

# *Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee - Minutes*

2E Community Room B  
City Hall  
13450 - 104 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2018**  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
File: 0540-20

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**Present:**

Councillor Starchuk, Chair  
D. Skaey, Vice-Chair  
B. Lishanko  
J. Zelazny  
L. Bykowski  
M. Sharma  
N. Hogan  
S. Sabharwal  
S. VanKeulen

**Regrets:**

A. Grewal  
S. Mossop

**Staff Present:**

C. Baron, Drainage Manager, Engineering  
E. Desautels, Sustainability Planner, Parks,  
Recreation & Culture  
N. Aven, Parks Manager, Parks, Recreation and  
Culture  
C. Eagles, Legislative Services

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**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

1. The committee is requested to pass a motion adopting the minutes of February 28, 2018.

It was

Moved by L. Bykowski  
Seconded by B. Lishanko

That the minutes of the Environmental  
Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held February 28, 2018 be adopted as  
presented.

Carried

**B. DELEGATIONS**

1. **Science Fair Project: An idea that can save the world**

**Hydrogen Electrolysis and Fuel Cell System**

Rory and Andy, Grade 6 Students of AJ McLellan Elementary School, provided a presentation on Hydrogen Electrolysis and Fuel Cell System. Their project generated electricity when hydrogen met oxygen.

In response to questions from the Committee, the delegation clarified that salt, acid, or food dye could be used as an electrolyte and that it would be easier to create many small products rather than a single large one to generate electricity for a larger structure.

The Committee thanked the delegation for their creative thinking. The Chair invited the delegation to Party for the Planet.

2. **Foam Free Vaisakhi Initiative**

Sarj Sabharwal, ESAC Member and Bal Sabharwal, Surrey Resident

File: 8200-30

The delegation provided a presentation on an initiative to replace polystyrene products with a compostable and sustainable substitute at the largest Vaisakhi event in North America. The goal is to encourage patrons and vendors at Vaisakhi Celebrations in Surrey to incorporate environmentally friendly serving products that are biodegradable.

The delegation highlighted the following information:

- The official date of Vaisakhi for 2018 is April 14. The Vaisakhi parade (April 21, 2018) has two components, the parade march and the roadside foods and stalls. The Vaisakhi event is expected to host over 200 registered food stalls. In 2017, over 400,000 people attended the Vaisakhi event with increased attendance anticipated for this year. Most of the waste left over from the event included plastics or Styrofoam. There is currently no educational component at the event with respect to Styrofoam waste.
- The delegation wants to encourage participating patrons and vendors at the Vaisakhi event to incorporate environmentally friendly products that are biodegradable. The delegation proposes to create an awareness campaign on the disadvantages of using polystyrene product such as Styrofoam and provide the public with information and sources to sustainable alternatives, such as bagasse based products made from the pulpy residue left over after the extraction of juice from sugar cane. The product biodegrades within 60 days. The awareness campaign will include social media outlets, newspaper ads, placing banners and signage along the parade route and handing out information to the public at the event.

The Committee suggested reaching out for corporate support such as waste management companies. Members expressed the need for funding and that other organizations should assist in supporting the initiative.

The Committee wants to see how the City can participate in the issue of removing Styrofoam products. The Committee strongly encourages the initiative.

It was

Moved by S. VanKeulen

Seconded by D. Skaey

That the Environmental Sustainability

Advisory Committee support the Environmental Vaisakhi Action Initiative to encourage patrons and vendors at the Vaisakhi Celebrations to incorporate environmentally friendly serving products.

Carried

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It was Moved by S. VanKeulen  
Seconded by D. Skaey  
That the Environmental Sustainability  
Advisory Committee recommend that Council direct staff to develop a strategy for  
how the City of Surrey can participate in removing polystyrene products by  
incorporating environmentally friendly serving products and to report back to the  
Committee.

Carried

**C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**

**1. Newton Sustainability in Action Planning Process**

Erin Desautels, Sustainability Planner  
File: 0512-02

Staff provided an overview of the Newton Sustainability in Action planning process and highlighted the following information:

- Surrey's sustainability team is leading a pilot project to obtain ideas from residents of Newton on what the City can do to achieve the vision for the Newton community of "A thriving, green and inclusive city." The outcome focuses on a neighbourhood level sustainability action plan.
- Staff provided background information on the Sustainability Charter 2.0 which includes eight overlapping themes and community systems.
- Various phases of public engagement were conducted in the Newton area including planning, community vision development and a reality assessment, with action planning currently underway. The final stage will be implementation and maintaining a strategy for monitoring the plan.

Staff provided the Committee with invitations to stakeholder workshops to identify initiatives, projects, and actions that will help the community move towards shared goals and desired outcomes.

**2. Coastal Flood Adaptation Strategy Update**

Carrie Baron, Drainage Manager, Engineering

Staff provided an update on the Coastal Flood Adaptation Strategy and noted stakeholder participants are discussing who would pay, the values of land, and trying to narrow down options. Staff are working to determine what the City can do, when the right time is for implementation, and what would be achievable and feasible.

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

**E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

**F. CORRESPONDENCE**

**G. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**1. Agricultural Food Security Advisory Committee (AFSAC) Update**

S. VanKeulen noted that at the March 1, 2018, AFSAC meeting staff presented information regarding the Redwood Heights NCP and the Committee discussed the Revitalizing the ALR and ALC Discussion Paper.

**2. Party for the Planet**

File: 5360-01

The City of Surrey will be hosting its 8<sup>th</sup> annual Party for the Planet, BC's largest Earth Day Celebration, on Saturday, April 14, 2018 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm at Surrey Civic Plaza. The event will feature an acoustic performance by Canadian singer-songwriter and five-time JUNO award winner Sam Roberts. The welcome ceremony with Mayor and Council on the main stage will begin at 2:30 pm.

**3. Metro Vancouver Extended Polystyrene Ban**

File: 5360-01

Metro Vancouver's approach to the polystyrene ban is to redirect large commercial loads from landfill to recycling and the ban will apply to loads only containing over 20% polystyrene packaging by weight or volume.

Staff will make information available regarding where to recycle polystyrene within Surrey. Styrofoam is recyclable through the Recycle-BC program.

**H. OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. Starbucks commits 10 million for greener coffee cup**

An online article noted that Starbucks is making a \$10 million commitment to develop a greener coffee cup that is fully recyclable and compostable. The website link can be found at:

<https://www.canadianmanufacturing.com/sustainability/starbucks-commits-10m-greener-coffee-cup-210273/>

**I. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee will be held on April 25, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in 2E Community Room B.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

It was  
Advisory Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Moved by S. VanKeulen  
Seconded by D. Skaey  
That the Environmental Sustainability  
Carried

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

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Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

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Councillor Starchuk, Chair\

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Foam Free Vaisakhi Initiative**

File: 8200-30

That Council direct staff to develop a strategy for how the City of Surrey can participate in removing polystyrene products by incorporating environmentally friendly serving products and to report back to the Committee.