

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee - Minutes

1E - Committee Room B
City Hall
13450 - 104 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2016
Time: 6:06 PM
File: 0540-20

Present:

Chair – Councillor Starchuk
R. Bains
N. Hogan
G. James
A. Idemudia (Youth Rep.)
K. Otting
S. Sabharwal
M. Sharma
D. Skaey
J. Young
G. Sahota (Rep. to DAC)
J. Zelazny (Rep. to AFSAC)
S. VanKeulen (AFSAC Rep.)

Regrets:

A. Fasciani (Youth Rep.)

Staff Present:

S. Godwin, Environmental Manager
O. Croy, Manager, Parks
N. Aven, Urban Forestry & Envir. Manager
A. Mathewson, Sustainability Manager
L. Luaifoa, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee Minutes of February 25, 2016 to be approved.

It was

Moved by G. Sahota

Seconded by M. Sharma

That the minutes of Environmental
Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held on February 25, 2016 be approved.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. **"It's Elementary" – Explaining Global Warming to Elementary Students"**

Owen, Grade 6 Student, Martha Currie Elementary, provided a presentation on Global Warming.

- The title, "It's Elementary" originated from an old TV show and means, "it is simple". The purpose of the project was to provide the scientific explanation of Global Warming in a simplified version that elementary students could understand.
- Global Warming can be explained as: the sun gives sunshine to earth, the earth takes it and turns it into heat. Before the heat escapes earth, it hits the atmosphere which shields the earth. The process of heat hitting the atmosphere and heating up the earth is called the greenhouse gas effect.

The atmosphere has holes that are currently being blocked by greenhouse gases caused by the use of fossil fuels.

If the earth gets too hot, the icebergs will begin to melt and will cause flooding and other issues.

- There are many ways for us to cool down the earth in our everyday life. A few examples are:
 - Riding a bike, scooter or skateboard to school, or walking
 - Help Mom or Dad replace regular light bulbs with LED light bulbs
 - Car pooling
- The best way for people to cool down earth is to use solar, wind or water power and not fossil fuels.

The Chair thanked the delegation for the presentation.

2. **"How Effective is Food Waste at Increasing Plant Growth Compared to Commercial Fertilizer".**

Elita and Pracila, Grade 8 Students, Enver Creek Elementary, provided a presentation titled, "How Effective Is Food Waste at Increasing Plant Growth Compared to Commercial Fertilizer".

The following comments were made:

- The project consisted of comparing plants that were planted with compost and planted with fertilizer.
- The students predicted that the plants using compost would grow better due to the nutrients and minerals in compost.
- Compost takes a long time to decompose. A few items that can be used in compost are: bones, vegetables and fruit peels.
- Fertilizers are available at the store. Some fertilizers are made with various chemicals that could potentially harm other plants and the soil around the plant. Fertilizers aren't the best choice for the environment due to the runoff into the water and the potential impact to sea creatures.
- After three weeks of observation, the students concluded that the plant with compost grew better than the plant grown with fertilizer. It was noted that the more fertilizer used on one plant, the more it was ruined.

The delegation was thanked for their presentation.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Apple Maggot

File: 5280-27

Owen Croy, Manager, Parks, provided a presentation on the Apple Maggot.

The following comments were made:

- Staff has been working with the broader community on the concept of community orchards planted and tended to by community members.
- Ocean Park community members have elected to develop an orchard on a narrow strip of park land called Ocean Park Terrace. Staff is working with the proponents on the final design of the orchard.
- A public meeting will be held April 20 prior to staff providing a report to the Parks, Recreation, and Sport Tourism Committee seeking endorsement for the project.
- Concerns have been raised by community members about *Rhagoletis pomonella* (also known as railroad worm or apple maggot). The pest is new to British Columbia and was first introduced in 2006, likely from apples brought into Canada from the United States. The pest was first known in Washington State in 2000 and was considered a quarantinable pest by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency because it poses a threat to commercial orchards.
- The apple maggot has many hosts, however, the principal hosts are: Crabapple, Apple and Hawthorn. The female lays its eggs under the skin of the apple. Larvae hatch 3 to 7 days later and goes through several instars, with the larvae creating tunnels in the apple, essentially making the apple brown, mushy and inedible.
- The orchard at Ocean Park Terrace will consist of a small number of trees and staff has noted that there is no reason to believe that this orchard at maturity will cause any more problems than with the fruit trees owned by other homeowners in the area.
- The group (to be determined) that will be responsible for managing the community orchard/garden will have specific requirements by the City to adhere to. Some requirements may include but are not limited to, how to harvest the fruit and not leave it on the ground, leaf litter being collected and pruning, etc.

- Staff will encourage use of other methods and processes to keep the orchard/garden from infestation of pests and to protect the fruit. A couple examples that could be considered are:
 - Mesh bags – place bag over entire tree and fastened to bottom. This will keep Codling moth, Apple maggot and birds away.
 - Nematodes – apply to the soil to reduce the number of live pupae.
- In response to a question from a Committee member, staff noted that quality composting processes heats up enough to kill any maggots that may exist with infested fruit that makes its way into the compost.
- In response to a comment about community members losing trees (cherry and apple) and fruit (blueberry and raspberry) due to the Apple maggot, staff noted that *Rhagoletis cingulate* (also known as Cherry maggot) has been in this area for a long time. People are cutting down trees more often due to brown rot and because of the Cherry Bark Tortrix. These moths lay eggs in the tree crevices. There is also *Pseudomonas syringae* which causes die back and weeping on twigs.
- In response to a question from a committee member, staff noted that Orchard Grove is the second community orchard in Surrey. The Cedar Grove Organic Community Garden Society was formed and has many plots. However, due to the lack of participation, the City worked with the society to plant fruit and nut trees in an underutilized area of the garden. Fruit and nut trees have also been planted at Hazelnut Community Garden.
- In response to a question from a Committee member of how far pests spread on their own, staff noted that it is species dependent, but that some insect pests can travel several kilometres. Mostly, new infested areas are the result of the movement of fruit. The Maggot generally stay around their area.
- The next Open House for the Orchard Park Terrace is April 20, 2016.

2. Recycling at City Events

File: 5380-01

Owen Croy, Manager, Parks, presented on how the City manages recycling and vendor food wastes at City events and City partnered events.

The following comments were made:

- The City hosts various events yearly including: Party for the Planet – Earth Day, Canada Day, Fusion Festival, Children’s Festival and the Tree Lighting Festival.

- These events use the three tier waste management station system that consist of three bins: organics, recyclables and waste. Wherever possible, 2 volunteers are posted per station and assist people with disposal of garbage/recyclables correctly.
- At Party for the Planet, a pilot program for recycling resulted in approximately 95% waste diversion.
- In the past, Fusion Festival had waste & recycling contractors that examined the clear recycling garbage bags. If they appeared to have contaminants, the bags were diverted to the solid waste stream. This process diverts less than 25% of the waste and can cost approximately \$4000 a day.
- The City intends to have a robust recycling program in place for all of its large events this year, with the goal of diverting >95% of the waste generated on site.
- There are 160 community led events on City property that occur each year. One of the events is the Vaisakhi parade which has had up to 350,000 attendees. Although the City encourages groups to recycle at all City events and put out recycling bags etc., the amounts of waste generated is high.
- Organized groups like the BC Cancer Society and sports groups are generally organized and good about doing their own recycling.
- The City is working to find a balance between regulations and education, compliance and having fun without losing community-led events due to very high requirements for recycling.
- In response to a question from the Committee, "FVDED in the Park" is held in July at Holland Park hosted by Live Nation Canada & Blueprint. The event is for profit. The Committee noted that for future rental contracts, a clause with recycling requirements in place should be considered.
- Staff noted that the topic of recycling at City Events might be a project for the Emerging Leaders to work with.
- The Committee commented that an incentive for not using Styrofoam could be implemented until a deadline (3, 5, or 10 years) is established of when the sale of Styrofoam will be banned.
- The Committee recommended that staff inquire with the School Board to find out what the current recycling practices are at the various schools in Surrey.

RECOMMENDATION

It was Moved by G. Sahota
Seconded by S. VanKeulen
That the Environmental Sustainability
Advisory Committee recommends that Council consider requesting staff to
conduct a review and develop a strategy for the elimination of the use of Styrofoam
at all community events held on City of Surrey property.
Carried

D. NEW BUSINESS**1. Riparian Zoning Bylaw**

Stephen Godwin, Environmental Coordinator, provided a brief update on the Riparian Zoning Bylaw.

The following comments were made:

- Based on legal advice, the original proposed riparian bylaw will not be a standalone bylaw and will be proposed in two mechanisms – Zoning Bylaw and Sensitive Ecosystem Development Permit Guidelines.
- The province has regulations that determine setbacks to protect fish etc. while the City of Surrey has other values and liabilities associated with riparian areas such as drainage access, tree retention, slope stability, managing erosion, beaver flooding management, public access and the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.
- The desire for the City is ultimately to provide a streamlined, efficient, transparent process that is easy for land owners and applicants to determine how much of the land is developable and how much of the land is encumbered.
- The second round of consultations will begin shortly. Surrey's in-house legal department has completed the Zoning Bylaw review and a third party legal review is currently underway.
- Staff is working diligently to have this presented for Councils consideration by summer 2016.

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**

- A pilot project allowing beehives on smaller lots will be going to staff for review.
- The biofuel facility in Port Kells will be in operation in 2017. The smoke stack has been enclosed and pressurized. 90,000 tonnes of compost from the facility will be available for the public to purchase.
- The pilot project for backyard chickens in an urban setting will be moving forward permitting 4 hens on a 7200 sq. ft. lot.

2. Development Advisory Committee (DAC) Update

The representative advised the meeting was cancelled.

3. Response to Climate Leadership Plan (CLP) Consultations

Anna Mathewson advised that the City of Surrey has made a formal submission to the Province of comments regarding the Climate Leadership Plan.

The consultation of the CLP was scheduled to end last week but has been extended to April 8 at 4:00 pm, if any individuals would like to provide their input.

H. OTHER BUSINESS**1. Sustainability Charter Update 2.0**

The Sustainability Charter Update 2.0 is in draft format and went to Council in early March. The final consultation review has been extended to April 23, 2016 for any Committee members interested in providing any input or edits. The document is scheduled for Council approval on May 16, 2016.

2. Party for the Planet

The Welcoming Ceremony for Party of the Planet is scheduled for April 23 at 2:00 pm.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 27, 2016** at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, in room 1E Committee Room B.

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

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Starchuk