

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee - Minutes

Present:

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

Regrets:

G. James
B. Stewart

Staff Present:

C. Baron, Manager, Drainage & Environment
N. Avan, Landscape Maintenance Coordinator
L. Luaifoa, Legislative Services

Guests:

Christian Walli, Tree Canada
Deb Jack, Surrey Environmental Partners

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by D. Skaey

Seconded by B. Campbell

That the minutes of the Environmental

Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held on May 29, 2013 be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS**1. Christian Walli, BC Community Advisor, Tree Canada**

Christian Walli provided a presentation on Tree Canada and made the following comments:

- Tree Canada has been in operation for over twenty years and is sponsored by various corporations such as BC Hydro, Ikea, FedEx, Toronto Dominion and Shell Canada.
- Tree Canada encourages the planting of trees and green spaces and has planted 80 million trees across the country.
- Tree Canada has approximately 40 current projects in British Columbia and completed 40 projects in Surrey alone over the past ten years.
- Surrey received \$300,000 in grants for projects and/or initiatives with the Nature Centre and Tree Canada Day. Surrey has received this funding due to the efficient and professional managing of initiatives and/or projects.
- Surrey is known for involving the community with initiatives and for having projects that deal hands-on with kids.
- It was recommended that Surrey create more awareness of the great work it is doing as a City.
- Portland is another example of a city that does great work. It was recommended that the Committee try to visit the city. Portland has free

bus transportation within the downtown circle and has a beautiful forestry centre.

The Chair thanked the delegation for the information provided.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

D. NEW BUSINESS

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Community Gardens in Surrey

Neal Aven, Parks Manager provided an update on Community Gardens in Surrey.

The following information was provided:

- The City is in the process of developing an online application form where groups or individuals interested in community gardens can submit an application online. The form should be developed by fall.
- Staff is meeting with existing community gardening groups to form a non-profit society to manage community gardens across the city and anticipate this society be formed by fall as well.
- Staff will report back to the Committee on the above two items at a future meeting.
- Guerrilla gardening is gardening done on public lands. Staff noted that people extend their gardens onto road allowances in residential neighbourhoods. One concern is guerrilla gardening in backyards that go into riparian areas and natural areas. The City actively discourages this, so as to re-instate the natural values of areas.

The Committee made the following comments:

- It was questioned if the City has an inventory of land available for community gardens. Staff noted that Dunsmuir Garden is successful, self-perpetuating project. Surrey has handled community gardens on a case by case basis. In the past, staff has looked at the neighbourhood requesting a garden and locates the best place for a garden.
- It was suggested that land be set aside for the development of community gardens in high density areas such as South Surrey. This enables people in those areas to have a place to garden.

H. INFORMATION ITEMS**1. Agricultural Food and Security Advisory Committee (AFSAC) Update**

Deferred to the July meeting.

2. Development Advisory Committee (DAC) Update

Deferred to the July meeting.

3. Corporate Report R120 – Major Review of the Surrey Official Community Plan

The draft Official Community Plan (OCP) is an extensive document that is available for the public to review. An open house will take place at the Surrey City Hall foyer on June 27, 2013.

The OCP should be adopted by the end of the year.

4. Coal Transfer Proposal (Surrey Fraser Docks)

Bob Campbell provided an update on the Metro Vancouver Board meeting regarding the Coal Transfer Proposal.

The Committee was provided a pamphlet created by Guy Gentner, now former MLA Delta North which outlined the challenges and issues Delta has with the Surrey Fraser Docks – Coal Transfer Proposal.

The following comments were provided:

- A motion was put forward by the ESAC at the May meeting encouraging Council to request that Port Metro Vancouver host a public hearing on the Coal proposal.
- At the June 14, 2013 Metro Vancouver Board meeting, there were approximately 50 presentations, including one from two grade 11 students expressing concern about the proposal.
- Attendees at the Board meeting included representatives from unions, the coal industry and community members etc.
- Issues raised at the meeting includes diesel from the trains and the coal dust. It was noted at the meeting that the fine dust is harmful because it settles at the bottom of the lungs.
- Another community meeting is being held June 26, 2013 @ 8:00 pm at the Ocean Park Community Hall to discuss the proposal from Surrey Fraser Docks.
- A public hearing provides people with the opportunity to discuss the much broader range of issues and all of those issues should be subjected to a public hearing.

The Committee made the following comments:

- The coal is transported from Wyoming to Canada and then exported to China.
- It was noted that Metro Vancouver has no authority over federally controlled projects. The air quality issues in the area are what they can be held accountable for.
- Port Metro Vancouver has addressed all the issues in their public presentations outlining the measures that have been taken in regards to coal dust in the air etc.
- Trains that are coated are still losing 12,000 pounds of coal over their journey. Scientists presented the concentrations of coal in the water reach from 0-2 km out. People are washing the dust off their boats. This is a containment issue. It was questioned why the cars are not covered and it was noted that the cost is too expensive and it was not deemed necessary by the proponent.
- Port Metro Vancouver has stated that all concerns are being addressed with the assessment.
- Municipalities do not have the authority to stop the coal application. It was suggested that Surrey Council consider stating they do not support the application. The City can lead and encourage people to be more involved in the decision making chain.
- Surrey, White Rock and New Westminster have not officially stated opposition to the proposal. If municipalities joined together and as a group, and expressed opposition then Port Metro Vancouver would have more pressure to address and respond to the local governments.
- Crescent Beach completely shuts down for nearly 20 minutes when a train is passing through and if anyone was to have a heart attack on the other side of the train, there is no way of getting emergency services to that person.
- It was questioned what Surrey can do other than to state they are not in agreement with the proposal. It was noted that Surrey can strongly recommend that Port Metro Vancouver hold a public hearing to enable all the facts to come out and address the issues with coal dust and other safety issues. A public meeting in the form of a public hearing would provide an opportunity for the community to receive answers to their questions. Surrey can send the message that the communities do not want this to go through.

The Chair thanked Bob Campbell for the update and for taking an active interest in the proposal.

5. **Kinder Morgan Update**

Carrie Baron provided an update on the Kinder Morgan project.

The following comments were made:

- The Kinder Morgan project includes a twinned pipeline from Alberta to the Burnaby terminal. In Surrey, the existing pipeline runs through existing corridors through residential areas. Construction of the twin pipe in the same corridor of the existing pipeline would be very disruptive to the businesses and residences along the corridor. Kinder Morgan is looking at new corridor options for the new pipeline.
- The project is in the early stages and a new proposed alignment would be away from residential areas but at this time situated in some environmental areas.

An environmental assessment is underway and input from the community also is being collected. The information collected will be provided to the Utilities Commission for consideration.

The Committee made the following comments:

- It was questioned if the pipeline project includes the shipping overseas. Staff replied that they are separate entities. Kinder Moran does not own the material transported in the pipeline. They only provide the service of transporting the material to the port.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, July 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Boardroom.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by S. Van Keulen

Seconded by J. Stewart

That the Environmental Sustainability Advisory

Committee meeting adjourn.

Carried

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Hayne, Chair