

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee - Minutes

Present:

Councillor Starchuk, Chair
J. Zelazny
K. Otting
L. Bykowski
S. Mossop
S. Sabharwal
S. VanKeulen

Regrets:

D. Skaey, Vice-Chair
G. James
M. Sharma
N. Hogan

Staff Present:

A. Mathewson, Manager, Sustainability
P. Klassen, Community Planning Manager,
Parks, Recreation & Culture
S. Godwin, Environment Manager, Engineering
C. Eagles, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. The minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting, held November 2, 2017, to be adopted.

It was

Moved by S. Mossop

Seconded by S. Sabharwal

That the minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held November 2, 2017, be adopted as presented.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. **PRC Strategic Plan Update**
Patrick Klassen, Community Planning Manager

Staff provided a power-point presentation on the 2018 – 2027 Parks, Recreation and Culture Strategic Plan and highlighted the following information:

- The PRC Strategic Plan was developed with an evidence-based decision making approach, combining community and stakeholder consultation with a research-based needs assessment.
- The corporate approach will align with the City's Official Community Plan and Sustainability Charter, including Surrey Excels and other strategic plans such as the Public Safety Strategy. The PRC Strategic Plan will align with the City's vision and values and include a detailed financial estimate and review.

- Staff identified 186 recommendations under 23 key objectives through community engagement and consultation. Staff conducted community interviews, open houses and stakeholder workshops, received over 4,500 completed survey questionnaires, and had over 400 citizens attend idea fairs. Committees of Council were also approached for consultation.
- Plan recommendations include objectives for parks, recreation, arts services, heritage services, special events, infrastructure sustainability and renewal, sport tourism and hosting, Indigenous collaboration, and initiatives to ensure staff meet community needs and standards and deliver service efficiently. The objectives will be delivered in the short term (1-3 years), medium term (4-6 years) and long term (7-10 years).
- The 10-Year Capital Plan has \$336 million in new capital investments, which 60% is reflected in the current 2018-2022 5-Year Financial Plan. The 10-Year Operating Plan has \$26 million in new annual operating with the ability to fund 90% through growth and current tax increase assumptions.
- Staff noted that the plan will include retaining 4.2 hectares of parkland and will ensure that new development has 3.2 ratios of parkland. Staff noted there is consideration in the plan for updating off leash dog parks and for the construction of new ones.

Staff verified the PRC Strategic Plan has not yet been endorsed by Council and is subject to their approval.

J. Zelazny arrived to the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Economic Assessment of Urban Forest Stephen Godwin, Environmental Manager

The Committee expressed interest to learn what the total value is of the City's natural assets. Staff discussed the possibilities of an urban forest economic assessment and how that may include public and private trees. Staff commented that the City is currently following pilot projects that have been initiated by the Municipal Natural Assets Initiative (MNIA). This initiative offers a methodology and support for local governments to integrate these natural assets into core asset management and financial decisions.

Staff also clarified that the City has an Official Community Plan (OCP), Sustainability Charter 2.0, Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS), Community Climate Action Strategy, Parks Shade Tree Management Plan, and a Parks Natural Areas Management Plan.

Many of these Strategies and Plans have objectives and targets in relation to urban tree canopy coverage; however there are no specific strategies to achieve these goals on both private and public lands.

Staff clarified that by developing an Urban Forest Management Strategy, it would allow the City to determine the appropriate management and actions to achieve specific targets such as canopy coverage targets in various land-uses and neighborhoods on both private and public lands.

The Committee is supportive in developing a City-Wide Urban Forest Management Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION

It was

Moved by J. Zelazny

Seconded by S. Sabharwal

That the Environmental Sustainability

Advisory Committee recommend that Council direct staff to develop a City-wide Urban Forest Management Strategy that defines a sustainable urban forest with management objectives and a strategic action plan to achieve short, medium and long-term goals.

Carried

2. Sustainability Office Projects

Anna Mathewson, Manager, Sustainability

The new BC Energy Step Code coming into effect is providing a consistent framework leading to net zero new homes across the Province by 2030. Staff are preparing a memo to Council outlining the proposed steps to develop a City strategy around the Step Code, including stakeholder consultations beginning in January 2018. The report will be presented to Council for approval in the New Year.

The Newton Sustainability in Action planning process is a neighbourhood-wide project to engage residents in identifying ways to make Newton a more thriving, green, and inclusive community. An action plan will be developed by May 2018.

Staff noted they are updating the City's Sustainability Dashboard early in 2018, with data from both 2016 and 2017.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Agricultural Food Security Advisory Committee (AFSAC) Update

The Chair noted that a recent application that went to AFSAC and subsequently to Council was withdrawn by Council.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, January 23, 2018 at 6:00 pm in 2E Community Room B.

J. ADJOURNMENT


It was

Moved by L. Bykowski
Seconded by S. Mossop
That the Environmental Sustainability

Advisory Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee adjourned at 7:08 p.m.



Jane Sullivan, City Clerk



Councillor Starchuk, Chair