

Present:

Councillor Hayne - Chair
Bob Campbell
Constantin Dragomir
Gregg James
Jas Purewal
Gopal Sahota
Al Schulze
Bill Stewart
Jamie Stewart
S. VanKeulen (AFSAC Rep.)

Regrets:

R. Grewal

Observers:

Deb Jack

Staff Present:

C. Baron, Drainage and Environmental Mgr.
D. Luymes, Community Planning Div. Mgr.
A. Mathewson, Sustainability Manager
M. Baynham, Sustainability Office
L. Luaifoa, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by C. Dragomir

Seconded by J. Purewal

That the minutes of the Environmental

Advisory Committee meeting held on July 25, 2012 be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS**1. Jim Armstrong, Keystone Environmental**

Further to the discussion at the July EAC meeting with regard to Bill C-38, Jim Armstrong, Keystone Environmental provided an update on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012.

- A lot of changes have occurred since July 6. Bill C-38's main purpose is to streamline the process of environmental assessment on federal lands.
- One provision of the new Bill is the talk of enhanced cooperation between the federal government and provinces.
- Provincial environmental assessment office was also represented and they want to see more substitution.
- Unlike the new CEAA where the proponent provides all the information up front, the provincial office looks at it at the end.
- Five key components of CEAA:
 1. Designated Physical Activities – regulation which lists which projects are going to require an Environmental Assessment (EA).
 2. Timelines – CEAA has 45 days including a 20 day public comment period before they decide if an EA is required.

3. Process - the standard EA process is done by the agency itself, they can also refer it to other agencies or other authorities.
4. The other areas that are a major factor is Aboriginal Consultation. The Crown has legal duty to consult Aboriginal peoples about potential environmental impacts. There is a 5 category process under INAC.
The Fisheries Act will look at Commercial, Recreation and Aboriginal fishing. As of last week, the Fisheries Act changes are not written in stone and there are more changes.
SARA (Species at Risk Act) - more changes are being undertaken and have not been released yet. A lot of changes have to do with migratory birds and habitat.

5. Minister may delete EA as Federal or Provincial

Goal: one project; one process; one decision

- Staff noted that there is much more to Bill C-38 than just changes to the CEAA process. Changes to the Fisheries Act looks at redefining what is considered habitat and definitions of impacts. Many urban watercourses may not fall under the new definitions even though they have fish present. It will be tougher to protect waterways in an urban setting potentially.
- Staff noted the City will need to change the way it does business with regards to capital works projects and determining fisheries setbacks. Currently, DFO is losing over 30% of its staff in this region. More onus will be on staff to follow federal/provincial requirements with little ability for variances. Timelines for fisheries approvals will also likely be longer. The new process has yet to be rolled out by DFO.
- The regulations come out in January and there are no guarantees they will be complete. The by-law should be out six months after the Bill has been enacted. The regions have not been informed.
- City staff has sent a letter to the regional director asking to work with staff on developing new procedures associated with the DFO alterations. We have also asked to participate with consultation. Staff will also be making a presentation to the House of Commons sub-committee on Energy and Environment regarding urban conservation and ways the federal government can play a role or be of assistance.

The Committee thanked the delegation for the information and invited Jim Armstrong back to update the Committee in April, 2013.

2. **Climate Adaptation Strategy, M. Baynham**

Maggie Baynham, Planning Technician, Sustainability Office provided a report on the City's *Climate Adaptation Strategy*. The following comments were made:

- The plan has two parts – Climate Adaptation Strategy and the Community Energy and Emissions Plan. The Adaptation Strategy is one piece of a larger strategy. In Surrey, the effects of climate change can already be seen. A new tree needs to be watered for 7 years now, rather than 4 years.

- The strategy has done a lot to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) emissions; however, on a global scale, not enough has been done in the past 20-30 years. Every year costs are escalating in catastrophic claims in the insurance market. Climate change is posing some of the greatest risks in the near future.
- Surrey has demonstrated, and will continue to demonstrate leadership in numerous areas regarding climate change. In response to issues around Crescent beach, the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy was created to address the issue of rising sea levels. The City awarded a contract to upgrade the Maple Drainage Pump Station in April, 2012.
- In 2011, the Province released the draft Sea Dyke Guidelines. Carrie Baron, Drainage and Environment Manager will take the lead on research on appropriate flood construction levels for Surrey and will do a review of Surrey's historic rainfall data to identify trends.
- In February of 2011, Council approved an initiative to work with *ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability*. ICLEI is an international expert organization on climate change planning. ICLEI is also working with the City of Vancouver, the Corporation of Delta and 4 other municipalities.
- ICLEI has a 5 milestone process:
 1. Initiate
 2. Research
 3. Plan
 4. Implement
 5. Monitor

The Committee was pleased that a strategy is being developed to deal with the impacts of climate change. The question was raised of how many citizens in Surrey actually believe in climate change or have knowledge of climate change and the impacts.

The Committee discussed the lack of awareness of the work being done by the City such as, the Sustainability Charter and projects like the new pump station being built in South Surrey. It was noted that there is a need to improve on how this information is communicated to Surrey's citizens.

3. Fleetwood Enclave Infill Area Plan, D. Luymes

Don Luymes Manager, Community Planning, provided a report on the Fleetwood Enclave Infill Area Plan. The following comments were made:

- Background: December, 2011, Council approved a rezoning and Development Permit, to allow for the development of 24 suburban single family lots.
- As part of the development approval, Council requested that staff work on creating a local development area concept plan for the large Southwest Fleetwood Neighbourhood to the North.

- The area is a large cul-de-sac with entrances at 155 Street and 156 Street. The east side abuts Fleetwood Park and the east west street would be 78 Avenue. It is a low-density neighbourhood keeping with urban density to the north. Staff thinks it is appropriate to have low-density land use.
- In preparation for the plan, an environmental study was completed. The east and west side of the plan area have identical lots and the centre is subdivided. Pheonix Environmental looked a number of things such as vegetation resources, aquatic values, wildlife values, drainage and existing trees.

Aquatic values:

There are lots of road side ditches that supply water and nutrients for part of the year to downstream watercourses. They do not contribute to fish habitat.

Ecology:

A consultant was asked to look for wildlife; home to small and medium sized mammals that are adapted to human disturbance.

It is likely that wildlife in this area live there for a portion of their life.

Vegetation:

Red Alder and Bigleaf Maple trees are predominate.

Ecosystem Corridors:

In terms of corridors, this area is important for movement between Fleetwood park and Surrey Lake park.

Planning Principles:

- desire to establish east/west corridor for wildlife and greenway
 - retention of forest along east and west edges
- It was questioned how many lots are there in total? There are 207 with two roads out to the north.
 - Once the Transportation and Servicing study is complete, it will go to the public and be refined based on the public's comments. The study will then be brought to Council.

The Committee made the following comments:

- This plan has the most consideration for the environmental values.
- It was questioned what the plan is for the mature trees in the area that are of significance. Staff responded that the trees will be dealt with on a case by case basis. For example driveway location setbacks, the house can be brought closer or further to move house to save trees. Staff is working with an expert panel of house designers and architects.
- It was questioned how far transit is from the area? It was noted that transit service is not great. People are able to walk through to 152 Street.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**1. Intergovernmental Issue Paper Review Update**

B. Campbell provided an update on the review of the Multi Materials BC: New Packing and Printed Paper Legislation Act. The regulation outlines how certain products should be recycled such as solvents, pesticides, gasoline, pharmaceuticals and recently added; lead, acid batteries and anti-freeze.

The Act states that a plan has to be in place for how to deal with these products if you sell them or if an agent sells them for you.

The Committee made the following comments:

- This document does not talk about blue box program or municipal efforts to collect these products.
- This is a great Act; however, it is unknown how it is going to affect the collection process the City has.
- Clarification is needed on the inconsistencies of the Act.
- The costs to producers to have packaging of the products recycled are put on the consumers

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

It was

Moved by B. Campbell
Seconded by G. Sahota
That the Environmental Advisory

Committee:

1. Endorse the requirements of the Multi Materials BC: New Packing and Printed Paper Legislation Act; and
2. Recommends that Council request staff to review how the Act impacts regional and municipal recycling programs.

Carried

D. NEW BUSINESS**E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL****F. CORRESPONDENCE**

G. INFORMATION ITEMS**1. Agricultural Food and Safety Advisory Committee (AAC) Update**

An update from the AFSAC meeting of October 11 was provided as follows:

Staff presented the City of Surrey draft "Agricultural Strategy" to the Committee. The report was divided into five sections:

- Land Base
- Innovation
- Infrastructure
- Agri-Urban Connections
- Sustainability & Resilience

Of these, the one of the most interest to the EAC would be Sustainability & Resilience. It includes under six "Priorities for Action" such items as:

- "Encourage farm operations to enhance biodiversity to the greatest extent possible without compromising food production;
- "Partner with the Province and with Metro Vancouver to encourage farm practices and processing activities that maintain clean surface and ground water, clean air and healthy soil processes."

It was

Moved by S. VanKeulen
Seconded by B. Campbell
That the Environmental Advisory Committee

receive the report provided.

Carried

2. Development Advisory Committee (DAC) Update

The DAC meeting on September 27, 2012 was cancelled.

H. OTHER BUSINESS**1. 2013 EAC Meeting Calendar**

It was

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

adopted the proposed 2013 EAC Meeting Calendar.

2. Memo from Parks Manager – Definition of “Aerosol Pesticides”

It was Moved by B. Campbell
Seconded by C. Dragomir
That the Environmental Advisory Committee
receive the memo – Definition of "Aerosol Pesticides."

3. Pesticides – B. Campbell

The Committee discussed a report from staff that went to Council on October 16 in response to EAC recommendations regarding the Surrey Pesticide By-law and the definition of "infestation". The EAC recommended on May 23 that a permit process for the use of pesticides in Surrey be researched. The report received from staff stated that the cost would be too high to implement such a process.

The Committee was in disagreement of the conclusions of the report.

4. Environmental Stewardship Award

On Monday, November 5, the City of Surrey will accept the Clean Energy BC - "Environmental Stewardship and Community Improvement Award". The City of Surrey accepted the award for implementing the new waste collection program and for introducing a fleet of 100% Compressed Natural Gas waste collection trucks.

5. Terms of Reference/2013 Workplan

The Terms of Reference for the EAC will be put on the next meeting agenda. The Committee has been requested to broaden the scope of the Committee and look at carbon reduction targets, sustainable buildings and the built environment. The revised Terms of Reference will be adopted in January by the Committee.

6. October 22 Council meeting Update

- The Farm Home Plate by-law was passed
- The Echo Centre (transfer station) will be built in South Surrey

7. Rob Costanzo – Future Delegation at EAC

The Committee followed up with a past request to have Rob Costanzo, Deputy Operations Manager in attendance at an EAC meeting to address the Committee regarding the Pesticide By-law issue and waste reduction questions.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on **November 28**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by G. Sahota

Seconded by J. Stewart

That the Environmental Advisory Committee

meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Environmental Committee adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Hayne, Chair
Surrey Environmental Advisory Committee