

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee - Minutes

Present:

Chair – Councillor Hayne
B. Campbell
G. James
G. Sahota (Rep. to DAC)
D. Skaey
B. Stewart
J. Stewart
A. Fasciani (YR)
W. Mbaho

Regrets:

S. Van Keulen (AFSAC Rep.)
S. Sabharwal
A. Zhang (YR)

Staff Present:

C. Baron, Manager, Drainage & Environment
J. Lamontagne, Manager, Planning & Dev.
D. Merry, Parks Planning
N. Aven, Manager, Urban Forestry and Environ.
S. Whitton, Manager Trees and Landscape
L. Luaifoa, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee Minutes of October 1, 2014 to be approved.

It was

Moved by J. Stewart

Seconded by D. Skaey

That the minutes of Environmental

Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held on October 1, 2014 be approved.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. **Fergus Creek Watershed Park Proposal**

Doug Merry, Parks Planning, provided a presentation to the Committee on the Fergus Creek Watershed Park Proposal.

The following comments were made:

- Fergus Creek Watershed Park is located between Highway 99 and 168 Street and is 27 hectares. The project to enhance the ecological features and functions of the park began in 2011. Environmental studies were completed with an environmental plan that identified potential habitat compensation projects.
 - The City purchased the property in 2009 and identified it as parkland in the Highway 99 Corridor Local Area Plan (LAP).
 - In 2013, Catherine Berris Associates was hired to begin detailed planning for the park. The consultant held two open houses with mixed results from the attendees. Some people were in support for active amenities and others were in support for a natural park.
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- Parks staff received feedback from different groups that the intent of the park was not being upheld. Working together with these groups, staff re-envisioned the park with focus on ecosystems, biodiversity and habitats.
- A Steering Committee of various stakeholders was formed in 2013 with the focus of the park changed to environmental preservation and enhancement. Any planned active amenities were excluded. A Management Plan for the site was drafted and plans for a pump station were incorporated.
- The main component of the Management Plan was splitting the park into management units to prioritize and tailor management of the various ecosystem types. Each of the 8 units has its own goals, standards and objectives.
- Out of the 8 units, only 4 will have public access. A large walking loop will go through the site with controlled entrances at the southern and northern ends of the site. The final trail network is yet to be determined.
- Other factors of the Management Plan include P-15's which are habitat compensation projects. A P-15 is a legal agreement between the City and developer to use city lands for projects. The developer is responsible for the P-15 area for 5 years. Another factor of the plan is designating the entire park as "no dogs" on or off leash.
- The City seeks to commence the process to have this site dedicated by bylaw as a Park. This dedication would be Council adopted and specify what activities can and cannot occur in the park. This is similar to Fleetwood, Crescent and a number of other parks that have this additional level of protection.

The Committee made the following comment:

- It was questioned if pedestrian access will be denied. Staff responded that the site will be marketed as a park, but with limited access. People will be welcomed and encouraged to use the park. A strong, educational platform will be used to explain why dogs are not appropriate.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. There was no outstanding business.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Sustainability Charter Update**

This item was tabled to the December 17 meeting.

2. Tree Canopy Study

Jean Lamontagne, Planning & Development Manager, provided a status report to the Committee on the Tree Canopy Study.

The following comments were made:

- Staff has been working on the Tree Canopy Study for a few years. When the Sustainability Charter was established, a target of 40% by 2058 was set.
- A baseline was needed to see how Surrey was doing with the growth. Evaluations by aerial photography were done in 2001, 2009 and 2013.
- The following are results of the three years:
 - In 2001 – tree canopy of 33% and population was 370,000
 - In 2009 – tree canopy of 30% and population was 465,000
 - In 2013 – tree canopy of 28% and population was 501,100
- Factors affecting tree canopy include:
 - Smaller lots (changes were made to the RF-10)
 - Larger lot coverage (ratio decreased)
 - Trees planted at wrong location (education)
 - Poor planting medium (education)
 - Biodiversity Conservation Study
 - Tree Protection By-law
 - Tree Voucher Program
 - Green City Fund
 - Continue to measure
 - Promote infill projects
 - Model the trend to 2058
 - City Tree Planting Program
- Surrey compared to other jurisdictions has the highest percentage for tree canopy at 28%. Not many cities have completed a tree canopy count.
- In order to prepare for climate change, the right trees need to be planted in the right places now.
- Council approved the Biodiversity Conservation Study tool which will help to protect additional trees within the City.
- A tree voucher program was introduced by the City using monies from the Green City Fund to assist people with planting trees on private property. The program has been successful with the help of local businesses to promote it.

The Committee ensued discussion and concluded that further review and discussion of the Tree Canopy Study be done. The Committee also expressed concern with the 40% tree canopy target and questioned if the goal was reachable. It was suggested that delegations from the community be invited to speak to the Committee to provide a community perspective on the topic. The two suggestions for presenters were Deb Jack and Grandview Community Heights Society.

The Committee also felt it was important to review the Tree Protection By-law.

The Tree Canopy Study and Tree Protection By-law were added to the Committee's 2015 Workplan.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

1. Corporate Report R167: Proposed Amendments to the Provincial Flood Hazard Area Land Use Management

Tabled to the December 17 meeting. The Committee recommended a delegation be invited to present on the topic.

2. Corporate Report R168: Development of Riparian Area By-law

Tabled to the December January 28 meeting. The Committee recommended a delegation be invited to present on the topic.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence this meeting.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Agricultural Food and Safety Advisory Committee (AFSAC) Update from the October 2 meeting.

“Food with Thought” Initiative

The Committee heard a delegation from Tourism Surrey, Food and Marketing Program. They have developed the “Food with Thought” initiative after Surrey’s application to join the Circle Farm Tour program was rejected.

Food with Thought is a blog-style website that features local restaurants, cafes and delis with an emphasis on “buy local, eat local”. The website is <http://foodwiththought.ca>

City staff will plan further meetings between AFSAC representatives and Tourism Surrey to increase famers’ involvement in the Food with Thought initiative.

Regulating Medical Marihuana Production on Facilities

A delegation from the provincial Ministry of Agriculture was on hand to provide AFSAC with information non proposed regulations covering medical marihuana production facilities in the Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR).

The provincial government has produced a discussion paper setting out possible criteria for developing local government by-laws covering medical marihuana

production facilities. Issues include minimum lot size, maximum lot coverage, height limitations, setbacks, and storm water and liquid waste management plans.

One concern expressed by AFSAC members was the proposed maximum lot coverage of 35%. Since the buildings housing these facilities are expected to be quite large, this requirement could result in larger farm properties being in higher demand, with the potential for productive farm land to be removed from food population.

It was Moved by J. Stewart
Seconded by B. Campbell
That the Agricultural Food and Safety Advisory
Committee report be accepted.

Carried

2. Development Advisory Committee (DAC) Update

Biodiversity Conservation is slowing down process of development permits which creates a compensation issue. If your land is on the property, the value could decrease; therefore, there has to be some kind of compensation.

It was Moved by B. Campbell
Seconded by B. Stewart
That the Development Advisory Committee
report be accepted.

Carried

3. Letter from the City of Richmond re: Decision on Fraser Surrey Docks Direct Transfer Coal Facility Project

File No: 5650-20

The Committee discussed the Fraser Surrey Docks (FSD) proposal and questioned where the City stood on this topic.

The Chair noted that the City of Surrey opposes the Fraser Surrey Docks proposal and has applied for intervener status. The FSD proposal did not meet the criteria for hosting a public hearing meeting or obtaining a comprehensive health assessment; therefore, the City of Surrey is not in favour of project. The Committee made a recommendation to Council earlier in the year that the City work closely with the proposal to mitigate the impacts.

The Committee suggested that the City develop a program in advance to deal with potential protests. Councillor Hayne to raise the topic with the City's Public Safety Committee.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. 2014 Excellence Award Presentation to Staff

The Chair presented the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) 2014 Excellence Award to Carrie Baron on behalf of Engineering staff.

Staff provided the following comments:

- The Erosion Sediment Control By-law was created 7 years ago to control and manage soil that runs into storm drains when it rains. Reporting is required for water discharged from a site when rain is over 25 mm. This creates a lot of paperwork during the rainy season. ESE staff worked with IT and GIS to develop an online portal system to replace the paperwork.
- The new method enables consultants to upload information into the system. The online system also notifies consultants when there is a 25 mm rainfall in a 24 hours period and when reports are due. Lots of information is recorded without the load of paperwork. The project took a couple of years and a lot of training was involved.

The Chair noted that the City of Surrey has received more UBCM awards than any other municipality winning 9 awards in total.

The Committee recommended that the City embark on a program to highlight and educate the population on Surrey's achievements. Council has been open to trying new things and it has proven successful with the various awards and achievements the City has received.

2. Kinder Morgan Project Update

The Chair noted that "Pipe Up Against Enbridge" thanked the Committee for their support in the Kinder Morgan Project and for Council's motion to not support the proposed pipeline.

3. Honeybees and Pesticides

The Committee noted that Ontario is the first place in North America to take action with plans for protection of the honeybees from pesticides.

The Chair suggested that the Committee explore the idea of hearing from a bee specialist delegation on the issue.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee will be held on **Wednesday, December 17, 2014** at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 2.E Community Room A.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by J. Stewart

Seconded by G. Sahota

That the regular meeting of the

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Hayne, Chair