

# *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

**Regrets:**

P. Mann  
S. Rush  
S. VanKeulen

**Staff Present:**

C. Baron, Drainage Manager  
E. Desautels, Sustainability Planner  
N. Aven, Parks Manager  
R. Gilmore, Transportation Planner  
R. Landucci, Forestry Manager  
S. Godwin, Environment Manager  
C. Eagles, Administrative Assistant

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**A. ADOPTIONS**

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

It was Moved by B. Campbell  
Seconded by L. Walker  
That the agenda of the Environmental  
Sustainability Advisory Committee be adopted.  
Carried

**2. Adoption of the Minutes**

It was Moved by B. Campbell  
Seconded by M. Sharma  
That the minutes of the Environmental  
Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held September 25, 2019 be adopted as  
presented.  
Carried

**B. DELEGATIONS**

**1. Rebuilding Wild Salmon Populations with New Approaches to Flood Control**

Lina Azeez, Connected Waters Campaign Manager

The delegation provided a presentation on the Connected Waters campaign to reconnect 1500 kms of salmon habitat currently blocked by outdated flood infrastructure. The campaign was launched in 2016.

- The delegation noted that current dykes do not meet the current standards and upgrades should be completed to meet those standards. It was noted there are 1500 kms of potential salmon habitat that is impacted. The campaign hopes to reconnect vital salmon nursery habitats in the Lower Fraser River that have been cut off by diking infrastructure and make the waterways fish-friendly.
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- UBCM Resolution 2018 - B119 to *Upgrade Flood Infrastructure to Consider Fish and Access to Fish Habitat* was endorsed at the UBCM September 14, 2018 Resolutions Debate.
- The delegation highlighted various solutions for salmon habitat such as green measures, green-grey measures and river management. The green/grey flood infrastructure was illustrated to the Committee. Studies were conducted to look at the impacts of climate change and how residents can build resiliency. The campaign has technical and infrastructure goals, conservative goals, and societal goals.

Staff noted that the City has many strategies and bylaws in place which promote fish passage and aquatic water quality. The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy is participating in green strategies over grey strategies and managing for water quantity and quality. Staff noted there is a Natural Drainage Policy to keep water courses open and a Drainage Bylaw that manages the quality of water. The City also has Integrated Storm Water Management Plans (ISMPs) that inform the City on fish accessibility and the Drainage section evaluates upgrading infrastructure to promote fish passage and improved water quality over time.

The next steps of the campaign are to restore and protect wild BC salmon stocks while ensuring the Lower Fraser communities are protected from flooding and climate change impacts. The delegation requested if there was someone available such as a City staff member or City Councillor to participate on the Prioritization Study Advisory Committee. The Chair asked that the Terms of Reference be provided to staff and if members of the public could partake.

More information can be found online at [www.watershedwatch.ca](http://www.watershedwatch.ca) and under the Connected Waters tab.

*M. Sharma left the meeting at 6:45 p.m.*

2. **Climate Crisis and Climate Emergency Declaration**  
Climate Clock & Sustainabiliteens

The delegation was referred to the ESAC at the October 21, 2019 Regular Council Public Hearing Meeting.

- The delegation noted that they have always wanted to contribute to the earth and climate change. What action is taken or not taken will determine the future of the City. The Climate Clock is made up of youth who live in Surrey. The delegation noted that residents are unaware to climate change and their goal is to spread awareness.
- The Sustainabiliteens are part of a youth climate strike, which was passed unanimously with City of Vancouver and over 175 thousand strikers attended on September 27, 2019, in a mobilization starting at 1:00 pm at Vancouver City Hall in a protest calling on parents, unions, businesses, and the general public to join in an international Earth Strike for climate action.

- The delegation would like to see Surrey City Council declare a climate emergency, which would not discredit the work they have already done but would grow a sense of community and work towards a better future. It was noted that other municipalities have declared a climate emergency and the delegation would like to see the City of Surrey set forward a common movement. The delegation hopes to ensure the actions to reduce climate change are not only implemented today but active in 10-30 years from now.
- It was noted that the organization is committed to engaging youth to make changes in their daily lives, but the drawback is some youth are not willing to take those actions to reduce climate change.

The delegation requested to appear as a delegation to Council. The Committee discussed making a recommendation that includes additional information of the delegation and it was noted that if supported, the recommendation would move to the next Council meeting.

The delegation invites supporters to visit [www.dogwoodbc.ca](http://www.dogwoodbc.ca) to sign the climate petition.

## C. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Electric Vehicle Strategy

Ryan Gilmore, Transportation Planner

Staff provided a presentation on Surrey's Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy and highlighted the following information:

- An EV Strategy is required as Surrey is a very auto-dependant city and will continue to be in the future. 60% of the City's GHG emissions come from transportation which is why there is a significant shift to EV to meet the City's GHG targets. The Provincial Government introduced a Zero Emissions Vehicle mandate that requires 100% of new vehicle sales to be zero-emission vehicles by 2040.
- An EV Strategy will include a detailed action plan focused on actions within the City's control with short, medium, and long-term targets such as public education and awareness campaigns, programs that target direct adoption, policy and process improvements to support adoption, and investments in charging infrastructure. The Strategy will be developed through a variety of best-practices from other jurisdictions, stakeholder focus groups, engagement with committees, workshops, pop-up events, and a data driven planning tool. The Community is invited to participate.
- In response to a question from the Committee, staff advised there are approximately 36 EV charging station within the City, which are either single or double ports. It was noted that in new residential developments, all parking spaces must be proofed and electrical capable in residential buildings moving forward. 20% of EV proofing is required for commercial developments.

It was noted that the Local Government does not have incentives to residents to switch to electric vehicles as the local government is limited to financial incentives; however, the City is working towards having every parking space electrified.

The Committee encourages staff to consider the feasibility of a changing the Surrey Corporate Fleet to electric vehicles as opposed to gasoline vehicles.

The Committee asked staff to provide further information about the Surrey Corporate Fleet and have a staff member provide a presentation on current information.

## **2. 5G Delegation Discussion**

The Committee discussed the potential effects of Electro-magnetic Frequency (EMF) radiation on human health and the potential impacts on biological life. The Committee requested a delegation to present on the impacts to health and wellness with respect to 5G towers. The Committee also expressed an interest in better understanding the jurisdictions and oversight of EMF and placement of cellular technology within communities. Staff noted that the best contact with respect to health risks would be the Fraser Health Authority or an academic from the University of British Columbia and that tower site lines are regulated by the Federal Government.

## **D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**

### **1. Work Plan**

*Item D.1 has been deferred.*

## **E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

This section has no items to consider.

## **F. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **1. Hawthorne Rotary Park: Water quality concerns in the new drainage system and pond**

*Item F.1 has been deferred.*

## **G. INFORMATION ITEMS**

This section has no items to consider.

## **H. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **1. Verbal Updates**

- The Committee asked for updates on the Skytrain. Staff advised to check the TransLink website for further details.

- A mobile truck has been seen within the City, appearing to be used for the purpose of advertisement. The Committee expressed concerns on the use of burning emissions for the sole purpose of advertisement. The Committee suggested follow up with City Bylaws to determine if the mobile business was legally operating in the City.
- A crowdfunding campaign raised \$3 million to buy and protect 800 hectares in Princess Louisa Inlet from a private seller. The BC Parks Foundation advised this will be one of the first crowdfunded protected parks in the Country.

## 2. National Park in Surrey

The Committee discussed a priority item within the ESAC Workplan to “Promote Little Campbell River Protection and petition for another large Regional Urban Park in South Surrey”.

The Chair advised as the initiative is within the Workplan and is already a staff initiative, it would not be required to go through Council. It was noted that if the ESAC endorses the initiative, then it will become a priority item and be elevated. It was noted the priority would be for support by higher levels of government.

It was noted that the initiative aligns with the Committee Workplan and staff initiatives. Staff advised that parkland acquisition allows funding, that grant applications have been explored for funding, and that if ESAC endorses the initiative, it would help focus attention on this specific objective.

It was

Moved by Councillor Pettigrew

Seconded by M. Lamont

That the Environmental Sustainability

Advisory Committee recommends that staff work with the Committee to advocate with other levels of government for funding and land acquisition in support of an Urban National Park in Surrey.

Carried

Staff noted that the resolution would unify efforts above and beyond what parkland acquisition can do. The Committee is committed to supporting staff in their initiatives.

## I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee will be held on November 27, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in 2E Community Room B.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by B. Campbell

Seconded by J. Dhami

That the Environmental Sustainability

Advisory Committee adjourn.

Carried

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

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Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

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Councillor Steven Pettigrew, Chair