

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee - Minutes

Present:

Chair – Councillor Starchuk
N. Hogan
G. James
S. Sabharwal
G. Sahota (Rep. to DAC)
M. Sharma
D. Skaey
A. Fasciani (YR)

Regrets:

R. Bains
J. Stewart
S. Van Keulen (AFSAC Rep.)
J. Young

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 October 28, 2015 to be approved.

It was

Moved by M. Sharma

Seconded by S. Sabharwal

That the minutes of Environmental
Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held on October 28, 2015 be approved.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. **Herbicide Use on Select Medians in Surrey**
File: 5280-23

Dan Nielsen, Landscape Operations & Park Partnership Manager, presented to the Committee on Herbicide Use on Select Medians in Surrey.

The following comments were made:

- The City of Surrey maintains approximately 63,000 square metres of horticultural beds and thousands of boulevard trees on landscaped medians throughout the City.
- The schedule for maintenance of City medians prior to the implementation of the *Pesticide Use ByLaw* in 2010 was 3 to 4 visits a year. Post implementation, maintenance increased significantly to once per month per median. As a result, costs have been driven up and resident complaints have increased due to lane closures for maintenance of the medians.

- There have been challenges meeting the monthly visits and it has been taking longer to achieve the monthly cycle due to a weed infestation found throughout the medians in Surrey. In order to mitigate the issue of the perennial and noxious weeds, staff will be applying herbicide to select medians. The application of herbicides will help minimize the work required on medians and help eradicate the spread of noxious weeds including Canada thistle.
- The timeframe for the application of herbicides will occur in the first two months in 2016 and a follow-up and evaluation will take place in the fall of 2016.
- The pesticide will be applied to the affected area and will not affect the root system of other plants.

In response to questions from the Committee, the delegation provided the following comments:

- Prior to the implementation of the *Pesticide Use Bylaw*, the primary way the City dealt with weeds was using Casoron.
- Staff applying the herbicide called Casoron (Dichlobenil) are certified and wear the appropriate protective equipment. This herbicide in Surrey has been used in Surrey for 20 years. Dichlobenil becomes active when the temperature reaches high enough in the spring and forms a barrier gas to inhibit germination.
- The exposure to the herbicide is expected to be almost non-existent due to the location of medians on busy, mostly 4-lane arterial roads. There is minimal to no foot traffic and no children playing in the areas. In addition, the granular herbicide is applied and a layer of mulch is laid on top.
- The herbicide is applied to the area and does not affect the root systems of other trees or shrubs.
- The bylaw restricts the application of any pesticides except in Part 2 under the *Weed Control Act*. Thistle is considered a noxious weed and has become perennial in nature. The City has obligations under the *Weed Control Act* to manage noxious weeds. The weeds grow to about 1.5 ft. tall between rounds of servicing.
- The use of pesticides can be reduced if the right plant material is used; one that is able to thrive in an ozone rich condition and in combination with extensively used mulch.

It was Moved by G. James
Seconded by S. Sabharwal
That the Environmental Sustainability
Advisory Committee receives the information report on Herbicide Use on
Selected Medians in Surrey.
Carried

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Climate Change & Air Pollution Info Labels on Gas Pumps Update
File: 5280-04

The Chair noted that the report on Surrey's decision of labels on gas pumps in the local media was reflective of what was discussed at the ESAC meeting and the decision of the ESAC and Council to not support the initiative.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. **2016 ESAC Workplan**

- **Item 2 – Climate Change**

The Chair reported that an inquiry has been made to staff for a summary of the items the City of Surrey achieved in 2015 with regards to Climate Change. Example is the use of car pools and increase in use of public transit etc.

- **Item 9 – Environmental Events**

The Committee questioned if an environment strategy exists for community events such as Vaisakhi.

Staff noted that the Environmental portfolio is massive and covers all related topics. For a focus on vendors and food, Special Events would be the contact due to their involvement with event organizers and vendors. The Marketing Department sets the general standards and guidelines when a department of the City is putting information out.

The Committee recommended that a delegation from Special Events or, other appropriate departments be invited to provide a presentation at a future ESAC meeting regarding polices for vendors and the use of recyclable materials at events. Also, the Committee would like to have a presentation on recyclables and styrofoam at a future ESAC meeting.

The Committee recommended that the possibility of an ESAC member attending the planning meetings of event organizers be further explored.

2. Thrive Surrey 2030

Two committee members attended the Thrive Surrey 2030 event on November 2, 2015 held at City Hall. The event, jointly hosted by the City of Surrey and SFU, was well attended.

The intent of the event was to engage the community to discuss building a vision for a city where everyone can thrive. Questions such as how will Surrey ensure there are places to live and work for both old and new residents, how will community health and safety be built and how access to clean air and water for everyone will be provided, were raised.

3. Transportation Lecture Program

A committee member attended the City of Surrey's Transportation Lecture Program for 8 weeks and found it very beneficial. The program was well put together and extremely effective. There was a high participation from non-Surrey residents.

4. Social Innovation Summit – November 24

A committee member attended the Social Innovation Summit and noted that the event was well organized partnering SFU academia with Surrey Council, entrepreneurs and the business community. The concept of the event was successful.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

There were no items referred by Council.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

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

There was no report provided.

2. Development Advisory Committee (DAC) Update

The DAC representative noted that the meeting did not have any items pertinent to the ESAC to report.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. The ESAC was requested to adopt the memo from the City Clerk regarding the proposed 2016 Meeting Dates.

It was
Moved by G. James
Seconded by M. Sharma
That the Environmental Sustainable Advisory
Committee adopts the 2016 Meeting Schedule as presented.
Carried

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, in room 1E Committee Room B.

It was
Moved by G. Sahota
Seconded by M. Sharma
That the Environmental Sustainability
Advisory Committee meeting do now adjourn.
Carried

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Starchuk, Chair