

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee - Minutes

Present:

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

Regrets:

J. Dhami
J. Werring
N. Hogan

Staff Present:

E. Desautels, Sustainability Planner
H. Janda, Contracts and Solid Waste Manager
J. Owen, Acting Sustainability Manager
L. Petersen, Environmental Technologist
N. Aven, Parks Manager
P. Zevit, BCS Planner
R. Landucci, Forestry Manager
S. Godwin, Environment Manager
C. Eagles, Administrative Assistant

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

It was

Moved by K. Purton

Seconded by M. Sharma

That the Environmental Sustainability

Advisory Committee adopt the July 31, 2019 agenda.

Carried

2. Minutes of June 26, 2019.

It was

Moved by B. Campbell

Seconded by K. Purton

That the minutes of the Environmental

Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held June 26, 2019 be adopted as presented.

Carried

B. STAFF PRESENTATIONS**1. Developments with Single-Use Plastics**

Harry Janda, Contracts and Solid Waste Manager

Staff provided a presentation on the various developments regarding single-use plastics including the City's position with implementation of a single-use strategy in Surrey. The following information was highlighted:

- There has been increasing momentum towards reducing or eliminating single-use items. Single-use items include takeout containers, cups, straws, utensils, and plastic bags. Factors driving their increase in use is the associated cost savings, convenience, food safety and the marketing and branding. Single-use items contribute to increased litter, energy and resource consumption, landfill waste and can impact marine life.

- Canadians throw away over 3 million tonnes of plastic waste a year and it is estimated that over 1.1 billion single-use items are disposed in the Metro Vancouver region each year.
- In June 2018, Canada adopted the Ocean Plastics Charter as a commitment to take concrete and ambitious action to address the problem. In November 2018, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment announced the development of Zero Plastic Waste Strategy. In June 2019, the Government of Canada announced a ban on harmful single-use plastics as early as 2021 and to work with provinces and territories to shift responsibility of plastic to industry.

- Surrey's actions and plans include two Phases:

Phase 1 Planning:

- Initiate a consultation and engagement of residents and businesses;
- Complete a single-use item waste composition study; and
- Complete an extensive review of regulatory and legislative authority.

Phase 2 Implementation:

- Align with federal and provincial emerging plans;
- Present options for single-use item reduction; and
- Develop and implement a single-use strategy.

The Committee expressed concerns on what percentage of recyclables are being recycled. Staff noted there cannot be more than 3% contamination in recyclables and would provide an update at an upcoming meeting.

Staff noted that some alternative products take longer to compost and must fit in with composting guidelines. The Committee expressed concerns on banning plastics from the dump and cautioned where would the plastic waste go if banned.

2. **Update to Surrey's Waste Reduction Strategy for Events**
Neal Aven, Manager of Parks

Staff provided an update on Surrey's Waste Reduction Strategy for Events within Surrey and highlighted the following information:

- The goal across all events is to reduce waste, increase recycling, incorporate green waste management, and eliminate consumption of non-recyclables. Festival & Event Support Team (FEST) will be working towards reduced and zero waste event goals, through a combination of strategies to educate & support all event organizers to meet end goals. The primary focus will be the elimination of Styrofoam and non-recyclable food service items, with larger waste reduction measures included for a more comprehensive plan.

- Major City-led events permit only recyclable and biodegradable materials and waste sorting and diversion strategies are utilized. City-led community events have inconsistencies with waste management practices. Recycling is encouraged but no overarching strategy or process is in place. Community-organized events have recycling plans and focus primarily on event cleanup.
- Barriers to waste reduction include inexperienced event organizers, higher costs associated to find alternatives and waste reduction strategies, no incentives to encourage change or improvement, short planning periods, and the lack of knowledge to resources available.
- Stakeholder survey results focused on developing policy and toolkits, zero Styrofoam use and making recycling mandatory. Community events need time, resources, and incentives. The expected project timeline will be stakeholder consultation and Styrofoam-free food trucks in 2019. 2020 will include the development of a tool kit for event organizers and determining resources and creating a policy for City organized events. 2021 will consist of community-organized events to eliminate Styrofoam and to support zero-waste initiatives for all events.

The Committee discussed the value in bringing a representative from the Surrey Board of Trade to an upcoming ESAC meeting to discuss strategies in the business community on waste reduction.

It was

Moved by S. VanKeulen

Seconded by K. Purton

That the Environmental Sustainability

Advisory Committee invite the Surrey Board of Trade to an upcoming ESAC meeting to provide a presentation on waste reduction strategies in the business community.

Carried

C. DELEGATIONS

1. Bird Capital of Canada Initiative

Myles Lamont, ESAC Member

The delegation provided a presentation on the significance of Boundary Bay/ Mud Bay to migratory birds and wildlife and developing an economic argument for augmenting its status in the Pacific Northwest.

- The delegation noted that Boundary Bay has over 400 species documented in the region including raptors, shorebirds, and waterfowl species that nest, breed and pass through. Boundary Bay, Roberts Bank and Sturgeon Bank form one of the richest ecosystems for migrant and wintering water birds in Canada.

- Existing designations include the Important Bird Area, Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve, Ramsar Wetland of International Significance, and Alaksen National Wildlife Area. The Important Bird Area supports globally or continentally significant populations of fifteen species. The network of rivers (Fraser, Serpentine, Nicomekl, and Little Campbell) and wetlands within the area provide current and potential future habitat for water birds.
- The delegation noted that local tourism could be enhanced through promoting the bird capital and include activities such as tours and biking and Birding (bird watching). A Birding map was created in partnership with Tourism Richmond, The City of Richmond, Bird Studies Canada and Wild Research. Approximately 2,000 maps have been distributed since November 2018.
- The delegation proposes to create a sign at key corridors around the Boundary Bay and the Lower Fraser titled “Welcome to the Bird & Raptor Capital of Canada”.

The Committee discussed if there is a budget in place for the maintenance of signage.

It was Moved by S. VanKeulen
Seconded by L. Walker
That the Environmental Sustainability

Advisory Committee request staff:

1. To investigate the cost and feasibility of installing signage along Highway 99;
2. To determine if the project aligns with the mandate of the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy;
3. To investigate potential revenues that can be generated from birding; and
4. To present findings at an upcoming ESAC Meeting.

Carried

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Storm-water Catch Basin Marking Program**
Lauren Petersen, Environmental Technologist

Staff noted that Salmon Tracks is a 30-minute presentation delivered by SHARP to elementary schools and community groups in the fall and spring. Classes begin marking drains for one hour once the presentation concludes. The Program brings attention to the salmon habitat and explains how the actions of residents can affect the habitats. There are over 80,000 drainage catch basins in Surrey and the Salmon tracks COSMOS layer details which drains have been marked recently and which ones require marking and remarking.

Within the Program, a Storm Drain Challenge started in 2011 as a 20-day challenge for residents to mark 100 storm drains, which has now developed into a 45-day summer challenge. The marking kits are delivered to participants through recreation centers.

2. **Wildlife Crossing and Stream Signage**

Stephen Godwin, Environment Manager

Staff noted there is currently no template for wildlife crossings of roads and staff are working on developing a Wildlife Crossing Strategy which will include Wildlife Crossing Design templates. The primary goal is to determine what can be done to road infrastructure to minimize impacts on wildlife and to facilitate the safe passage of wildlife across City infrastructure. Future Wildlife Crossing Templates may include branded signage such as "Wildlife X-ing" and modifying road cross-sections to minimize distances wildlife need to cross roads. Other considerations would include where appropriate, wildlife underpasses, roll-down curbing, drift fencing or exclusion fencing, pavement treatments, appropriate lighting measures, adjacent vegetation planting etc. As roads are widened, renovated or restored, there may be an opportunity to review the existing cross section and determine if a modified cross-section could be implemented to facilitate improved wildlife crossing

Currently, there is no signage policy regarding demarcating streams. In the past, stream and river signage was implemented as an ad-hoc basis based upon external funding. The wildlife Crossing Strategy will review all wildlife signage including stream and river signage.

E. **OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**

Updates

a) **Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Funding Recommendation**

It was noted this item has been accelerated and will be an item of discussion in the fall budget.

b) **Tree Bylaw Recommendation**

It was noted that preparation will begin in August, consultations in September, an Open House will be held in October, and it is expected a Corporate Report will be brought forward to Council by the end of the year and will return to ESAC.

c) Pesticide Bylaw

The Committee discussed the potential to invite a delegation from the agriculture side, such as the Honeybee Centre. It was noted the Pesticide Bylaw discussion can include the quality of soils, the impacts on insects, and gypsy moth spraying.

It was Moved by M. Lamont
 Seconded by L. Walker
 That the Environmental Sustainability
 Advisory Committee invite a delegation to present on pesticide use.
Carried

d) Climate Emergency Consideration

It is anticipated that a presentation on Climate Emergency will be presented to the Committee in the fall as Surrey is anticipating declaring a Climate Emergency Program which has been formally recognized in the urgency around climate change and current impacts.

It was Moved by B. Campbell
 Seconded by M. Sharma
 That the Environmental Sustainability
 Advisory Committee consider the pros and cons of declaring a Climate Emergency.
Carried

e) Urban Forest Management Strategy

The development of a City-Wide Urban Forest Management Strategy is supported by Council and will potentially influence tree bylaw aspects on private property.

F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

G. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Green New Deal Letter

A letter submitted to the Chair was distributed.

2. Camp We Empower Climate Challenge Mini-Series Proposal

It was recommended to Camp We Empower to apply to one the grant programs, specifically the Community Grants, which are facilitated towards non-profit organizations.

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

I. OTHER BUSINESS

J. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee will be held on September 25, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in 2E Community Room B.

K. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by M. Sharma

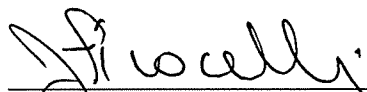
Seconded by M. Lamont

That the Environmental Sustainability

Advisory Committee meeting adjourn.

Carried

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk



Councillor Steven Pettigrew, Chair