

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee - Minutes

Present:

Chair – Councillor Hayne
B. Campbell
G. James
B. Stewart
S. Sabharwal
W. Mbaho
S. Van Keulen (AFSAC Rep.)
G. Sahota (Rep. to DAC)
A. Fasciani (YR)

Regrets:

A. Zhang (YR)
D. Skaey
J. Stewart

Guests:

Deb Jack

Staff Present:

C. Baron, Manager, Drainage & Environment
A. Mathewson, Sustainability Manager
N. Aven, Manager of Urban Forestry and
Environmental Programs
L. Luaifoa, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee Minutes of November 26, 2014 to be approved.

It was

Moved by B. Campbell
Seconded by G. Sahota

That the minutes of Environmental
Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held on November 26, 2014 be
approved.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. **Sustainability Charter Update**

Anna Mathewson, Sustainability Manager, provided an update on the
Sustainability Charter.

The following comments were made:

- The Sustainability Charter was originally approved in September, 2008. Council approved a process to update to the Charter in February, 2014.
- A lot of work to date has been spent engaging staff. A staff survey was completed in July 2014 for the purpose of gauging the awareness of sustainability and the Charter; 700 staff members completed the survey.
- Key staff were interviewed by a consultant in July to August 2014 and a workshop was held in October 2014 to review the results of the interviews and consultant recommendations.

- Initial Recommendations were as follows:
 - Refocus the charter at a higher level with succinct vision, outcome-oriented goals, and possibly 3-5 year strategic directions
 - Consider keeping actions separate
 - Use sustainability themes to organize; aligned with the Sustainability Dashboard and new OCP
 - Integrate indicators and targets
- Community engagement will take place more in the spring and fall of 2015. One of the benefits of engagement is identifying partners that will help implement the Charter. Invitations to former members of the indicators task force, as well as relevant advisory committees will take place.
- Next Steps in 2015 include: ongoing work to improve integration of sustainability within City operations, staff to brainstorm the potential Charter organizing themes and identify draft revised goals, and staff to undertake more planning around community engagement. The updated Charter will be brought to Council by end of 2015.

The Committee made the following comments:

- It was questioned how many accomplishments have there been since the implementation of the Charter six years ago. Staff noted that the Biofuel facility can be linked to the Charter, as it provided a policy framework and helped provide the argument to make it happen. The Sustainability Checklist also helps ensure development on the ground is done in a sustainable way.
- The Committee noted that it would be beneficial to make the Charter more visible by providing it on the Surrey homepage.
- The Committee noted that a condensed version of the updated Charter should be considered for development for the average reader.
- The Committee noted that a recent ad in the paper from Metro Vancouver encouraged people to do something environmental. The City of Surrey proactively approaches its citizens to improve the environment.
- Staff noted there have been a number of initiatives where a communication strategy has been in place. As the Charter is re-launched with new initiatives, goals and objectives, a communication budget should be attached.
- The Committee noted that each department head could report on what they are doing, what can be done better and where they want to go in regards to sustainability and report back to staff.
- The City of Surrey is the recipient of the FCM Sustainable Communities Award for 2015 in the Energy category. Councillor Hayne will attend the FCM Conference in London and accept the award on behalf of the City.
- The Committee was requested to look at the Sustainability Dashboard and report feedback to Anna Mathewson or the Chair.

2. Proposed Amendments to the Provincial Flood Hazard Area Land Use Management

Carrie Baron, Drainage & Environment Manager, provided a presentation on Corporate Report R167 – Proposed Amendments to the Provincial Flood Hazard Area Land Use Management.

The following comments were made:

- All local governments are legislated to follow provincial guidelines and requirements under the *Environmental Management Act* in relation to; flood control, flood hazard management and development of land that is subject to flooding.
- According to the *Local Government Act*, if a local government considers that flooding may occur on land, the local government, by bylaw can designate the land as a flood plain. Prior to 2003, flood plain designation bylaws were approved by the province and after 2003, local governments were given the responsibility to approve designated floor plains and monitor that flood protection is consistent with the guidelines.
- Local governments who don't comply with the provincial regulations may not receive disaster assistance funding if needed. The Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation states that a structure must be deemed properly flood protected by the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks or by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to be eligible for disaster assistance.
- Studies predict sea level changes for BC. According to the draft sea dyke and land use guidelines for 2011, sea level will increase by 1m by 2100 and 2m by 2200 (plus 0.2 m of subsidence for Surrey). In some exposed coastal areas, this could result in the flood construction level (FCL) being raised from 3.6 m (2010) to 6.2 m (2100).
- 1/3 of Surrey is floodplain, which is mostly agriculture land. The floodplain area is over 85 sq. km and 54 km of the shorelines at Boundary Bay and the Fraser River. Approximately, 100 km is dykes, 30 drainage pump stations, 2 sea dam structures and over 170 flood boxes and 10 spillways.
- The floodplain areas were identified in the presentation and include: Fraser River dyke, Coastal dyke area, Crescent Beach dyke area, Campbell River (undyked), Fraser River unprotected area and the Serpentine and Nicomekl River lowlands.
- The Official Community Plan (OCP) – PlanSurrey 2014 shows new Hazard Lands Development Permit Area (DPA) for flood prone areas and steep slopes. The plan currently defers to provincial FCL levels and will be one of Surrey's tools to regulate Surrey-specific flood construction elevations when engineering studies are complete. Surrey's existing policy from 2008 restricts development in the Serpentine-Nicomekl 200 year floodplain.
- Contemplated Changes to the Provincial Guidelines include:
 - Requirements for buildings, subdivision and zoning should allow for sea level rise (SLR) to the year 2100

- Land use adaptation strategies should allow for sea level rise to the year 2200.
- All lots created through subdivision should have viable building sites on natural ground that comply with the Year 2100 FCL
- The year 2100 FCL requirements will still apply to new habitable building construction (on existing lots)
- Relaxation of FCL requirements if protection is constructed to 2100 year levels and meets provincial standards
- Organizations are asked to provide comments on the proposed changes and outline any concerns Surrey may have.
- Some of the challenges with the changes include:
 - Increased construction costs
 - Inconsistent streetscapes
 - Density difficulties due to height restrictions
 - Accessibility and safety
 - Potential for unauthorized building conversions
 - Difficulty to obtain commercial at grade development
- The following recommendations came out of a report to Council:
 - Provide a definition of Sea Level Rise Planning Areas
 - Clearly outline under what conditions exceptions to flooding proofing requirements within Sea Level Rise Planning Areas may be granted;
 - Provide considerations for impacts to existing development and measures to address challenges associated with raising minimum floor elevation (eg. Staged approach to increasing flood protection requirements);
 - Require land use adaptation strategies to allow for sea level rise to only the year 2100, until such time when the accuracy of sea level predictions to the year 2200 improves; and
 - Provide regular reviews/updates to sea level rise predictions beyond 2015. Review should be every 10 years as science evolves.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

There was no outstanding business.

D. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

The Chair noted that Deb Jack provided Council in Committee with a presentation on behalf of the Surrey Environmental Partners. The presentation was a report to the Finance Committee on the importance of sustainability within Surrey's parks.

The Committee resolved that Deb Jack be invited as a delegation to the January or February Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting to provide a presentation on the report to the Finance Committee.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence this meeting.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS**1. Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee (AFSAC) Update**

There was nothing relevant to the ESAC to report on.

2. Development Advisory Committee (DAC) Update

One point relevant to ESAC is the ecosystem management (BCS) was on Cosmos and it had to be scaled back due to the concerns that this was being implemented on their properties.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. The Chair announce it was Bill Stewart's last meeting with the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee and thanked him for his work.

2. Elimination of Campaign Signs

Stan Van Keulen brought forward the issue of campaign signs on public property that ends up in ditches and on private properties.

It was

Moved by S. Van Keulen

Seconded by B. Stewart

That the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee recommend that Council consider the elimination of all campaign signage on public property during municipal, federal and provincial elections.

Discussion on the Motion:

- It was noted that a bond should be required from candidates to ensure that the signage is removed when elections are over.
- The City of Vancouver has implemented a ban on campaign signage on public property.

- Staff noted that the Sign Bylaw for Surrey will be updated with work on an educational campaign with the real estate community. In 2015, the campaign will move into the enforcement phase.

The motion was not voted on and it was resolved that the issue of campaign signs be added to the 2015 Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee Workplan for 2015.

3. Transit Referendum

The Committee discussed the transit referendum confirming that Surrey is in favor of the referendum and Mayor and Council are advocating for LRT. It was also noted that the Mayor's Council put forth a recommendation that the tax increase be added to the PST.

The Committee suggested a delegation be invited to address the Committee on the benefits of LRT from an environmental perspective.

It was noted that Surrey is in favor of the referendum and the Mayor is part of the Mayor's Council advocating for LRT.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 2.E Community Room A.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was Moved by B. 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 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Hayne, Chair