

Present:

Councillor Pettigrew, Chair
J. Dhani
J. Werring
K. Purton
L. Walker
M. Lamont
M. Sharma
N. Hogan
P. Mann
S. Rush
S. VanKeulen

Regrets:

B. Campbell, Vice-Chair

Staff Present:

H. Janda, Contracts and Solid Waste Manager
J. Owen, Manager, Sustainability and Energy Services
N. Aven, Parks Manager
N. Chan, Trees and Landscape 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 M. Sharma
Seconded by L. Walker
That the Environmental Sustainability
Advisory Committee adopt the May 27, 2020 agenda.
Carried

2. Adoption of the Minutes

It was Moved by M. Sharma
Seconded by P. Mann
That the minutes of the Environmental
Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held February 26, 2020 be adopted as
presented.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

This section has no items to consider.

C. NEW BUSINESS**1. Zero Waste Initiative Update**

Harry Janda, Contracts & Solid Waste Manager

Staff provided updates on zero waste initiatives, specifically on the Waste Collection Program, Biofuel Facility, demolition and new construction recycling, and the Zero Waste Strategy.

- Significant progress has been made towards increasing waste diversion within the City's Waste Collection Program. Surrey is one of the largest municipalities in the Province to achieve 70% waste diversion from its residential waste.
- The Biofuel Facility was developed as a Private/Public Partnership with local government and processes up to 115,000 metric tonnes of organic waste to make energy. Status update on the facility on capacity, processing and biomethane was provided. Information on the Biofuel facility can be found at www.surreybiofuel.ca.
- A new bylaw for Demolition and New Construction Recycling was developed September 2018 and is being applied to all buildings and structures to be demolished. The bylaw is resulting in diverting 86% of material generated from these projects. Staff are looking into alternative ways to reduce waste in demolition and new construction.
- The City has set an ambitious target to become the first community to achieve zero waste in Canada. It will help set out short-term and long-term strategic visions, framework, objectives and targets. The strategy will identify opportunities and best practices to increase waste reduction, reuse, recycling and diversion
- The Zero Waste Strategy will follow principles to limit waste from landfills and transition to zero waste. The goal is to avoid additional waste and to ensure products are used as many times as possible before entering the waste stream.
- A report to Council is expected for May 2021 on the strategy.
- In response to a question from the Committee on confirming how demolition waste is confirmed going to recycling, staff advised their weigh scale tickets are submitted to the City for confirmation for demolition products. There are some demolition materials where we can focus on to increase diversion further.
- There was a question if textiles recycling through local bins have stopped. Staff advised there are organizations that accept textiles waste.
- In response to question on regional facilities being impacted due to COVID, it was noted that Metro Vancouver has prepared for an influx of waste materials and there has been no impacts to the regional system besides an increase within residential waste.
- Metro Vancouver is preparing to start construction on waste and recycling drop off location in Surrey.

Staff clarified that large items for disposal can be scheduled by appointment. One member stated that a maximum of four items per calendar year is not sufficient.

The Chair suggested a Tour of the Biofuel Facility once the COVID-19 situation stabilizes.

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**Updates on ESAC Initiatives****1. Climate Emergency**

Jason Owen, Manager, Sustainability and Energy Services

Staff provided an update on the November 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration and Climate Change Action Strategy.

- Upon review of the IPCC recommendations it was apparent that the existing greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets were dated and insufficient. In March 2020 Council approved revisions to the GHG reduction targets in the Official Community Plan Bylaw, 213 No. 18020. The new targets include a net-zero community GHG's and absolute zero corporate GHG's by 2050.
- Former plans included the Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) and Climate Adaptation Strategy (CAS) to be updated with new Climate Change Action Strategy (CCAS)-which will take a Low-Carbon Resilience approach that integrates Climate Change mitigation and adaptation. This will provide a framework for staff to embed climate action across City departments.
- The revised CCAS will include descriptive pathways to meeting the community and corporate GHG reduction targets in land-use, transportation, energy systems, buildings, and waste.
- ESAC members commented that there is a desire to continue the Climate Crisis momentum post COVID19.

A final report will be submitted to Council in early 2021 with a high-level review of pathways to zero emissions and the strategic framework.

S. VanKeulen joined the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

2. City-Wide Urban Forest Management Strategy

Stephen Godwin, Environment Manager

The City issued a Request for Expression of Interest (RFEOI) in December 2019 to pre-qualify respondents with relevant professional experience to develop an Urban Forest Management Strategy for the City. The initial posting period received one submission. Staff noted the RFEOI was re-posted in March of 2020 to ensure a more competitive process. A second submission was received through the repost and after review by staff, both respondents will be asked to participate in a more detailed Request for Proposals process. Once completed, staff will review the qualified submissions and award the contract to the respondent that best meets the identified scope of work and provides the best contract value. Once awarded the contract will proceed in two phases:

- Phase I is expected to be completed in 2-4 months and will include:
 - The review and summary of existing urban forest management strategies and plans in other jurisdictions (e.g. regionally, provincially, nationally and internationally);
 - The review and summary of best management practices for urban forestry regionally, provincially, nationally and internationally;
 - The review and analysis of existing City documents used in the management of the urban forest;
 - The identification of potential strategies for measuring the current status of the City's urban forest; and
 - The completion of an interim report to be presented to the City's Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee; the report should contain proposed directions for Phase II based on the above reviews.

- Phase II is anticipated to be completed in 6-9 months following Phase I and will include:
 - Completion of an assessment and description of the current state of Surrey's urban forest;
 - Development and implementation of a communications plan in coordination with the City's Marketing Section;
 - Development of, and participation in, a community outreach and engagement strategy to facilitate input from the public and stakeholders;
 - Development of goals, objectives and recommendations for the management of the urban forest;
 - Development of an action plan to implement the recommendations in the Strategy;
 - Identification of strategies to complete a valuation of the City's urban forest; and
 - Completion of a public policy document that provides a vision, objectives, recommendations and action plan for the City's urban forest.

- It was noted that it may be difficult to launch into UFMS without reviewing other municipalities successes and failures. It was noted that proposed transportation plans may impact the wildlife. The Chair noted that organizations need to be included in the consultation process. Concerns were expressed on protecting the urban forest but potentially removing trees.

M. Sharma left the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

3. Tree Protection Bylaw
Nadia Chan, Trees and Landscape Manager

Staff provided an update on the Tree Protection Bylaw and advised that all trees being planted during development are being mapped and included into the City's GIS system. Staff noted there would be a benefit to increase the tree replacement ratio to 2:1 for all trees in riparian areas, so the City is in compliance with Senior Government agencies (DFO, FLNRORD).

The Committee expressed concerns that there is little comparison between the ecosystem value of a 30-foot tree and a seedling or six-foot sapling. It takes decades to replace the ecological services of the original felled tree.

The Committee expressed the need to acknowledge the ecological services of trees and to appropriately compensate for their loss through land-development and discussed the potential to direct staff to amend the Tree Protection Bylaw to create Bylaw tree, size-classes based upon ascending diameter sizes including:

- 30-50 cm dbh
- 50-80 cm dbh
- 80+ cm dbh; and

And to proportionally increase the amount of replacement trees required based upon these ascending size-classes including:

- 30-50 cm dbh = 2.1 replacement
- 50-80 cm dbh = 5:1 replacement
- 80+ cm dbh = 10.1 replacement

The Committee expressed concerns with respect to the protection of trees and that residents may be penalized as opposed to developers. Staff clarified the City policies for tree replacement. Staff clarified zoning setbacks and land use requirements. It was noted that land is required to plant trees and there is limited space within new development. Staff noted there are Neighbourhood Concept Plans that include tree retention. The Committee expressed concern that the Tree Bylaw does not reduce the number of trees removed during land development. Staff clarified that land-use zoning determines the amount of space onsite that may allow for the retention of existing trees. It was noted that not all trees have the same ecological and natural capital values and the City needs to take this into account.

A member expressed concerns that penalties are not large enough for cutting down trees without permits. Staff clarified that there are penalty limits established by the Local Government Act.

4. Biodiversity Conservation Funding
Stephen Godwin, Environment Manager

Item D.4 was deferred to the next ESAC meeting.

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

There was nothing to report to ESAC from the May 5, 2020 Virtual AFPAC meeting; however, the meeting was the first virtual Committee meeting.

Staff noted that asian giant hornet sightings can be reported to the Invasive Species Council of BC who will report back to the Province.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Verbal Updates

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee will be held on June 24, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by J. Dhami

Seconded by P. Mann

That the Environmental Sustainability

Advisory Committee adjourn.

Carried

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

Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

Councillor Steven Pettigrew, Chair