

# *Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee - Minutes*

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**Present:**

Chair – Councillor Starchuk  
R. Bains  
N. Hogan  
G. James  
K. Otting  
G. Sahota (Rep. to DAC)  
D. Skaey  
J. Young  
J. Zelazny  
A. Fasciani (Youth Rep.)  
A. Idemudia (Youth Rep.)

**Regrets:**

S. Sabharwal  
M. Sharma  
S. Van Keulen (AFSAC Rep.)

**Staff Present:**

S. Godwin, Environmental Coordinator  
A. Mathewson, Sustainability Manager  
O. Croy, Parks Manager  
L. Luaifoa, Legislative Services

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**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

1. Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee Minutes of November 25, 2015 to be approved.

It was

Moved by D. Skaey

Seconded by G. James

That the minutes of Environmental

Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held on November 25, 2015 be approved.

Carried

A round table of introductions was done and the Chair introduced the newest Committee members: A. Idemudia, K. Otting and J. Zelazny.

**B. DELEGATIONS**

1. **Sustainability Charter Update**

A. Mathewson, Sustainability Manager, provided an update to the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) on the Sustainability Charter.

The following comments were made:

- The Sustainability Charter was created in 2008 as the overarching policy document for the City of Surrey. The Charter acts as a guiding document for all City initiatives, programs and plans.

- An update to the Sustainability Charter was approved by Council in 2014. Since then, the following work has been completed:
  - Staff Engagement – staff has been engaged to help identify the strengths and weaknesses of the Charter through a survey which received almost 700 responses. Interviews were conducted with key staff, 24 Managers and Mayor and Council.
  - Stakeholder & Community Engagement – initial stakeholder workshops were held in April and May 2015, with all City Advisory Committee members invited to attend the kick-off workshop in April. Additional stakeholder workshops were then held in October 2015 and February 2016.
  - Public Engagement – engagement through Party of the Planet, City Speaks and social media occurred. A public Open House was organized in November to review the draft goals, outcomes and strategic directions of the Charter.
- Feedback from the consultation and engagement segment of the work by staff will assist in creating the final draft of the Charter.
- The 3 pillars in the original Sustainability Charter have been replaced by 8 themes. The purpose of this change was to make the Charter more intuitive. The 8 themes represent issues that require addressing in our community and include goals and desired outcomes.
- The 8 themes of the Sustainability Charter are as follows:
  1. Inclusion
  2. Built Environment and Neighbourhoods
  3. Public Safety
  4. Economic Prosperity and Livelihoods
  5. Ecosystems
  6. Education and Culture
  7. Health and Wellness
  8. Infrastructure
- The next step is Council review of the draft updated Charter 2.0 in March, with final approval in April, 2016.

It was Moved by G. Sahota  
Seconded by D. Skaey  
That the Environmental Sustainability  
Advisory Committee receives the verbal update on the Sustainability  
Charter.

Carried

**C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS****1. Declaration – Rights to Healthy Environment Update**

File: 5280-01/0512-02

- The Blue Dot Movement appeared as a delegation at the June, 2015 ESAC meeting seeking support of the declaration for the right to a healthy environment. The ultimate goal of the delegation is to change the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom to include the right to a healthy environment.
- At the recommendation of the ESAC, the Blue Dot Movement presented to Council in Committee and as a result, staff drafted a corporate report recommending Council pass the declaration ensuring the right of the citizens of Surrey to a healthy environment.
- The Committee inquired if there will be a media release about Council's decision to support the declaration and it was noted that the Peace Arch News covered the story.

**2. Committee Goals/2016 Workplan**

- The Committee was requested to bring forward items for the workplan discussion at the February ESAC meeting.

**D. NEW BUSINESS****1. Shade Tree Management Plan**

File: 6300-01

O. Croy, Manager of Parks, provided a presentation on the Shade Tree Management Plan.

The following comments were made:

- The City of Surrey has over 75,000 street trees and 20,000 park shade trees in addition to the 4,000 acres of natural urban forest areas. Until 2010, there has been no comprehensive plan in place for the management of the City's street trees and park shade trees.
- Diamondhead Consulting was contracted in 2010 to look at the shade tree population in Surrey and to develop a plan to provide guidance on best practices of the shade trees.
- In 2013, a draft plan was presented to the Project Steering Committee for their review and it was determined that a more readable format was required. Staff worked on the plan and the revised version is currently being presented to other City Committees for endorsement.
- The Shade Tree Management plan is intended to be a 20 year strategic framework to achieve the City's goals adopted through the Sustainability

Charter. One of the goals is to achieve 40% canopy coverage. With this plan, it is hoped a vision is achieved for what the urban forest portion will look like in the future, in 2035. Clear goals are critical for establishing the vision of the plan.

- The four primary goals of the plan are as follows:
  1. Protect, enhance, and increase the number of the City's shade trees.
  2. Manage the City's shade trees to achieve conservation goals defined in the Sustainability Charter, Climate Adaptation Strategy, and Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.
  3. Develop and maintain strong community engagement, stewardship, and education programs that encourage support for the City's shade trees.
  4. Carry out best management practice for shade tree health and risk management in the interest of public safety and public health benefits.
- From the four primary goals, the City identified a number of specific measurable objectives with timeframes and deliverables that the City will use to gauge how the City is doing.
- The plan includes the City continuing to inventory all newly planted trees in Surrey. The current comprehensive database includes information about all of the city-planted street trees, dating back to trees the City planted in the 1970's. Considerable information on each tree is available and referenced from the City's Geographic Information System (GIS). Any citizen can access COSMOS, the City's online map tool and learn when a tree was planted, view the species information and other important facts about the tree and its location.
- The Chair thanked staff for the presentation and requested that the ESAC review the document in the next couple of weeks and bring forward any comments to the ESAC in February for discussion.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Parks Manager made the following comments:

- Base funding is available through the Park Capital program for tree planting and Road Widening Capital Projects and further noted that cash in lieu from developers that cannot re-plant their development sites, along with money from fines levied through tree preservation, are also funding sources.
- The City of Surrey's tree canopy is at 27.5%. Shade trees in parks and along streets contribute slightly more than 5% of the City's canopy coverage.
- Many of the trees that fell in the wind storm in August, 2015 were native Black Cottonwood trees that did have the ability to withstand storm force winds in full leaf out condition. Storms occur much more frequently in the

late fall and winter when leaves are off the deciduous trees; in winter storms it is generally the conifer trees that fail. There were many street trees that didn't have the appropriate depths of soil for them to be rooted in. Roots are also compromised with people hitting them with lawnmowers etc. It is important that trees are not planted under powerlines and that trees are pruned to be wind resistant and structurally sound.

**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**

G. Sahota noted there was no information pertinent to the ESAC.

G. Sahota noted that an Open House for DCC's will be held on February 9, 2016 at 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at Surrey City Hall.

**3. Consultation for BC Climate Leadership Plan**

The Province is seeking feedback on the BC Climate Leadership Plan. General comments are being requested as part of the consultation process until March 25, 2016. The new plan is scheduled to be released in the Spring, 2016.

Information is available at the following link:

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/climateleadership/>

**H. OTHER BUSINESS**

- R. Costanzo, Manager of Engineering Operations, to provide an update to the ESAC in March to April on the Biofuel Facility in Surrey.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, in room 1E Committee Room B.

It was	Moved by G. Sahota
	Seconded by D. Skaey
	That the Environmental Sustainability
Advisory Committee meeting do now adjourn.	
	<u>Carried</u>

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

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Councillor Starchuk, Chair