

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee - Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2013
Time: 6:30 pm
File: 0540-20

Present:

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

Regrets:

G. James
J. Purewal
A. Schulze

Staff Present:

C. Baron, Manager, Drainage & Environment
L. Luaifoa, Legislative Services
L. Mackay, Legislative Services

Guests:

Deb Jack, Surrey Environmental Partners

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by G. Sahota

Seconded by D. Skaey

That the minutes of the Environmental

Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held on June 26, 2013 be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. K. K. Li, Water Engineer, with students of the City's Operation Save H2O Program

File: 5600-01

In attendance to provide an update on the effectiveness and growth of the Operation Save H2O Program.

The following comments were made:

- Operation Save H2O is a creative, education based approach program designed to reduce water consumption in the City of Surrey. The program provides free tools, information, and education to encourage residents to save money by conserving water.
- The program originally started as an 8-week program with one campaign. It has since been developed into an 8-month program that includes the following components:
 - High water user campaign for single and multi-residential
 - Community Education
 - Student Ambassador Program (SAP)
 - Promotion of the City's Volunteer Water Meter Program
 - Water Wise Establishment Program - Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I)

- Media Awareness

Operation H₂O is focusing on the following initiatives:

1. High Water Use Campaign
2. School Campaigns
3. Water Wise Establishment Program (IC&I)
4. *User Education*

An overview of some of the programming includes:

- **High Water User Campaign** - The high water user campaign is the longest running component of Operation H₂O; the team is now directing their efforts toward combatting the outdoor water usage. They are monitoring residential homes, through voluntary residential surveys. Once trends are established, in the future, the group will contact lawn companies directly to discuss different ways they can address their water usage from a commercial standpoint. The delegation noted since the inception of the program there has been an estimated cumulative savings in residential water usage of \$3 Million.
- **School Based Education** - The group is growing their school based education programs. They visited 1500 students and presented to them using various styles and methodologies. They will target the grade 4 – 6 levels, this year they have visited 9 different schools and plan on visiting many more in the fall. The effectiveness of the elementary school program has generated positive response and requests from schools for return visits.
- **Student Ambassador Program** - There is a 4-week student ambassador program where students are asked to track their consumption at home and they are provided with kits and tools for monitoring and suggestions for implementation within their households. Community education kits are provided as well and students are encouraged to provide, educate their community and peers about the importance of water conservation.
- **Water Wise Establishment Program** – This program is unique to the IC&I sector. It is a certification program to reward businesses for making positive changes. Students visit businesses and perform high level water audits and tailor solutions that are specific for each individual site visit. Businesses participating in the program then receive either a standard or a gold certification based on compliance/success. Businesses upon completing the program will also be recognized on the City of Surrey website as a "Water Wise" Establishment.
- **Community Education Events** – Students provide water conservation information and tools. There are children, elderly and diverse cultures and it is a great way to encourage people to sign up for the volunteer water metre program. The group has attended over 70 events and have talked to over 1100 people.
- **Blue Team** - The Blue Team will be implemented in the fall and is a spin-off of the green teams for recycling. The blue teams are focusing on water conservation within schools and will be led by volunteer students in their schools. Students will mentor and educate their peers; high-school students

will mentor the elementary schools and provide more information about water-wise practices.

The delegation noted that the Operation H2O team hope to continue to work with the City of Surrey and elementary schools to implement the Blue Team. Going forward the group plans to work with irrigation companies to ensure water wise practices have been carried out. Operation H2O will continue to work toward expanding and developing the high-water usage campaign to match the City's changing needs and population growth.

The Committee made the following comments:

- It is a good strategy to provide information and free tools to the community to educate people on the importance of water usage. People will not change the way they consume water unless they have an understanding of how things work. If you ask the average person where water comes from, they are not aware.
- The Committee questioned if there was any recommendations that could be forwarded to Council to assist with the delegation's cause. The delegation noted that stricter enforcement on water regulations would help.

The Chair thanked the delegation for their presentation and commended the group for the wonderful job they are doing for the City.

The Committee further noted the appreciation of all of Surrey's youth volunteers.

2. **Community Climate Action Strategy**

Anna Mathewson, Sustainability Manager and Maggie Baynham, Planning Technician, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Community Climate Action Strategy.

The following information was provided:

- The Climate Adaptation Strategy (CAS) objective is to outline how the City of Surrey plans to adapt to climate change and meet or reduce GHG targets in the Official Community Plan (OCP). The strategy will outline actions in the areas of land use and development, buildings, transportation and waste and energy systems (infrastructure).
- Climate change (mitigation) is happening and preparation for those impacts and changes is critical. Climate change impacts and projections are as follows:
 - Warmer summer temperatures by 2050 (summer climate warmer than San Diego by the 2080's)
 - Wetter winters by 2050's
 - Drier summers by 2050's
 - More frequent and intense rain storms
 - 1.2 m of sea level rise by 2100
- Planning for climate change is a risk management exercise and in terms of mitigation and adaptation, the City has adaptation strategies that will be completed in tandem. An example is cooling centres on heat advisory days; community centres will open up for people to be able to get out of the heat.

- Surrey will need to invest in more resources in maintaining its trees. Tree watering requirements have increased since 2001.
- Surrey is using ICLEI-Canada's five milestone framework for developing a climate adaptation strategy which includes formation of an advisory team. Background research is ongoing and Surrey is in the final stages of the strategy.
- Staff has identified the key risks of climatic changes prioritizing them from low to medium and also identified how they may be addressed. The risks have been identified over six sectors:
 1. Flood Management and Drainage
 2. Infrastructure/Utilities
 3. Health and Safety
 4. Ecosystems
 5. Urban Trees
 6. Agriculture and Food Safety

Key directions for Infrastructure are as follows:

- Manage City infrastructure for changing climate conditions
 - Increase data collection and monitoring of weather events
 - Assess City infrastructure and utilities for vulnerability to climate change
 - Review design requirements of infrastructure and update as necessary to reflect changing climate conditions
 - Integrate into a 10 year capital and serving plans of key departments

Key directions for Flooding and Drainage are as follows:

- Collaborate with stakeholders to develop a Regional Flood Management Strategy
- Review planning and development standards for floodplains
- Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) - the Plan will include an energy and emissions baseline and projections that look forward 25 years to help better understand future energy demand and supply for key sectors. This information will help define targets, actions and a monitoring strategy to make sure Surrey meets its commitments.

CEEP Transportation Strategies:

- Rapid Transit Development (maximize ridership)
- Bus Service Improvements
- Active Transportation and TDM (cycling, walking connectivity)
- Low Emission Vehicles

The average household in Surrey spends more than \$10,000 on transportation annually and owns more than one car. Modeled average transportation savings in transit served, complete, compact neighbourhoods are estimated at \$1400 – \$1800 per household per year in Surrey.

- CEEP is aligned with the Transportation Plan. All the plans are complementary and self-supporting.
- Next Steps:
 - Present to advisory committees throughout July
 - Draft plans to Council in September
 - Final consultations and full draft – September
 - Final Plans for Council approval – October

The Committee made the following comments:

- The Committee discussed geothermal heating and noted the new City Hall will use geothermal heating and cooling. It was further noted that homeowners can receive up to \$2000 in incentives from exploring incentives from companies such as BC Hydro, etc. The incremental costs of building homes to a higher standard is more costly, however, those long term costs benefit the owner.
- It was questioned if increased water levels due to climate change would be addressed, what areas are vulnerable and what the timeline of looking at different areas. Staff noted that the City is monitoring ocean levels and will be looking at the different areas in the next couple of years.
- The Committee discussed advocating natural gas in BC and how there are not enough people making personal choices based on climate change. It was noted that an estimated 50% of people don't even believe that climate change is happening. Staff noted that in a recent poll on floods, 60% of people said the cause was climate change. The perception it is happening is there. At the World Cafe event, people who were in attendance were very interested in the quality of life in their neighbourhood. The Committee noted that the message about these particular issues are presented in a language that turns people off and there are multiple ways of getting the message out that people can make a difference. One example is through young people. Kids are susceptible to messages and what is being taught in school.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

D. NEW BUSINESS

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. OTHER BUSINESS

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Agricultural Food and Security Advisory Committee (AFSAC) Update from June 13, 2013 meeting:

AFSAC responded positively to a presentation re: Backyards Chickens and recommended that Council direct staff to draft a bylaw to allow a maximum of 4 backyard hens on minimum one-quarter acre properties as a pilot project for one year.

The Committee did not support a non-farm application to build a large Recreation and Sports centre in South Surrey on the south banks of Nicomekl River in the ALR.

Maggie Baynham, provided a presentation on the Community Climate Change Strategy specific to the agriculture sector.

2. **Development Committee (DAC) Update**

The Surrey City Development Corporation (SCDC) provided an update on current projects such as the new City Hall, 3 Civic Plaza beside the new City Hall and other projects around Surrey.

Financial reports were reported reflecting the first dividend of \$4 million given to the City in 2013.

A roundtable of developers was present who felt the new sale market is soft right now and there wasn't a great deal of concern.

3. **B. Campbell – Recycling**

B. Campbell noted he has not received a response yet from the Deputy Operations Manager, Engineering regarding his questions on the status of the recyclables and shipping the products to the U.S.

I. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee will be held on **Wednesday, September 25, 2013**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Boardroom.

J. **ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by J. Stewart

Seconded by B. Campbell

That the Environmental Sustainability Advisory

Committee meeting adjourn.

Carried

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Hayne, Chair