

Minutes of a Meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee held in the St. Albert Business Centre, on the above date at 6:02 pm.

Present

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

Absent

S. Pearson
B. Thronson

Guests

L. Bond, PACEAlberta

Staff

K. Cole, Director, Utilities & Environment
O. Kwok, Supervisor, Waste & Diversion Programs
C. Benson, Manager, Environment
M. Myers, Environmental Coordinator – Community Strategy & Engagement

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Chair declared the agenda adopted as presented.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Chair declared the minutes of July 5, 2018 adopted as presented.

City Council Board Appreciation

Mayor Heron, Councillor Hansen, Councillor Brodhead, Councillor Watkins, & Councillor Joly

Attendance of the City Council Board Appreciation evening was dropping, and Council felt that they weren't connecting with all the board members. As a result, Council decided to visit the committee members at a regular scheduled meeting.

The Mayor and Councillors expressed their gratitude to the members for volunteering on the Environmental Advisory Committee. The advice and expertise on this Committee is greatly appreciated by City Council.

EAC members were presented with a gift from City Council.

PACE Program

Leigh Bond, Founding Director, PACE Alberta

L. Bond presented background and information on the provincial Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program including:

- Started in 2015, the program is a financing tool (loan) for building owners.
- Repayment of loan is on the property tax bill, so it is transferred to each owner.
- Two markets for the program - C-Pace (commercial, multi-family) and R-Pace (single family homes).
- The PACE program has been operating in the USA since 2009.
- Administration features of the program:
 - 80% of projects are initiated by contractors
 - Pre-vetted list of products
 - Funded through Alberta Capital Finance Authority (not confirmed in AB)
 - Average project \$23,500 (USD) – average for single family homes
 - 15-minute approval turnaround – 1-800 number
 - Average project \$417,000 - average for commercial
 - 3-6-month approval turnaround
- Alberta regulation expected in the next 3 weeks.
- PACE Alberta is working with Energy Efficiency Alberta.
- Working primarily with municipalities which makes up 82 per cent of the buildings in Alberta. Asking municipalities to pass an expression of interest to PACE Alberta.

Discussion on how the PACE program would be administered in St. Albert. Including implications of a borrowing bylaw and resident credit checks.

Bylaw Banning Single Use Plastic Bags

Olivia Kwok, Waste & Diversion Programs, Supervisor

Kevin Cole, Director, Utilities & Environment

Attendees received a presentation on the background of the bylaw and overview of the phased approach to a plastic bag ban.

Single use plastic bags are the most misplaced item in St. Albert curbside blue bag recycling.

Administration is recommending a phased approach:

- Phase 1 – education and outreach, consultation with stakeholders, research and program development, and considerations for exceptions (wrappings for foods, bolts, laundry and dry cleaning, etc.). Victoria focused on a check out bags.
- Phase 2 - Administration would provide Council information related to the information of a bylaw banning single use plastic bags based on feedback and consultation. If Council doesn't direct Administration to draft bylaw, then recommend volunteer reduction of single use plastic bags.

Discussion included:

- Phased approach is good idea.
- May get the same people that don't like the idea expressing their concerns multiple times with the phased approach. Other St. Albert environment initiatives were completed (Water Conservation Bylaw or Idle-Free Bylaw) with no phased approach – just did it.
- The cradle to grave of the cloth bags is missing from the background information.
- If residents don't have bags to line garbage bins and for pet waste, residents will buy plastic bags that are made from heavier plastic.
- City of Edmonton recycles their plastic bags – sent to a company in Ontario.
- Businesses – competitive disadvantage if they are not allowed to give their customers a bag.
- If businesses can't prove that they are going to be at a disadvantage, then there isn't a problem and bylaw should go ahead.
- Regional solution - all municipalities in the region agree to implement a similar ban.
- St. Albert needs to look at the larger waste streams and include take out containers, utensils, and straws etc. (like Vancouver).
- Like other St. Albert bylaws, tell residents this is coming but won't come into effect until a year from now.
- More creative education required for this issue (videos, displays, etc.)
- This is a timely – residents are aware of the blue bag recycling changes so let's make this change now.
- Behavior changes – focus on reduction and choices of residents in the store.

EAC single use plastic bags bylaw subcommittee will draft advice to Council based on the information presented. EAC will vote on advice at the October 25, 2018 meeting.

Community Recognition Program Policy – Review

Environmental Sustainability Category

Development of an environment award was included in the EAC 3-year strategic plan. Updating the Community Recognition Program to include an environment category was the most effective way to implement this priority as the policy and framework was already developed.

Members reviewed a draft of the Community Recognition Program policy and administrative procedures with the inclusion of an environmental stewardship category. EAC did not have any changes. The environmental stewardship category meets the expectations of the Committee.

The updated policy and administrative procedures will be presented to City Council on November 26, 2018 by Community and Protective Services staff.

Environmental Initiatives Grant Program – extension request
St. Albert Daycare Society

Moved by M. Wheatley

That the St. Albert Daycare Society be granted a project extension to complete the greenhouse portion of the project to November 27, 2019.

CARRIED

ROUND TABLE

- Idle-Free Bylaw update – going to Council on Oct 15, 2018. The Information Request going to Council was discussed. It was suggested that an EAC member come to Council and speak to the data and rationale for EAC's original recommendation. Provide EAC with IR. M. Wheatley and B. Marsh will attend to present to Council.
- Mayor Heron is speaking at the Alberta Sustainable Building Symposium as part of a panel with T. Doran.
- City of Edmonton has an Request for Proposal to move to 100 per cent renewable energy.
- CN Econnexions grant celebration on Sept 15, 2018 in Kingswood Park. Over 40 people were in attendance despite the cold and snowy weather.
- Part 2 of Home Energy Assessment Toolkit (HEAT) event – energy efficiency expert to provide tips and tricks for residents will take place at a St. Albert Public Library session on November 28, 2018 from 7-8pm in Forsyth Hall.
- St. Albert was a finalist for the Emerald Award for the Riel Recreation Park Re-development Project. The City of Calgary won the award.
- Alberta Urban Municipalities Association – St. Albert was awarded the Sustainability Municipalities Award for population over 10,000 for the Environmental Master Plan and the connection to Cultivating Our Future (City's 50-year vision document).
- Goldfish eradication at Lacombe Lake Park was completed in September. There were less fish than anticipated but larger in size than those caught at Ted Hole or Edgewater – 16 large Koi – 30 inches long, weighing 19 lbs. We are trying to find out the age. Staff caught a Fathead Minnow which is native, but introduced by birds to the lake. It's possibly a Prussian Carp but getting it confirmed. Found one Northern Pike which was introduced as well. Staff will continue education of invasive species.
- Water meters – up over 86 per cent completed installation. Trying to complete all installation by end of December 2018. The online portal is being used to monitor the flags that automatically come to the City.

NEXT MEETING – October 25, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Storvick

CHAIR

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CHIEF LEGISLATIVE OFFICER



**ENVIRONMENTAL
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

File No: B02

AGENDA

- 1. Adoption of Agenda**
- 2. Adoption of Minutes – October 4, 2018**
- 3. Environmental Initiatives Grant Program Applications**
Presentations, Discussion and Motion on Recommendations
 - a. 6:05 pm - WildNORTH*
- 4. Bylaw Banning Single Use Plastic Bags**
Approve advice to City Council
- 5. Next Meeting Date – November 22, 2018**
- 6. Adjournment**