

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee - Minutes

Present:

Chair – Councillor Starchuk
D. Skaey
S. Sabharwal
N. Hogan
R. Bains
J. Young
G. James
J. Stewart
M. Sharma
G. Sahota (Rep. to DAC)
S. Van Keulen (AFSAC Rep.)
A. Zhang (YR)
A. Fasciani (YR)

Regrets:

B. Campbell

Staff Present:

S. Godwin, Environmental Coordinator
N. Aven, Urban Forestry & Environmental
Programs Manager
L. Luaifoa, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee Minutes of April 22, 2015 to be approved.

It was

Moved by G. Sahota
Seconded by S. Sabharwal
That the minutes of Environmental
Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held on April 22, 2015 be approved.
Carried

B. ELECTION & APPOINTMENTS

Councillor Starchuk was appointed Chair of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Council by Mayor and Council on December 15, 2014.

It is in order for the Committee to appoint a representative to the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee.

No nominations were made for the AFSAC representative; therefore, the Chair requested that this item will be removed from the agenda.

The agenda was varied.

C. DELEGATIONS

1. Stephen Godwin, Environmental Coordinator, City of Surrey

File: 3900-02

In attendance as a delegation to provide an update to the Committee on the development of the Surrey **Riparian Area By-Law**.

The following comments were made:

- Surrey receives various development applications (subdivisions, buildings permits, rezoning etc.) that are in close proximity to water courses. In the past, Surrey followed the Land Development Guide and its setback is 15m or 30m from the top bank.
- Applications for variances to those setbacks went to the Environmental Review Committee which consisted of city staff and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). Due to changes to the *Fisheries Act*, DFO withdrew their participation at that level. Since then, the City has entertained development applications near watercourses; however, only meeting the bare requirements of the provincial legislation. The riparian regulation setback is minimal and only protects fish.
- The city has many values and liabilities that require management. It has been an issue in the past two years for the City to manage its assets; therefore, Surrey Council directed staff to develop a riparian bylaw. To date, the following has been completed:
 - a consultant has been retained
 - staff have surveyed all the local governments in lower mainland and determined what their Bylaws, policies and procedures were with respect to development around watercourses
 - a workshop was held with Local Government staff that deal with applications for setbacks
 - a staff steering committee has been established to work with the consultant
 - a stakeholder workshop is planned for in three weeks with targeted participation of selected developers, developer agents, environmental participation, City committee representatives, and community members. The workshop will be 2 hours on June 15, 16 or 17.
- The City is seeking one or two members of the ESAC to volunteer to attend and participate in the stakeholder workshop.
- Once the stakeholder workshop is complete, the draft By-law will be further refined. Along with a draft By-law, an implementation strategy will be developed. This will include a determination on what existing development applications will be considered grandfathered. This will be consistent with precedence and provisions under the Local Government Act and Community Charter.
- Depending on the pace of the By-law development, it is hoped to have the draft By-law presented to Council by the Summer of 2015.

2. Deb Jack, Surrey Environmental Partners

File: 1705-05

In attendance as a delegation to present to the Committee on SEP's "**Presentation to the Finance Committee**" report - December 15, 2014.

The following was highlighted:

- Each year the City of Surrey Finance Committee meets and entertains presentations from community members for items they would like to see included in the City budget.
- SEP presented some of the following items for Council's consideration, related to Operations, Capital Expenditures and Policies:
 - Hire a Biodiversity Conservation Manager.
 - Hire 2 additional staff to assist the Environmental Coordinator.
 - Recommend Surrey consider a program to promote Birding. Birding is a sport capable of attracting tourists.
 - Obtain 3 large parks, to increase the minimum parklands acquisition standard to 5 hectares per 1000 people with the increase of .8 hectare being natural area.
 - Implement a levy for the purpose of acquiring Biodiversity Conservation/Green infrastructure Network Lands.
 - Implement a No Net Loss Policy for Surrey Parks Natural Areas. When a piece of open parkland is converted to an artificial field or a natural area is converted to other Parks' use that an equal amount of land be added to the inventory of open land or natural area.
 - Implement a Tree Replacement Policy for city-owned trees destroyed by the city. The policy should be 5 trees planted for every 1 tree removed.
 - Double the number of caliper trees planted yearly.
 - Consider establishing a more extensive, monitoring enforcement system for natural area including regular, conservation and ecologically sensitive spaces. Example is damage to fish bearing water courses and riparian setbacks by humans and their dogs off leash, recreational vehicle damage, etc.
 - Introduce greater incentives for landowner development to ensure the preserved trees survive.
 - Greater monitoring of encroachment on city land, natural areas and other parklands.

The Committee made the following comments:

- It was questioned how staff deal with incidents of encroachment on City property. Staff replied that incidents are addressed as the City comes across them. The Natural Areas team has been working with residents to remove sheds from parks etc. Some instances are long standing and have been there for decades and take longer to deal with.

- It was questioned how the Biodiversity Conservation Manager position is different from the Sustainability Manager. Deb Jack replied that the BC Manager would need to be at the very least, a registered professional biologist. The BC Manager would deal with everything that happens within the City, specific to policy.
- Deb Jack noted that Olympia, Washington's Urban Forestry policy for the replacement of trees requires a tree of 50 inches in diameter be replaced with 20 trees. The City of Surrey's policy is 5 trees to be planted for a tree of 50 inches in diameter.

The Chair thanked the delegation for the presentation.

3. Delegation Requests

(a) Terry McNeice

File: 6880-01/7913-0169-00

To appear before the Committee to present on concerns about Application No. 7913-0169-00 for a galvanizing plant in Campbell Heights.

It was Moved by G. Sahota
Seconded by J. Stewart
That the Environmental Sustainability
Advisory Committee approves the delegation request from T. McNeice.
Carried

(b) Blue Dot Movement, Suzuki Foundation

File: 5280-01

To appear before the Committee to present on the Blue Dot Movement and the declaration for the right to a healthy environment and amending the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom to include the right to healthy environment.

It was Moved by N. Roman
Seconded by G. Sahota
That the Environmental Sustainability
Advisory Committee approves the delegation request from the Blue Dot
Movement.
Carried

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

There was no outstanding business.

E. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

There were no items referred by Council.

G. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee (AFSAC) Update

There was no information relevant to the ESAC.

2. Development Advisory Committee (DAC) Update

The DAC meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2015.

I. OTHER BUSINESS

Party for the Planet Update

Ariel Zhang, Youth Representative noted that people were interested in learning more about the ESAC and its purpose. Ariel suggested that the Committee consider participating in more community events and perform outreach work to inform the community about ESAC.

Ariel also suggested that the City of Surrey create a simplified online tool such as a suggestion box for people to share any suggestions they may have with the City.

The Committee noted that the City currently hosts "CitySpeaks" and has been working on improving the site to make it more interactive. Staff to follow-up and provide an update at the next meeting.

MMBC Policy Changes

Sarbjit Sabharwal noted that changes are going to occur to MMBC policy in July and requested that staff be asked to present to the ESAC on garbage in Surrey and recyclables.

Bike to Work Week

Reminder to the Committee that it is Bike to Work Week.

J. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 22, 2015** at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, in room 1E Room B.

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Starchuk, Chair