will go through to 140 Street.
- In the future, a pond is envisioned for the back of the field as well as more facilities at the Centre that are interactive with nature. Additional gathering areas are anticipated on the site as well.

- The number of people walking through the park has increased and continues to increase. People are able to walk through Green Timbers Park and walk down the trail to access the Centre.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was Moved by C. Dragomir
Seconded by B. Stewart
That the minutes of the Environmental
Committee meeting held on June 27, 2012 be adopted as amended.
Carried

The Chair informed the Committee of the resignation of Committee member Gian Sangha due to health reasons. The Committee will forward a card to Mr. Sangha through the Secretary.

B. DELEGATIONS

2. Don Luymes, Manager, Community Planning – OCP Overview

Don Luymes, Manager, Community Planning was in attendance to present a general overview and structure of the 2012 Official Community Plan (OCP) and briefly discuss the land use plan and how the environment is engrained in the new OCP.

Comments were as follows:

- The OCP is the keystone document – it looks forward about 30 years and is refreshed every 10 years or so.
- The OCP is a high level plan that encompasses more detailed master plans, strategies, and policies. It includes a map of future land uses, showing how the City is planned to grow and develop in the future, including various land use designations with associated densities to accommodate the anticipated increase in population of 230,000 by 2040
- The first draft of the new OCP is under review with various staff groups and external stakeholders to ensure all gaps and any overlaps have been identified. A second more refined draft will be presented to Council in the fall of 2012; the goal is to have the plan adopted toward the end of 2012.
- The OCP has been completely rewritten, the new plan is broken down into the following components:
 - Introduction and Vision
 - Planning Context
 - Land Uses and Densities
 - Policies (Themes A-F)
 - Regional Context Statement (Provincial Regulation Requirement)
 - Implementation (TUPS, Zoning by-laws, Development Permits)

- In the new OCP, there is more emphasis on density and mixed-use development in City Centre, the five Town Centres and along major transit corridors as vibrant environments, amenable to walking and cycling.
- This plan is really driven by the imperative to tie transit investment and transit service to urban development. TransLink's Surrey Rapid Transit Study is underway, but the final proposed rapid transit alignment and technology has not yet been determined. Staff is working to ensure that rapid transit is extended in Surrey, allowing the City to develop around transit.
- Special attention is paid to ensure that new development is of a high design quality, that it contributes to sustainability and respects existing neighbourhood character.
- The bulk of the OCP contains policy goals and objectives, which have been organized into 6 themes as follows:
 1. **City Structure**
 - Theme A: Neighbourhoods
 - Theme B: Centres
 - Theme C: Infrastructure
 2. **City Sustainability**
 - Theme D: Ecosystems
 - Theme E: Economy
 - Theme F: Society and Culture
- Each theme has an overall goal followed by detailed objectives and a series of supporting policy statements. In the context of the Environmental Advisory Committee, the items that relates most are:

Theme A: Neighbourhoods which is broken down into 4 separate objectives as follows:

- A1. Efficient land use
- A2. Complete neighbourhoods
- A3. Memorable features
- A4. Urban design

Theme B: Centres which is broken down into 4 separate objectives as follows:

- B1. Higher-density growth
- B2. City centre
- B3. Town centre
- B4. Transit and transportation networks

Theme C: Infrastructure which is broken down into 3 separate objectives as follows:

- C1. Transportation
- C2. Parks, greenways and multi-use pathways
- C3. Adaptable, greener infrastructure

Theme D: Ecosystems which is broken down into 5 separate objectives as follows:

- D1. Ecosystem health and stewardship
- D2. Green infrastructure networks
- D3. Green development
- D4. Energy efficiency, climate resiliency
- D5. Zero-waste

Theme E: Economy which is broken down into 6 separate objectives as follows:

- E1. Employment and investment
- E2. Business innovations
- E3. Employment lands
- E4. Agriculture
- E5. Aggregates
- E6. Goods movement

- This plan is really about trying to continue the evolution from a suburb to a city that brings together high density working and living, and is also attractive as a place to visit.
- Next steps in the OCP process:
 - **Consultation Process** - Complete consultation with staff, committees, stakeholders, and the public.
 - **Edit Document** - Input revisions received from all consultation partners.
 - **Prepare Report to Council** – Corporate Report to Council will include all applicable by-law changes required for transition.

The Chair questioned if there were any issues that should be reflected back to Council?

- The Committee noted concern of Port Kells not having transit. The possibility that the City might negate the Parklands Acquisition Standard of 4.2 hectares per 1000 population due to growth is of concern. The Committee feels that the Parklands Acquisition Standard should be adhered despite perspective growth and development.
SEP has stated that the City should be buying more land and that the standard should be at least 5 hectares per 1,000 population with the increase being natural areas.
Most of the high density areas will not have park land within those zones. If parks are outside that high density zone, there should be proper transit to get people to the parks.
- Under Section D relating to the Ecosystem Health and Stewardship objective, the wording under D1., 2. "continually work toward" is too soft.

RECOMMENDATION

It was: Moved by: S. Van Keulen
Seconded by: B. Stewart
That the Environmental Advisory
Committee recommends that Council:

1. Remain within the Parklands Acquisition Standard of 4.2 hectares per 1000 population; and,
2. Ensure that the parks available in the proposed high density zones be made accessible to people.

Carried

Constantin Dragomir left the meeting at 8:30 pm.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**1. Intergovernmental Committee Request**

Review of the issue papers; Sea Dyke Guidelines and Multi-materials BC: New Packaging & Printed Paper Legislation.

This item was deferred to the July Committee meeting.

2. 2012 EAC Workplan

This item was deferred to the July Committee meeting.

D. NEW BUSINESS**1. Park and Ride**

The following comments were made:

- People are encouraged to take transit and it is an annoyance to have to pay a fee at park n' rides to utilize transit. The Park n' Ride in South Surrey (King George Boulevard and Highway 99) currently is a free park n' ride and should remain that way to continue encouraging people to use transit.
- The land use around King George Boulevard at the Park n' Ride is privately owned.
- Scott Road and King George have Park n' Rides that have been in place for a long time. The cost is approximately \$3 - \$4 to park in any of the 1500 spots. The money collected generates revenue for the City and even though a charge fee will be implemented for South Surrey, the lot will still be full.
- In the event of not having parking, riders will park wherever they want. Most people are ok with having to pay the small fee.

2. Pesticides

The following comments were made:

- There are two articles that refute what the provincial body has put forward in regards to pesticide use. B. Campbell is to bring forward the articles next week for circulation to the Committee.

3. New Recycling Contract

The following comments were made:

- The new recycling contract for the City of Surrey includes the collected recyclables being bundled and shipped to the U.S. This is a great concern for some community members. The recyclables are also likely sent out completely unsorted.

4. Biodiversity Conversation Strategy Working Group (BCSWG)

Staff requested a volunteer from the EAC to participate on the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Working Group. The group will meet approximately 3 times to work through the kinks of the process.

Al Schulze was assigned to the BCSWG with Bob Campbell as backup.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Update of June 14, 2012 AFSAC Meeting:

- The majority of the meeting was utilized by the OCP presentation
- "Flavours of Surrey" will be part of the Fusion Festival in Surrey on July 20-22, 2012.

2. Development Advisory Committee (DAC) Update

This update was deferred to the July Committee meeting.

3. WWF Resolution Regarding Bill C-38

The Committee received the information.

4. Quibble Creek

The Committee received the information and recommended that a letter be sent to the students of Quibble Creek thanking the group for being environmentally aware.

5. Proposed Changes to the Federal Fisheries Act

Staff noted that there was a significant amount of hype in the media about a leaked document and changes to the Fisheries Act. The information provided to the Committee in the agenda package was drafted during that time.

The City has been continually receiving updated information. Business is as usual for the City with the Riparian Areas Regulations and DFO representing the City. No changes that will affect the City have occurred yet and staff will keep the Committee informed.

Staff from the local DFO office on Annacis Island, as well, as Prince George were informed today that their jobs were being restructured or downsized.

6. Summary of SEP Presentation to Finance Committee (January 16, 2012)

The Committee received the Summary of SEP Presentation to Finance Committee (January 16, 2012) that was provided by staff.

H. OTHER BUSINESS**I. NEXT MEETING**

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

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by A. Schulze

Seconded by J. Stewart

That the Environmental Advisory Committee

meeting adjourn.

Carried

The Environmental Committee adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Hayne, Chair