

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee - Minutes

Present:

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

Regrets:

P. Mann

Staff Present:

J. Owen, District Energy Manager
N. Aven, Parks Manager
N. Chan, Trees and Landscape Manager
P. Zevit, BCS Planner
R. Landucci, Forestry Manager
S. Godwin, Environment Manager
T. Uhrich, Parks Planning Manager
C. Eagles, Administrative Assistant

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**1. Minutes of May 1, 2019.**

It was

Moved by M. Sharma
Seconded by B. Campbell

That the minutes of the Environmental
Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held May 1, 2019 be adopted as
presented.

Carried

S. Rush arrived to the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

B. DELEGATIONS**1. Helping Rejuvenate Local Pollinators**

Jason Liao and Patrick Zhao, Directors, The Pollinator Project Association

The delegation provided a presentation on pollinator population decline, how human involvement factors in, and simple practices residents can do to make a big impact.

The delegation highlighted the following information:

- A decline in pollinator health directly affects agriculture and the environment. A decline in pollinator can be caused from the effects of human activity on pollinators, loss of habitat, and lack of food. Some practices to alleviate pollinator decline are to improve practices in gardening by leaving dead tree trunks and planting wildflowers.
- Weeds can be noxious, invasive and pose threats to the environment; however, some of the unwanted non-invasive plants and weeds make a wide variety of sources of food for pollinators.

- The delegation hopes to persuade residents against pulling the weeds and wildflowers on their properties, which are vital for local pollinator health. More information can be found online at www.thepollinatorproject.info.

The Committee noted several organizations that the delegation could reach out to. It was noted there are difficulties when shopping for native plants (weeds) as most consumers are looking for something more aesthetically pleasing.

It was noted the City has natural restoration programs and initiatives to planting natural areas with native, and non-native non-invasive flowering plants.

In response to questions from the Committee, the delegation noted they have reached out to youth and found it challenging to find youth who are open to environmental discussions.

The Committee discussed the use of pesticides and that less pesticides are being used on the Agriculture Land Reserve over time and noted it would be valuable for staff to provide a presentation on the City's Pesticide Bylaw. Staff noted there is currently a pesticide bylaw which restricts the use of pesticides for aesthetic purposes on private lands. It was noted the City may use pesticides following Best Management Practices and regulations for the management of noxious and invasive species and for public health and safety.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Biodiversity Conservation Strategy

Stephen Godwin, Environment Manager and Pamela Zevit, BCS Planner

Staff provided a presentation on the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS) and its implementation through land-use planning tools and financial strategies. The following information was highlighted:

- The BCS was approved in 2014 and is primarily managed by identifying and protecting the Green Infrastructure Network (GIN) which consists of hubs, sites and corridors. The GIN maps the City's known ecological areas and provides certainty to the public and development community, pre-determining where the City wants land preserved into the future. The total GIN area is approximately 9,074 acres of which approximately 3,042 acres are in private lands.
- The City has implemented land-use planning tools in accordance with the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter* to enable modest protections to sensitive GIN lands while minimizing the areas that require protection through purchase. Much of the implementation occurs through the land development approval process; however there remains GIN lands that will need to be purchased over time.
- There is currently no comprehensive financial plan in place to adequately fund the BCS to ensure its total acquisition and management of the BCS GIN lands over time.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by S. VanKeulen

Seconded by N. Hogan

That the Environmental Sustainability

Advisory Committee meeting adjourn.

Carried

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:14 p.m.



Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk



Councillor Steven Pettigrew, Chair