

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee - Minutes

Location: Virtual
Wednesday, September 30, 2020
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Pettigrew, Chair
B. Campbell, Vice-Chair
J. Dhami
J. Werring
K. Purton
L. Walker
M. Lamont
M. Sharma
N. Hogan
P. Mann
S. Rush
S. VanKeulen

Regrets:**Staff Present:**

N. Aven, Parks Manager
N. Chan, Trees and Landscape Manager
P. Zevit, Biodiversity Conservation Planner
R. Gill, Area Planning and Development
Manager
R. Landucci, Forestry Manager
S. Godwin, Environment Manager
Y. Yohannes, Manager, Utilities
C. Eagles, Administrative Assistant

The Committee recognized the passing of Roy Strang and his commitment to the environment.

A. ADOPTIONS**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

It was Moved by P. Mann
Seconded by L. Walker
That the Environmental Sustainability
Advisory Committee adopt the September 30, 2020 agenda.
Carried

2. Adoption of the Minutes

It was Moved by K. Purton
Seconded by P. Mann
That the minutes of the Environmental
Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held July 29, 2020 be adopted as
presented.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

This section has no items to consider.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Tree Protection Bylaw Discussion

Nadia Chan, Manager, Trees & Landscape

Staff summarized key points in the Tree Protection Bylaw revision, such as fines and penalties, excessive or poor pruning, tree topping, 2 for 1 ratio, distance for tree removal from foundations, replacement tree plan as part of the application, the collection and release of securities, \$400 per replacement tree, increasing of securities, the ability to release securities to the strata to complete landscaping, and standard housekeeping items.

- Staff reviewed comments and went with the consensus of input. The Chair requested that the draft Tree Protection Bylaw be provided to the Committee. In response, staff noted that the next step would be a report to Council.
- It was suggested that a pamphlet be provided to residents with their property tax slips on the importance of significant trees such as heritage and protected trees.
- It was suggested that the bylaw be reviewed every year or two to ensure it is adequate and current. Concerns were expressed on trees shading neighboring properties and if that is factored in the bylaw. Staff noted that pruning is allowed for residents and highlighted the importance of proper pruning. Residents have the legal right to prune trees that overhang onto their property.
- Concerns were expressed that the City prioritized development over the importance of tree protection.
- It was noted that the City should provide incentives to citizens to retain trees.

The following information was displayed to the Committee:

“The ESAC acknowledges the increased ecological services associated with larger sized conifer trees and to appropriately compensate for their loss through subdivision/rezoning land-development, and petitions a Motion to Council that Council direct staff to amend the Tree Protection Bylaw for subdivision/rezoning applications to create Bylaw-tree size-classes, based upon ascending diameter sizes for conifer trees including;

*30-50 cm dbh;
50-80 cm dbh;
80+ cm dbh;*

and, to proportionally increase the amount of replacement trees required, based upon these ascending size-classes including;

30-50 cm dbh = 2:1 replacement;

50-80 cm dbh = 5:1 replacement;
80+ cm dbh= 10:1 replacement;"

The Committee discussed the potential motion.

2. Civic Distinction Awards

Stephen Godwin, Environment Manager

The City of Surrey will be presenting the 2020 Civic Distinction Awards to recognize the leadership of individuals, groups and businesses in the community. Nominations are now open from September 15 to October 16, 2020 and winners will be honoured at a virtual reception early December. Winners will be honoured at a virtual reception early December.

Information can be found on the City's website: <https://www.surrey.ca/about-surrey/community-initiatives/award-programs/civic-distinction-awards>

A Closed ESAC meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2020 at 6:00 PM to deliberate the nominations for the the Environmental Awards. The nomination package will be provided October 16, 2020 to the Committee. All information provided will be confidential and members of the public will not be able to access the closed meeting under Section 90 of the *Community Charter*.

J. Werring arrived to the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

3. Biodiversity Design Guidelines

Pamela Zevit, Biodiversity Conservation Planner

Staff are working to develop Biodiversity Design Guidelines that facilitate the implementation of the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. Staff identified the current impacts and modules and will ensure high level objectives are met.

The document will be on-going, easy to update, and interactive for online users to provide input. COVID-19 has made the engagement process challenging. The Chair noted the modules are exciting, but the BCS requires funding.

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Review of Bee City Canada Designation

Pamela Zevit, Biodiversity Conservation Planner

- Staff provided a comprehensive report on the Bee City Canada Designation. Designees are expected to promote being a Bee City member through posting Bee City signage and participating in International Pollinator Week (typically the third week of June), promote activities through web, social media, and show Bee City signage throughout the community, execute their resolution and record activities, and renew the Bee City Canada Designation annually. As part of the report staff included another option for consideration, the certification provided by the Pollinator Partnership Canada

- Staff noted that the City of Surrey does meet the requirements for designation. Concerns were expressed on the organization and the lack of information their representative provided to the Committee about there being an annual fee. A member noted that the City is already fulfilling many of the requirements and would make sense to get the designation to validate the recognition.
- The Chair requested that more information be provided to the Committee at the next meeting. Staff suggested the Committee consider what the value is in having a designation from an operations standpoint. Staff advised they could report back on Pollinator programs and initiatives the City is doing and provide that information at a future meeting.

It was Moved by P. Mann
 Seconded by K. Purton
 That the Environmental Sustainability
 Advisory Committee receive the Review of Bee City Canada Designation
 memorandum as information.

Carried

2. **5G Sub-Committee: Impacts of Radio-Frequency Emissions on Surrey's Environment**

Item D.2 was deferred to the next meeting.

3. **Corporate Report R123**
 Ron Gill, Area Planning and Development Manager

The Chair requested information on steps taken with respect to the "Environmental Review Process" listed in Corporate Report R123.

- Staff clarified that the regulatory framework under Part 7A Streamside Protection and development permits for sensitive ecosystems are unchanged and remain full in effect. Staff clarified that verifying classifications of watercourses and wetlands and existing features will now be reviewed by the Provincial and Federal Government.
- Staff noted the implementation of the requirements have been changed as it relates to confirming whether or not a particular feature constitutes a stream under the *Water Act*, Riparian Areas Protection Regulation and confirming the applicable setbacks as regulated by the Province. The classifications are being confirmed with the Province at which the Province has additional capacity to take on reviewing these items. Staff will continue to review applications and there will be no change to capacity on the City's end.
- Staff are in the process of preparing a terms of reference and framework of guidelines and checklists that will be provided to the community and staff for external stakeholders to determine the expectations of the province and reports to city staff. Staff are hoping to release these within the next few weeks.

- In response to a question from the Committee, staff noted that applications are being vetted by the Province, who will determine if a particular feature will constitute a stream. Staff noted that the Terms of Reference, guidelines and checklists along with the Streamside Protection By-law and Development Permit guidelines will help ensure accurate reports. The Terms of Reference and guidelines will provide a comprehensive framework and guidance documents to assist QEP's and provide clarify to developers looking to develop sites.
- In response to a question from the Committee, staff noted that the Environmental Planner is assisting with Terms of Reference, guidelines, and checklists. The Chair suggested using other staff throughout the City to assist with the documentation. Staff noted the intent is to streamline processes in part to stimulate the economy and a way to eliminate duplicate processes.

The Chair requested an update at a future meeting.

4. Rodenticide Update

Pamela Zevit, BCS Environmental Planner

Staff provided a report on the review of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides ("SGARs") and their secondary poisoning effects on wildlife. It was clarified that this report focuses on City property.

- The Committee discussed cost factors to implement. It was noted the alternatives have been researched and are known.
- The Committee discussed the serious secondary poisonings known to impact non-target wildlife and domestic animals due to SGARS. The Committee would like to see staff investigate options for Council to consider in order to replace the use of Second-Generation Anticoagulants for the control of rodents in City owned facilities and properties.

Staff will provide further information as it relates to costs, pros and cons to the Committee at a future meeting.

It was	Moved by P. Mann Seconded by K. Purton That the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee receive the Rodenticide Update memorandum as information.
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Carried

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

This section has no items to consider.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

This section has no items to consider.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Agriculture and Food Policy Advisory Committee (AFPAC) Update

There was nothing significant to the ESAC Committee at the September 8, 2020 AFPAC meeting.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

This section has no items to consider.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee will be held on October 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

A closed meeting will be held on October 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

The Chair discussed the potential of holding in-person meetings.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by S. VanKeulen

Seconded by B. Campbell

That the Environmental Sustainability

Advisory Committee adjourn.

Carried

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

Councillor Steven Pettigrew, Chair