

Environmental Advisory Committee - Minutes

Present:

Chair – Councillor Hayne
B. Campbell
G. Sahota
A. Schulze
B. Stewart
J. Purewal
G. James
M. Alvarez
D. Skaey
S. Van Keulen (AFSAC Representative)

Regrets:

J. Stewart
R. Grewal

Guests:

Danny Wood
Linda Wood
Karen and Greg Cutchey
Rob and Tammy deBoer
Terry and Debbie Boyce

Staff Present:

S. Godwin, Drainage & Environment Section
A. Mathewson, Sustainability Manager
L. Luaifoa, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was Moved by J. Purewal
Seconded by B. Campbell
That the minutes of the Environmental
Committee meeting held on January 30, 2013 be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Linda Wood

In attendance to discuss the removal of oak trees from the area of 6672 – 141 Street.

The Chair noted that the delegation was referred to the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) by the Parks and Recreation Committee, to take an in depth review at the removal of boulevard trees from the area of 6672 – 141 Street. The delegation has been dealing with the City over several years with regards to the problems the trees have caused in the neighbourhood.

At the March EAC meeting, the Committee will hear from the City regarding their concerns and then the Committee will be asked to provide Council with recommendations.

The delegation made the following comments:

- The oak trees are massive and some were planted 2 ft. away from driveways causing them to lift. One resident had to replace half of their driveway due to overgrown roots.
- Worms and bugs are an issue even though the City sprays them.

- Acorns from the trees cause damage to cars as well as to lawns and flower beds. This is due to excessive acorns embedding themselves in the soil and grass.
- In 2009, the City removed 9 of the trees. The remaining trees have grown so much bigger. There are 17 oak trees and 23 evergreen trees which the City prunes and sprays.
- Sap from the trees damage the paint on vehicles and also makes the vehicles, roadways and driveways sticky. The sap attracts aphids which have infested the trees. It is very bad from spring to fall.
- One resident was in the process of doing repairs to their house which required BC Hydro to shut the power off. BC Hydro was unable to access the wiring as it was buried under existing stumps.

The Committee questioned what the ratio of trees to houses is and further questioned if the residents are willing to allow the City to replace the problematic trees with other trees. The delegation responded that the ratio is one tree per two households (15 trees affecting 30 homes) and the first 9 trees that the City removed were replaced with 4 other trees that required little to no maintenance for the City.

The Committee questioned if an arborist report was completed and what kind of trees would be replacing the oak and evergreen trees. The delegation responded that there was no arborist report and that the City would have record of what trees were planted in 2009 to replace the ones that were removed.

The delegation continued their presentation:

- These issues have been ongoing for many years. The trees are growing adjacent to their properties and are difficult to maintain at 45 ft. The trees are too large for the small 60 ft. lots. The root span of a tree can be 30 ft. and reach up to 60 ft.
- The Committee was forwarded information from the delegation outlining the troubles residents are experiencing with pipes, flooding of their homes and broken driveways.
- The City has a Tree Removal Policy. Statements 6, 11 and 13 of the policy apply to this situation.
- The maintenance of the trees by the City is ineffective and the trees are only growing larger.
- The stability of the foundation of one of the homes is in question as the carport floor is cracking.
- The canopy of the tree is bigger than the houses.
- Every five years the trees are pruned; however, cutting the tips encourages the growth of the tress.
- The wasps and pesticide spraying are unbearable in the summertime.

The delegation requested that the oak trees be removed and welcomed the planting of different trees in the place of those removed. It was also noted that the new trees previously planted required little to no maintenance.

The Chair noted that Mayor and Council work very hard to preserve as many trees as possible in the City of Surrey. The City has built up a significant number of boulevard trees over the last 30 years. The Committee's job over the next couple of meetings will be to try and provide a solution that will meet the interests of the various parties.

The delegation was thanked for their presentation and invited to attend the March ESAC meeting as observers.

2. Stephen Godwin, Environmental Coordinator

In attendance to provide an update on the Ecosystem Management Study and Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.

A PowerPoint presentation included a brief background on the City's previous Ecosystem Management Study and updated the Committee on the second stage, including draft mapping and policy recommendations of the BCS. The update included information on the purpose and goals of the BCS, consultation and engagement plan, and the expected outcomes of the study. The BCS is intended to: identify and quantify biodiversity and wildlife habitat resources; set objectives for species and populations of wildlife (Targets); and determine habitat criteria such as corridor widths, sites and hubs to maintain biodiversity.

Draft mapping was presented, including the Biodiversity Management Areas and the proposed city wide Green Infrastructure Network, of existing and high priority habitat areas with regional and local corridor connections.

The draft BCS will be presented to the City's Committee's and at a Public Open House in the spring of 2013. Council will have a shirtsleeve session and a fourth Working Group Meeting prior to the draft being brought to Council for endorsement in the summer of 2013.

The Committee raised a concern regarding the 300 acres being held by the Federal Government that is zoned industrial lands. It was suggested that these lands should be in the ALR and the government should be asked for the land.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Presentation to the Finance Committee – Surrey Environmental Partners

Committee members A. Schulze and B. Stewart provided an interim report on the Presentation to the Finance Committee by the Surrey Environmental Partners.

The five objectives identified as priorities in the interim report were:

1. Obtain land for three more "very large parks"
2. Implement a levy for the purpose of acquiring Biodiversity Conservation/Green Infrastructure Network lands
3. Adopt a "No Net Loss" policy with respect to the loss of open parkland and natural areas
4. Add two staff to assist the Environmental Coordinator, attached to the Engineering Department
5. Adopt a higher standard for replacement of City-owned trees which are cut down.

Discussion ensued and the Committee concluded that the ideas outlined in the document are excellent and that creative alternatives and solutions to fund these objectives need to be identified.

This item will be added to the April ESAC meeting agenda for a further update.

2. Sensitive Urban Infill Study

File no: 6430-01

Committee members J. Purewal, G. Sahota and D. Skaey volunteered to review the Sensitive Urban Infill Study and report back to the Committee in April.

An update will be provided to the EAC in March which will include the timetable for review of the study.

It was recommended that D. Luymes be invited to attend the April meeting for this discussion.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. City of Surrey's Recycling Contract

The Committee requested that City staff ensure a means to verify the percent of the City's recyclables that are going towards the creation of useful by-products in the new contract.

The City's recyclables are currently bailed and shipped out of the country. It was suggested that this bailing causes more contamination of the recyclable material.

It was recommended that the Deputy Operations Manager be asked to determine the percentage of the City's recyclables that are being diverted.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Fraser Surrey Docks Ltd. Partnership – Coal Facility Project

Fraser Surrey Docks representatives attended the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting on January 30 and provided the Committee with a presentation of the proposed Coal Facility Project.

Discussion ensued and the Committee was in agreement that Surrey City staff should be involved with the consultation process pertaining to this project to ensure the City and community concerns are addressed.

The following comments were made:

- The City of New Westminster Council passed a motion opposing the installation of a coal port at the Fraser Docks until a comprehensive environmental review and full public consultation was conducted.
- The Chair noted that other delegations are being sought to speak to the Committee on coal dust.
- Most of the cities and towns on the U.S. side do not want the coal being transferred through their communities and residents are protesting the proposal with full force.

RECOMMENDATION

It was

Moved by Stan Van Keulen

Seconded by B. Stewart

That the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that Council recommend staff and the Environmental Advisory Committee be part of the consultative and Environmental Assessment Review process for the Fraser Surrey Docks Ltd. Partnership – Coal Facility Project proposal.

Carried

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Agricultural Food and Safety Advisory Committee (AFSAC) Update

The AFSAC was asked to comment on expansion of the campground facility in the Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR) located on 40 Avenue east of Highway 99. Part of the expansion has already occurred without the required permission from the ALC and the owners are attempting to regularize matters after the fact.

Of interest to this Committee, portions of the development have encroached on riparian area setbacks. Invasive weed species including Japanese Knotweed and Hog Weed have also been reported on this site.

The AFSAC did not support the application.

2. Development Advisory Committee (DAC) Update

The report was deferred to the March meeting.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

Anna Mathewson, Sustainability Manager provided the following update:

- **Earth Hour and People's Choice award**

The City's Earth Hour event is on March 23, 2013.

The City of Surrey is one of 17 world-wide finalists for the People's Choice award in the Earth Hour City Challenge. Colwood (Victoria) and Vancouver are the other finalists. The contest recognizes cities around the world that are taking steps to a 100% renewable and sustainable future.

- **Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference in Windsor, Ontario**

Attended the "2013 Sustainable Communities and Conference and Tradeshow" on February 13-15, 2013. Staff did a session at the conference on Surrey's Sustainability Dashboard and received positive feedback.

Surrey received the FCM "Partners for Climate Protection" award for completion of corporate energy and emissions reduction work.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on **Wednesday, March 20**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Boardroom.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by G. James

Seconded by G. Sahota

That the Environmental Advisory Committee

meeting adjourn.

Carried

The Environmental Committee adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Hayne, Chair