

Agriculture, Environment, and Investment Advisory Committee Minutes

Location: Virtual
Tuesday, April 14, 2021
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Patton, Chair
Councillor Nagra, Vice-Chair
Councillor Hundial
M. Lamont
S. Rai
S. Van Keulen

Agency Representative:

Regrets:

Staff Present:

J. Colenutt, Design and Construction Manager
J. Owen, Manager, Sustainability & Energy Services
L. Townsend, Climate and Energy Manager
S. Neuman, General Manager, Engineering
S. Wu, Manager, Economic Development
V. Jhingan, Design and Construction Project Manager
Y. Yohannes, Manager, Utilities
C. Eagles, Administrative Assistant

A. ADOPTIONS

1. Adoption of the Agenda

It was Moved by Councillor Hundial
Seconded by Councillor Nagra
That the agenda of the Agriculture,
Environment, and Investment Advisory Committee be adopted.
Carried

2. Adoption of the Minutes

It was Moved by Councillor Hundial
Seconded by Councillor Nagra
That the minutes of the Agriculture,
Environment, and Investment Advisory Committee meeting held March 10, 2021 be
adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Applied Genomics Centre and the Institute for Sustainable Horticulture

Paul Adams, Scientific Director, Applied Genomics Centre and Deborah
Henderson, Director, Institute for Sustainable Horticulture, Kwantlen Polytechnic
University

The delegation provided a presentation on the Applied Genomics Centre and the
Institute for Sustainable Horticulture and how the research centers meet several
needs of agriculture and agri-tech in the region.

- The Institute for Sustainable Horticulture provides green technologies
within three major themes to contribute to the sustainable and resilience
of agriculture and landscapes.

- The delegation provided an outline of the facilities, staff capacity, partners, relative equipment and technology, research projects, and the types of biocontrol and bioproducts developed within the institute.
- The Applied Genomics Centre includes dairy production, sustainable crop production, hops and craft brewing, product in greenhouse production, beef production and horse health. The delegation outlined the 5-year operations plan which includes expanding a line of equipment within the new facility, community engagement events, and the continuation of training and hiring undergraduate students.
- The Centre has performed genomic sequencing and has identified harmful bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics. Currently, work continues to determine causative mutations in hereditary ataxia and identifying changes in DNA related to diseases.

In response to a question from a Committee member, the delegation advise that they are seeking networking connections. It was suggested the organization can contact the Surrey Board of Trade, who has business in agriculture.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. **84 Avenue Multi-Modal Project**

Jason Colenutt, Design and Construction Manager and Victor Jhingan, Design and Construction Project Manager, Engineering

Staff provided an overview on the 84 Avenue corridor improvement, the reasoning behind the project, and a walkthrough of the plan.

- Between 2000 to 2009, the City explored a number of options to improve road safety, alleviate traffic congestion and provide increased connectivity between Newton and Fleetwood. 84 Avenue was selected as it was the most economical solution and provided the best balance from a traffic, safety, park, and environmental standpoint. 84 Avenue also integrates well with existing rapid transit services along KGB, and upcoming rapid bus along Scott Road and future SkyTrain along Fraser Hwy.
- Key project benefits include improved road safety, enhanced connectivity and reliability, better transportation options, new access and amenities within Bear Creek Park and reduced congestion along 88 Avenue.
- Staff provided an illustration of the road alignment of 84 Avenue between KGB and 140 Street. The road alignment is predominately located within the un-opened 84 Avenue road allowance, existing right-of-way areas secured for the roadway, and underneath the BC Hydro transmission corridor. The road alignment stays outside of the Bear Creek Park Reservation area.
- Staff are completing field investigative works such as geotechnical investigations, environmental site reviews, topographical field surveys, measuring tree diameters, assessing species at risk, and sampling contaminated soils.

- Staff have also commenced the public engagement process by contacting key stakeholders such as HUB Cycling, White Rock and Surrey Naturalists Society, ICBC, HUB Cycling, BC Hydro, Ministry of Environment, the Strata Property adjacent to KGB, and the three religious facilities along 140 Street. Broader public engagement will be launched towards the end of April.
- Once public engagement concludes, the results of the public engagement as well as the preliminary project designs will be summarized in a Corporate Report to Council, towards the end of May/early June. Staff noted that stakeholder interests will need to be balanced to satisfy cycling and environmental interests and ensure road safety measures are incorporated into the project plans.

In response to a question from the Committee, staff are working to develop a larger portion of access to Bear Creek Park. Staff confirmed that the wildlife passages will be provided along 84 Avenue. The City is in preliminary investigation stages to determine what wildlife exists in order to mitigate or compensate for any environmental impacts.

2. **Climate Change Action Strategy**

Jason Owen, Manager, Sustainability & Energy Services

Staff provided a Power-Point Presentation on the Climate Change Action Strategy and highlighted the following information:

- The Climate Change Action Strategy (CCAS) is a roadmap and an equitable path to reach Surrey's 2050 targets, shift away from fossil fuel dependence, and position Surrey for the low carbon economy of the future, while improving the health and resilience of all of Surrey's communities and ecosystems to the impacts of climate change
- Climate change prompts challenges to agriculture such as changing weather and precipitation patterns, increased flooding, biodiversity loss, increased soil salinity and the ability to access healthy and affordable food. There is an urgent need to lower gas emissions to reduce climate change.
- The CCAS has five main components within its framework: resilient, zero-carbon neighbourhoods; safe, zero-carbon transportation; healthy zero-carbon buildings; climate-positive resilient ecosystems; and bold city leadership.
- In response to a Committee member's concern regarding residential/commercial building targets, staff noted that the building industry is evolving quickly; and as it may increase capital costs to residents and developers, projects are achievable and the cost to benefit analysis will pay off.

Staff expect to provide a report to Council in April that will include public engagement results and a preliminary climate action framework. Opportunities within the Agricultural community include increased production on under-utilized farmland, the ability to explore technologies to reduce GHGs from equipment, soil management practices to absorb CO₂, RNG production, increased processing and storage capacity, partnerships with local food hubs and to support ecological resilience.

3. Letter from City of Port Moody regarding Helping Cities Lead Campaign

A letter from the City of Port Moody regarding UBCM Resolution Helping Cities Lead Campaign was provided to the Committee as information.

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Update Workplan

An updated Workplan was provided to the Committee for information. The Chair asked that a focus on water be included.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

This section has no items to consider.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

This section has no items to consider.

G. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Agriculture, Environment, and Investment Advisory Committee is scheduled Virtually for Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

H. ADJOURNMENT

It was
Investment Advisory Committee meeting adjourn.
Moved by Councillor Nagra
Seconded by Councillor Hundial
That the Agriculture, Environment, and
Carried

The Agriculture, Environment, and Investment Advisory Committee adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

Councillor Allison Patton, Chair