

# *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  
P. Mann  
S. Rush

**Regrets:**

S. VanKeulen

**Staff Present:**

P. Zevit, BCS 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 P. Mann  
Seconded by K. Purton  
That the Environmental Sustainability  
Advisory Committee adopt the February 26, 2020 agenda.  
Carried

**2. Adoption of the Minutes**

It was Moved by B. Campbell  
Seconded by J. Dhami  
That the minutes of the Environmental  
Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held January 29, 2020 be adopted as  
presented.  
Carried

B. Campbell requested that the ESAC minutes capture more details from the discussion and use bullet points to organize the content.

Staff clarified that specific notes are taken by appropriate staff for cause and that the minutes are intended to provide a general overview of the meeting and capture any action items, such as recommendations. Verbatim is not recorded as the minutes are not intended to replace a meeting and must abide by City standards. Committee members are advised of the procedures for Committee minutes in the Committee Orientation Package.

**B. DELEGATIONS**

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**1. Delegation Request****a) Managing Building Lighting**

Janet McIntosh, White Rock and Surrey Naturalists Society, was in attendance to request to appear as a delegation to present on energy waste associated with light pollution and its effects on migratory birds, insects, human health and dark skies. Interest in building design guidelines to address light pollution.

It was  
Moved by B. Campbell  
Seconded by L. Walker  
That the Environmental Sustainability  
Advisory Committee accept Janet McIntosh as a delegation at an upcoming  
ESAC meeting.

Carried

It was noted that this topic should include residential, industrial and commercial sites and address a lighting policy for the City.

**b) Foam Free Vaisakhi**

It was suggested that an update be presented on Foam Free Vaisakhi, who received funding in the amount of \$5,000 from the Council Initiatives Fund through Corporate Report Ro60 on April 9, 2018.

It was  
Moved by N. Hogan  
Seconded by M. Sharma  
That the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee accept Foam  
Free Vaisakhi as a delegation at an upcoming ESAC meeting.

Carried

**C. NEW BUSINESS****1. Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Workplan Update**

Pamela Zevit, Biodiversity Conservation Planner

Staff provided an update on implementation actions for the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy via the BC Planner's workplan for 2020 and highlighted the following information:

- The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS) was developed over three years including extensive community consultation with residents, developers, consultants and the environmental community. In 2014, Council endorsed the BCS. The goals of the BCS were to identify the Biodiversity that occurs within the City and develop a management strategy such that biodiversity is maintained through buildout of the City.
- Staff noted that the Biodiversity Conservation Planner role liaises with all City Departments to integrate the objectives of the BCS. Initiatives include:

developing city-wide Biodiversity Design Guidelines, partnerships with NGOs, working with the agricultural community, providing expertise and support on project reviews, environmental assessment and project referrals.

- Staff have been working on best practices and new methods to reduce and eliminate the use of rodenticides employed as part of pest management by the City. The City's Realty Department has adopted biodiversity objectives into their recent agricultural land lease agreement for Mound Farm Park.
- The BCS webpage has been updated to reflect actions to conserve biodiversity and more information can be found at [www.surrey.cs/biodiversity](http://www.surrey.cs/biodiversity).
- The City's citizen science program to help monitor local flora as fauna is evolving with the launch of its iNaturalist platform in April via the Global City Nature Challenge.

The Committee noted the following information:

- Party for the Planet takes place on April 18, 2020.
- Concerns were expressed on the tree bylaws and that the same issues will still be seen under the new bylaw.
- It was noted that City objectives and strategies are not always articulated in the press.
- Concerns were expressed that the initiatives in the BCS have been in place for 30 years but not adequately translated into action. Staff noted that the Sensitive Ecosystem Develop Permit Areas enshrine the objectives of the BCS in land-use planning and are further supported by the City's Part 7A Streamside Protection Zoning Bylaw.
- The Chair noted that there are some key issues staff are currently working on. The Chair gave the Committee words of encouragement in that youth have been contacting the Chair and becoming active within the community.
- It was noted the Climate Caucus is a nationwide organization consisting of elected officials who work on environmental issues. More information can be found online at: <https://www.climatecaucus.ca>.
- The City Nature Challenge 2020 will be held from April 24 to 27, 2020, where residents are encouraged to take photos of plants and animals in their neighbourhood and upload the photos to the project on iNaturalist. More information can be found at [www.surrey.ca/citynaturechallenge](http://www.surrey.ca/citynaturechallenge) or by searching "City Nature Challenge" on the City's website.

## D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

### 1. Workplan

The Committee reviewed the Workplan, proposed suggestions and new topics, and determined the preferred top three topics for 2020 through consensus. The Chair discussed how members of the Committee could work with staff directly. The Chair distributed a list of 12 major initiatives and highlighted the accomplishments of the Committee.

Suggestions and suggested additions made by the Committee:

Development applications, policies, and strategies section; consider reducing the workplan to produce outcomes; organic policies; propose list of potential recommendations to Council; identify actions; refine climate change; zero emissions; ensure there are outcomes in climate change; consider breaking down solid waste management into organic and recycling; consultation on Tynehead NCP; dedicated funding for BCS; target high value hubs and natural areas; remove climate change as major focus; biosolid disposal; increase information to millennials; single use reduction is repetitive; standardise recyclable drop off centres; create subcommittees; electric vehicles; Skytrain is a conflict; shifting energy on TransLink to provide compensation; communications section; social perception of environment section; determine how can residents get involved; consider social media and online marketing; pop up signs re: parks department; tailoring communications to popular platforms; and highlighting developer guidelines.

Top three priorities:

1. BCS, funding and natural assets, natural capital;
2. Solid waste management issues; and
3. Trees and the Urban Forest

The Chair noted that there is no additional information on the Surrey Urban National Park.

The Committee discussed forming sub-committees. Members of the Committee exchanged contact information and noted what sub-committees they had interest in. Suggested sub-committees included birds, solid waste, social perception, city wide urban forest management strategy, working with other organizations, transportation, and public perception of climate change.

The Chair asked that the sub-committees work with staff and other networks.

**E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

This section has no items to consider.

**F. CORRESPONDENCE**

This section has no items to consider.

**G. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. **Agricultural Food Policy Advisory Committee (AFPAC) Update**

At the February 4, 2020 AFPAC meeting, there was a presentation from Metro Vancouver on open-air burning. Three proposals were brought forward for discussion.

**H. OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. Tree City**

Surrey has been designated by the United Nations as one of 59 international cities as a "Tree City", by meeting five core standards: establishing framework that delegates responsibility of tree care; establishing bylaws and official policies that guide the management of trees; developing a comprehensive inventory of City trees; dedicated funding to support the implementation of a tree management plan; and scheduling annual celebrations of trees to raise awareness. Moving forward, Surrey will submit annual updates, provide proof of trees planted and the amount required to operate.

The Committee commended and recognized the staff who participated in the urban forest and made the award possible.

**2. Attendance**

The Chair noted there is a lack of attendance by members and if members are unable to continue attending the meetings, to please advise the Chair.

**3. Verbal Updates**

- An observer noted that on March 11, 2020 the Surrey School Board is expected to declare a climate emergency.

**I. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee will be held on March 25, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in 2E Community Room B.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by M. Sharma  
Seconded by P. Mann  
That the Environmental Sustainability

Advisory Committee adjourn.

Carried

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

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Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

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Councillor Steven Pettigrew, Chair