

Minutes of a Meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee held in the St. Albert Business Centre, on the above date at 6:00 pm.

Present

Councillor J. Hansen
T. Doran
A. Lefebvre
B. Marsh
B. Thronson
M. Wheatley

Absent

J. Gervais
S. Pearson

Guests

Olivia Kwok, Supervisor, Waste and Diversion

Staff

L. Kongsrude, Director, Environment
C. Benson, Manager, Environment
M. Myers, Environmental Coordinator – Community Strategy & Engagement

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Attendees introduced themselves and provided information about their background.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

C. Benson called for nominations for position of EAC Chair for 2018. Ben Thronson nominated Tanya Doran and as no other nominations were received Tanya Doran was declared elected by acclamation.

C. Benson turned over the meeting to the Chair.

The Chair called for nominations for the position of EAC Vice-Chair for 2018. Ben Thronson nominated Bill Marsh and as no other nominations were received, Bill Marsh was declared elected by acclamation.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Chair declared the agenda adopted as presented.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Chair declared the minutes of November 23, 2017 adopted as presented.

SOLID WASTE BYLAW – MEDICAL WASTE EXCEPTIONS

Introduction – Olivia Kwok, Supervisor, Waste & Diversion Programs

- November 2017 – Council approved a motion that Administration make an amendment to the Solid Waste Bylaw for households with medical waste.
- One other Alberta municipality has a similar program – City of Airdrie (approximately 40 households).
- Terminology considered - medical waste, care and compassion, home health care waste.
- Alberta Government has a definition of biomedical waste as items that are not accepted in a class 2 landfill. The term medical waste is making it confusing.
- 'Home healthcare waste' is a term being explored for St. Albert –as this term is more self explanatory.
- An application will be required and will need to be renewed every year.
- The update to the bylaw will be going to Council for approval in March.

SINGLE USE PLASTIC BAGS

Introduction – Olivia Kwok, Supervisor, Waste & Diversion Programs

- Council discussed banning plastic bags and single use straws and utensils.
- Council has asked Administration for a report on single use plastic bags.
- Administration is going to discuss a regional initiative with the Capital Waste Minimization Committee.
- This topic has been discussed in St. Albert in the past (2011) when Administration was approached by Council to look at single use plastic bags. At that time, EAC recommended not to proceed as the blue bag program was initiated so education would help with the reduction of plastic bag use. In addition, major plastic bag retailers signed a memorandum of understanding to reduce plastic bag use by 50% by 2015. The retailers were only able to reduce by 20%. Retailers requested provincial and municipal governments to provide more enforcement on the issue.
- The City of St. Albert hasn't accepted plastic bags in the recycling program since the program was initiated.
- Curbside Waste Education Program – the largest issued was in the household blue bag recycling and the most common item was plastic bags. As a result, the curbside education program this year will focus on the blue bag recycling program. The 'Oops what goes where?' campaign in which plastic bags will be one of the focuses.
- In some of the initial discussions there are exceptions that have been implemented in other municipalities.

- GFL (blue bag contractor) – ask to make a video on what happens to waste from St. Albert so that it can be used in classrooms.
- Study of footprint of shipping internationally versus landfilling.
- Businesses may be a key player. Voluntary aspect – new businesses enforcing the branding of St. Albert that single use plastic bags are not good for the environment.
- City of Victoria recently passed a plastic bag ban – Administration provided some options to ease into the bylaw.
- Suggestion to work with the retailers – coding system showing that one product uses less material than another.
- Kevin Ma did a feature in the Gazette on Enjoy Centre and the use of recyclables.
- Olivia will provide an update the EAC when information is available to share.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION

Update – Director, Environment

- In 2016, the EAC completed a 3-year strategic plan and one of the priorities was environmental leadership recognition program.
- In 2017, EAC discussed the options for programs in St. Albert.
- At the January 15, 2018 meeting, EAC made the recommendation to update an existing City policy - Community Recognition Program Policy.
- The CSAB will review the nominations – deadline is Feb 15, 2018. A meeting will be held with Council in camera. Successful candidates will be recognized at a small ceremony at Council. Business nominations are reviewed by Economic Development.
- EAC would be involved in the process for the environmental leadership process.
- CSAB nominees must have a long-standing community contribution.

ESTABLISH SUBCOMMITTEES FOR 2018

Council approved EAC Priorities approved at the January 15, 2018 Council meeting:

- Environmental Initiatives Grant Program Recipients – Ben, Matthew
- Idle-Free Bylaw - Tanya, Jacquie,
- Single Use Plastic Bags – Tanya, Bill, Jacquie,
- Residential Solid Waste Management Bylaw – Ben, Allison
- Update of the Implementation Plan for Local Action Plan for Energy Conservation and Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Tanya, Bill, Jacquie

ROUND TABLE

- Annual Report to Council on January 15, 2018 – added single use plastic bags to EAC priorities
- Still waiting on the application for 250 million super cluster

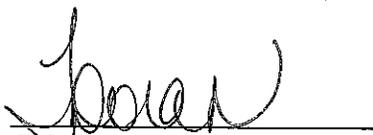


- Council had a strategic planning session – Environment has been identified as a priority. Administration will take the themes and unveil what that looks like in March (based on capacity and budget).
- Councillor Hansen has a meeting with Councillor Bev Esslinger of the City of Edmonton about shared opportunities.
- Municipal Leaders Caucus is coming up in March – one of the items brought to the table is waste, specifically producer responsibility.
- Oil, tires, paint regulations - the payback from the province isn't covering the cost so there is a plea to the province to update the regulations.
- Monday at City Council – postponed motion on River Valley plan and policy – debating the postponed motion. Question about the involvement of EAC and the public.
- B. Marsh is teaching a component of a course for sewage lagoon best management practices at Norquest College for operators.
- Youth Advisory Council – B. Thronson is going to extend an invitation to the Youth Council to attend the next EAC meeting.
- Approximately 40 people have registered for the Environmental Initiatives Grant 10 Year Anniversary Celebration.
- Red Willow Park West Master Plan Open House – February 27, 2018
- Environmental Master Plan Review – preamble to discussion in February public consultation
- EAC 3-year planning session – plan for fall and get in calendars
- Feb 5 – Council will have conversation on the EAC recommendation for ongoing funding for Yellow Fish Road program.
- Regional Climate Adaptation Study – working with regional municipalities to study the regions readiness for severe climate events.
- Environment applied for funding from the Watershed Restoration Fund and the Alberta Conservation Association.
- City received a grant from Municipal Climate Change Action Centre for \$125,000 (20% of the cost of the project) for the solar array on Transit.
- Council added an additional large item pick up in the spring (original one is in the fall) – based on scheduling, the best date is June.
- Waste App – over 1000 residents are currently using the app
- More outreach planning on recycling

NEXT MEETING – February 22, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.


 CHAIR

M. Myers
DESIGNATED OFFICER



**ENVIRONMENTAL
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

DATE: Thursday, January 25, 2018
TIME: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
PLACE: St. Albert Business Centre
29 Sir Winston Churchill Ave.

File No: B02

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
Christian Benson, Manager, Environment
- 2. Welcome and Introductions**
- 3. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**
- 4. Adoption of Agenda**
- 5. Adoption of Minutes – November 23, 2017**
- 6. Solid Waste Bylaw – Medical Waste Exceptions**
Introduction
- 7. Single Use Plastic Bags**
Introduction
- 8. Environmental Leadership Recognition**
Update
- 9. Establish Subcommittees for 2018**
Council approved EAC Priorities
- 10. Round Table**
- 11. Next Meeting Date - February 22, 2018**
- 12. Adjournment**