



City of Surrey

Council-in-Committee

Minutes

Council Chamber
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2006
Time: 6:08 p.m.

Present:

Chairperson: Mayor Watts
Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor Steele
Councillor Gill
Councillor Martin
Councillor Hepner
Councillor Bose
Councillor Hunt
Councillor Higginbotham

Absent:

Staff Present:

Acting City Manager
City Clerk
Acting General Manager, Planning & Development
City Solicitor
General Manager, Engineering
General Manager, Finance, Technology & HR

The Mayor noted that the agenda order would be varied.

A. DELEGATIONS

2. Robert Falls, Resource Management Scientist ERA Ecosystem Restoration Associates Inc.

File: 6410-01; 0550-20-10

Robert Falls, Resource Management Scientist, ERA Ecosystem Restoration Associates Inc. was in attendance to present the Community Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (CERI) program and to share the program benefits with Council.

The following comments were provided:

- ERA Ecosystem Restoration Associates Inc. (ERA) works to restore and integrate ecological systems and mitigate climate change.
- They work with various communities and organizations such as the District of Maple Ridge, and have been with working with this municipality for the last two years.
- They work with ethical organizations that have made strong corporate commitments to climate change beyond the regulatory commitment in sustainable, environmental policy, and with others who are accomplished at restoring ecosystems.
- ERA undertakes tree planting and has developed a program called the "Community Ecosystem Restorative Initiative".
- This program was kicked off last year in the District of Maple Ridge, on River Day (September 25, 2005), which brought together environmental groups to plant two dozen trees.
- Trees are the only way of removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

- As of today, 14,000 trees; native trees such as Douglas Fir, Sitka Spruce, and Cedars, which are all riparian to this wet zone have been planted under this program in the District of Maple Ridge.
- They still have 25,000 trees to plant, and by the end of next year, 300,000 trees will be planted in the District of Maple Ridge.
- ERA will be following up and maintaining these trees to ensure their survival.
- The organization has worked with the District of Maple Ridge, Tree Canada Foundation, and Globe Foundation of Canada to neutralize greenhouse gas emissions.
- They also work with organizations such as the motion picture industry to neutralize footprints.
- Another organization is Shell Canada Limited, which holds a strong, sustainable policy mitigating climate change.
- Their organization neutralized the footprint for the Steve Nash Charity Basketball Game held last July and provided on site power generation.
- They work with First Nations groups such as the Nisgaa and other local environmental groups such as the Alouette River Management Society and the Kanata Environmental Partnership Society.
- They also work with communities, local groups, large organizations and facilitate these programs that address climate change and ecosystem restoration.
- The co-benefits include the removal of invasives, and include enhanced advantages to habitat through stream shading – water temperature is critical and it is important to restore coniferous shading of streams.
- Lands are fully protected; only parkland and other lands that are known as having full protection for biological life of forests are mitigated.
- Carbon removals are based on long-lived trees that they know would not be removed for 100 years.
- Provisions for rezoning and Official Community Plan changes would ensure that trees would be replaced somewhere else at ERA's expense.
- There is no cost to the taxpayer; the organization is driven by corporate policies of subscribers.
- ERA complements the work being carried out in this area; ERA looks at lands to determine the potential to draw down carbon dioxide storage in the area are ERA's own cost.
- ERA request an indication from Council to explore carbon sequestration and a report would then be presented to staff in draft form.
- If the City is interested in undertaking such a program, they would enter into an agreement and undertake a system restoration, based on input from staff and local environmental groups.

It was

Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Councillor Villeneuve
That Robert Falls, Resource Management

Scientist, ERA Ecosystem Restoration Associates Inc. be referred to the Environmental Advisory Committee and the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Carried

1. **Sandra Robin, Secretary Treasurer
Royal Heights Neighbourhood Association**
File: 4020-20; 0550-20-10

Sandra Robin, Secretary Treasurer, Royal Heights Neighbourhood Association was in attendance to express their concerns with respect to train whistle blowing at Elevator Road crossing, and to seek Council's support in addressing the noise problem.

The following comments were provided:

- They wish to discuss the Elevator Road crossing and increasing noise levels due to train traffic.
- She noted that the trains' use of horn honking is disturbing the residents, particularly at night.
- The noise is a constant irritant and disrupts their normal sleep patterns and affects mental health and wellbeing.
- Other issues include engines idling for long periods of time and the hooking up of rail cars in the middle of the night.

B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

C. CORPORATE REPORTS

1. The Corporate Report, under date of October 30, 2006, was considered and dealt with as follows:

Item No. C020 Surrey City Centre Plan Update - Status Report on
Phase I Results
File: 6520-20 (Surrey City Centre)

The Acting General Manager, Planning & Development submitted a report to provide Council with the status of updating the 1991 Surrey City Centre Plan. This report is being forwarded to Council in advance of an "Ideas Fair", at which the public will have an opportunity to engage in activities that generate discussion and ideas about the future of Surrey's City Centre.

This report also outlines the results of the background work conducted as part of Phase I of this update process.

The Acting General Manager, Planning & Development was recommending approval of the recommendations outlined in his report.

It was

Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Councillor Higginbotham
That Council:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Authorize staff to proceed with an "Ideas Fair" to receive input from the public on the results of Phase I of the proposed update to the Surrey City Centre Plan.

Carried

D. DELEGATION REQUESTS

E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Councillor Higginbotham
That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

now adjourn.

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Certified as True and Correct:

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Chairperson: Mayor Dianne L. Watts