

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee - Minutes

Present:

Chair – Councillor Starchuk
R. Bains
N. Hogan
S. Sabharwal
M. Sharma
D. Skaey
G. Sahota (Rep. to DAC)
S. Van Keulen (AFSAC Rep.)

Regrets:

B. Campbell
G. James
J. Stewart
J. Young
A. Zhang (YR)
A. Fasciani (YR)

Staff Present:

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

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee Minutes of May 27, 2015 to be approved.

It was

Moved by G. Sahota

Seconded by D. Skaey

That the minutes of Environmental

Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held on May 27, 2015 be approved.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. **Terry McNeice**
File: 6880-01

In attendance to present concerns and issues to the Committee regarding Application No. 7913-0169-00 for a galvanizing plant at 18699 24 Avenue in Surrey.

The following comments were made:

- The delegation expressed concerns with the location of the galvanizing plant and noted that the facility is situated within a farming community and in close proximity to an elementary school and creek. The delegation noted other similar plants were built in heavy industrial areas.
- The galvanizing process was briefly explained and the delegation highlighted that cyanide and zinc are used in the process along with other hazardous chemicals.
- The delegation claimed that the Richmond plant had experienced a cyanide spill in the past and the Annacis Island plant had reported emissions of gas and fine particles that went unnoticed for a two day period.

- Specific concerns of the delegation are as follows:
 - Air quality control and escape of gases and fumes
 - Control of internal hazardous chemicals
 - Transportation, storage and disposal of hazardous chemicals
 - In case of a catastrophic accident, a plan for notification and evacuation of the neighbourhood
 - Earthquake design and readiness

- The delegation made the following recommendations to the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC):
 - ESAC be included in future proposals of this nature
 - Pre-notification letters of proposals of this nature be sent by “registered mail” by the City to the residents of the surrounding areas
 - Internal and external 24/7 monitoring equipment be included in the building design before the final building permit is issued
 - A public hearing be conducted for the community
 - Environmental assessment be conducted

The delegation was thanked for their presentation.

2. **Ellen Niemer and Amanda Luu, Surrey Blue Dot Movement, David Suzuki Foundation**

File: 5280-01

In attendance to present to the Committee on the Surrey Blue Dot Movement.

The following comments were made:

- The Surrey Blue Dot Movement is an organization comprised of volunteers that believe every human has the right to live in a healthy environment which includes the rights to clean air, water and safe food. The group collected over 1,000 signatures in Surrey in support of the Blue Dot Movement.

- 85% of Canadians believe it is their right to a healthy environment and that this should be included in the Charter of Rights. From coast to coast, the Blue Dot movement has been gaining interest and support with people volunteering in their communities and organizations. 58 communities have passed declarations supporting the right to a healthy environment. 31 of those communities are located in BC. Municipalities showing support of a healthy environment by signing declarations will draw attention to the Canadian Constitution’s silence on environmental issues.

- The delegation is seeking the support from the City of Surrey to initiate the signing of a declaration (or equivalent) that recognizes the rights of residents to clean air, water and safe food.

The Committee made the following comments:

- The Committee questioned what is required to change the Charter of Rights. The delegation noted that the plan is to begin at the municipal level and to gain support from the various cities. In order to make any proposed changes to the Charter, 7 provinces and 50% of the population is required.

It was Moved by G. Sahota
Seconded by M. Sharma
That the Environmental Sustainability
Advisory Committee recommends that Council consider receiving the Blue
Dot Movement presentation.

Carried

The Chair thanked the delegation for their presentation.

3. Delegation Request

Matt Hulse, Our Horizon Organization

File: 5280-04

Requesting to appear before the Committee to present on Climate Change & Air Pollution Info Labels on Gap Pumps.

It was Moved by D. Skaey
Seconded by G. Sahota
That the Environmental Sustainability
Advisory Committee approves the delegation request from M. Hulse to appear at
the July ESAC meeting.

Carried

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. ESAC Workplan 2015

The Sustainability Manager provided a brief update to the Committee on proposed changes to the 2015 Workplan.

The workplan includes the following 9 topics:

- Biodiversity
- Climate Change
- Growth and Urban Design/Planning
- Sustainability
- Trees
- Solid Waste Management
- Major Projects
- Current Environmental Issues
- Environmental Events

A final draft of the workplan will be prepared by staff for the Committee's review and adoption at the July ESAC meeting.

D. 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. Control of Aphids on City Shade Trees – 1 year Monitoring Report

The ESAC was provided a copy of the 1 year Monitoring Report on the Control of Aphids on City Shade Trees for information.

The Manager of Urban Forestry & Environmental Programs made the following comments:

- The City received numerous service requests and petitions from the public to remove street trees due to aphids and the nuisance being caused to homeowners from their secretions. In 2014, the ESAC approved a recommendation to support the trial use of an insecticide called Orthene on City shade trees. The report includes detailed monitoring results after the 1st year following Orthene injections.
- A monitoring program is in place and will continue through this season.

It was

Moved by M. Sharma

Seconded by G. Sahota

That the Environmental Sustainability

Advisory Committee receive the Control of Aphids on City Shade Trees – 1 Year Monitoring Report.

Carried

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

There was no information from the AFSAC meeting relevant to the ESAC to report on.

3. **Development Advisory Committee (DAC) Update**

The DAC meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2015. A report will be provided at the July meeting.

I. **OTHER BUSINESS**

1. An update on CitySpeaks to be provided by the Manager of Urban Forestry & Environmental Programs at the September ESAC meeting.

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