

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee - Minutes

2E - Committee Room A
City Hall
13450 - 104 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2015
Time: 6:00 PM
File: 0540-20

Present:

Chair – Councillor Starchuk
B. Campbell
J. Stewart
D. Skaey
S. Sabharwal
N. Hogan
R. Bains
J. Young
A. Zhang (YR)
A. Fasciani (YR)

Regrets:

G. James
G. Sahota (Rep. to DAC)
S. Van Keulen (AFSAC Rep.)

Staff Present:

S. Godwin, Environmental Coordinator
N. Aven, Manager, Urban Forestry &
Environmental Programs
L. Luaifoa, Legislative Services

The Committee did a round table of introductions.

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee Minutes of December 17, 2014 to be approved.

It was

Moved by J. Stewart
Seconded by B. Campbell
That the minutes of Environmental

Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held on December 17, 2014 be approved.

Carried

The agenda was varied.

C. DELEGATIONS

1. **Green Timbers Urban Forest Park Update**

The Manager of Transportation presented on plans for Fraser Highway and the implications to the Green Timbers Urban Forest Park (GTUFP).

The following comments were made:

- As part of the improvement plans for Fraser Highway a large portion of the corridor was widened and stopped at the GTUFP. The City is now looking to make further improvements along the highway, while addressing the concerns of the Green Timbers Urban Advisory Committee (GTUAC).

- The City is proposing adjustments to the corridor which include 4 travel lanes, 2 in each direction and plans to be able to accommodate Light Rail Transit (LRT) in the future.
- The dedicated road allowance along Fraser Highway is 40 m, along with other road allowances, which technically enables the City to implement widening for transportation infrastructure. The City has been working with the Green Timbers Heritage Society (GTHS) to discuss the road alignment, what the impacts might be to the forest, what can be done to reduce those impacts and identifying where the more significant trees are located in the park. The GTHS is supportive in shifting the road west of 96 Avenue and east of 96 Avenue to reduce impacts to the significant trees. The more significant trees were identified along the north side shifting the road through to the south.
- GTUFP has been identified as a HUB in the recently adopted Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. This hub provides habitat and wildlife, especially for species less tolerant to human disturbance. Some areas of the forest are fully preserved and there are other parts which contain trails that are well used by people.
- At King Creek within the forest, the wildlife that crosses the road are often hit by vehicles. Part of the plan is to enhance the King Creek crossing by creating an oversized culvert to accommodate wildlife and fisheries components. The goal is to reduce wildlife interactions with vehicles. Drift fencing and wildlife fencing may also be incorporated into the designs thereby reducing the number of wildlife fatalities.
- The City has been working on remaining within the existing footprint and considered the following:
 - Eliminating a sidewalk on one side
 - Narrowing the median areas
 - Squeezing lanes as tight as possible
- There are locations at key intersections points such as 140 Street and possibly at 144 Street where the road will have to be widened out to accommodate left turn lanes. At these locations, the lane would go to 3 m width.
- The City determined that there is a significant amount of road ROW that could be reduced on 92 Avenue; therefore, it is proposed that 92 Avenue be turned into a collector road (2 lanes) which would allow for 20-25 m to be added to the park.
- The net park area of approximately 6.9 acres of land can be turned from road ROW into park ensuring those trees that exist are protected. The GTHS executive felt that this was a significant benefit to the park and will be taking the information back to their broader membership. As part of the process, staff is meeting with the various City advisory committees including TIC, PRSTC, SHAC and now ESAC.
- GTHS members still have concerns about the loss of trees and staff will be addressing all their concerns in a letter.
- Staff will meet again with the GTHS and the Green Timbers Urban Forest Advisory Committee then write a final report for Council's consideration.

The Committee ensued discussion and were in support of the strategy proposed for Green Timbers Urban Park.

It was

Moved by B. Campbell
Seconded by J. Stewart
That the Environmental

Sustainability Advisory Committee supports the proposed plans for Green Timbers Urban Forest Park.

Carried

A. INTRODUCTION, ELECTION & APPOINTMENTS

1. It is in order for the Committee to elect a Vice-Chair for the 2015 calendar year.

This item was deferred to the April Committee meeting.

2. It is in order for the Committee to appoint a representative to the Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee.

This item was deferred to the April Committee meeting.

3. The Committee is requested to adopt the 2015 Meeting Schedule.

It was

Moved by B. Campbell
Seconded by D. Skaey
That the Environmental Sustainability

Advisory Committee adopts the 2015 Meeting Schedule.

Carried

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

2. **Galvanizing Plant at 24 Avenue**
File No: 13-0169 / 6880-01

The Committee noted that there was lack of information available on the proposed galvanizing plant in Campbell Heights. The Committee expressed interest in EBCO Metal Finishing attending a future Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting to provide an update on the proposed project and respond to any inquiries committee members have.

RECOMMENDATION

It was Moved by B. Campbell
Seconded by S. Sabharwal
That the Environmental Sustainability
Advisory Committee (ESAC) recommends that Council consider requesting staff to
arrange for EBCO Metal Finishing representatives to appear as a delegation before
ESAC prior to EBCO's Building Permit being forwarded to Council for
consideration.

Carried

E. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

There were no items referred by Council.

G. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Avenue of Trees – Removal of One Douglas Fir Memo
File No: 6800-05

N. Aven, Manager of Urban Forestry and Environmental Programs made the following comments:

- During an annual inspection of a group of Douglas fir and Red Cedar trees, considered to be Significant Trees under the Tree Protection Bylaw, staff observed fungal fruiting bodies at the base of two Douglas-fir trees. The trees are located near 16613 Old McLellan Road.
- Two inspections were completed on the trees and the final outcome was recommendation of removal of one Douglas fir tree.
- Staff will continue to monitor and assess the remaining trees for signs of increasing decay.

2. Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee (AFSAC) Update

This item was deferred to the April meeting.

3. **Development Advisory Committee (DAC) Update**

This item was deferred to the April meeting.

I. **OTHER BUSINESS**

1. **Use of Re-usable Containers at Committee Meetings**

A. Zhang, Youth Representative, recommended that the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee focus on reducing waste by bringing re-usable containers and cutlery to committee meetings.

The Committee supported the recommendation and moving forward, will bring re-usable containers to the meetings of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee.

2. **Community Awareness**

The Committee discussed the need for more community awareness of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC). It was suggested that the ESAC participate in City events such as the upcoming "Party for the Planet" and respond to any questions people may have about the Committee.

It was questioned if food vendors at City events use recyclable products. Staff to inquire and respond to the Committee.

3. **Beavers in Surrey**

The Committee inquired about beavers taking down the trees along waterways.

Staff provided the following comments:

- Beavers are endemic through Canada and British Columbia and are at carrying capacity and considered satiated in the environment; therefore, there is no management concern. The province manages wildlife and trapping licenses are available for hunting and trapping beavers.
- Beavers exist throughout Surrey waterways with some going right up into the area of city centre into the pipes. The Operations and Maintenance program oversees storm water conveyance and manages the beavers.
- For tree protection, Parks staff protects the trees with fencing in park areas.
- Where there isn't a risk of flooding, City staff let the beavers do what they do. In riparian areas, beavers can quickly create dams that could cause flooding. In those areas, when flooding has the potential of causing damage to structures or city infrastructure under the *Water Act Notification process*, the City can remove the dams created.
- There is a difference between the dams beavers create and their lodging. Beavers love big ponded areas and dams are the structures they place across the water to create ponds of water to create a protected area they can swim freely around.

- The City's procedures for beavers changed after 2008 from trap and kill to re-locating beavers and managing them in a proactive engineering design. More recently, 5 beavers were re-located a year and a half ago to Hope, BC.

J. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 22, 2015** at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, meeting room to be determined.

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:10 pm.



Jane Sullivan, City Clerk



Councillor Starchuk, Chair