

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

T. Doran
K. Crutchfield
B. Thronson
B. Marsh
Councillor B. Russell (D: 7:25pm)
S. Pearson

Absent

R. Lane
V. Neary

Guests

L. Stewart, Operations Manager, Parks and Open Spaces

Staff

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

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

C. Benson welcomed Committee and members and staff introduced themselves.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

C. Benson called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) for 2017. T. Doran was nominated and, as there were no further nominations, T. Doran was declared elected Chair.

The meeting was turned over to the Chair.

T. Doran called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the EAC for 2017. B. Thronson was nominated and, as there were not further nominations, B. Thronson was declared elected Vice-Chair.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Chair declared the agenda adopted as presented.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Chair declared the minutes of November 24, 2016 adopted as presented.

URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN & TREE CANOPY TARGET

Presentation and Discussion – Louise Stewart, Operations Manager, Parks and Open Spaces

L. Stewart provided an overview of the Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) including:

- Benefits of the urban forest
- Current initiatives
- Current tree maintenance
- Use of Lidar imagery and current canopy cover (2015) – overall average of 13%
- iTree software used by other municipalities
- Timeframes to achieve canopy targets vary across Canada anywhere from 25-50 years
- Land use is key to any changes in tree canopy (residential, industrial, commercial versus entire city). 20-25% is a 20-year goal for St. Albert
- Principles and goals of the UFMP
- Challenges of an urban forest
- Recommendations from the UFMP

Discussion from the presentation included:

- Engineering standards and the top soil removed from site when developing starts. UFMP focused on tree to tree basis. Perhaps as the document progresses, as a living document, the top soil component of development can be investigated.
- City of Lethbridge's successful program to increase the tree canopy.
- Newer subdivisions have smaller lots. Majority of the residential program depends on private property. Opportunity to provide incentives to plant trees on private property.
- Part of the Canada 150 celebration, City has ordered 5,000 rose (specific to the Canada 150) for block parties. Staff will teach neighbors how and where to plant the shrub.
- Use of the poplar species in City boulevards and parks. In the right place, poplar is a good species to plant.
- St. Albert and provincial tree diseases and control.
- Next steps – tree canopy cover goal will dictate how we plant in the future. 25% goal is attainable with a good planting program. 20% will most likely occur with the current tree planting and maintenance. Subcommittee will be formed to discuss and draft advice to Council.
- Grey Nuns White Spruce Park Working Group was given the UFMP document however, L. Stewart has not received comments from them.
- Costs of a 20% target versus a 25% target should be discussed when the targets are presented.

CITY-OWNED CONTAMINATED SITES POLICY UPDATE

Presentation and Discussion – Christian Benson, Manager, Environment

Current policy is exclusive to the Jack Kraft Facility so the updated policy will expand to other properties.

The draft policy is going to Council on March 20. C. Benson provided an overview of the policy update including:

- Current policy does not include the acquisition and disposition of property, private property, existing sites, and development process.
- Key recommendations
- References to other City documents including MDP, Land Management Strategy, Corporate Land Management Policy.

Discussion following the presentation include:

- Examples of contamination on private property and the owner's responsibilities.
- The policy makes it clear when the City gets involved and when it doesn't get involved.
- Cost recovery of contamination coming off private property.

Councillor. Russell departed the meeting (7:25 pm).

- Grey Nuns White Spruce Park – storage of snow on the site. Determined the contamination was natural background levels.

ESTABLISH SUBCOMMITTEES FOR 2017

Council approved EAC Priorities

Recommend 2017 Environmental Initiatives Grant Program Recipients - B. Thronson, S. Pearson and V. Neary

Update the Implementation Plan for the Local Action Plan for Energy Conservation and Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions & community GHG Target – T. Doran and B. Marsh

River Water Quality Index Target – B. Marsh, K. Crutchfield and B. Thronson

Public participation Target – K. Crutchfield and T. Doran

Tree Canopy Target – B. Thronson, T. Doran and K. Crutchfield (email, telephone)

City-owned Contaminated Sites Policy – B. Marsh, S. Pearson and T. Doran

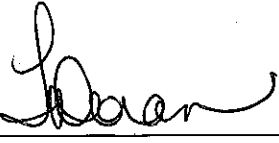
ROUND TABLE

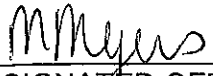
- Smart meters approved for 2017 budget. Water Conservation Bylaw, block rates, top soil etc. all interconnected.
- NSWA April 6 – Public Forum on water quality.
- Rural Utilities and Safety Assoc – presentation on wastewater including regulations and regulations on small municipalities.
- Alberta Environment approval of purple pipes in a Calgary development.
- Nature of Things – California Running on Empty.
- Documented fish kill at outfall behind City Hall. Occurs every couple years when the oxygen levels in the river start to depreciate and fish are attracted to the running water coming from outfalls.
- Dave Trew, NSWA, one community left on the Sturgeon River that is not connected to a wastewater treatment plant – Onaway. The Council is putting forth a proposal to hook up to the regional waste water treatment system.
- Sustainable Building Policy – policy was linked to a position that didn't get approved. Policy going back to Council in March to receive feedback on principles of a policy.
- Environment is now a stand-alone department versus a branch within a department. Environment is part of Infrastructure Services which includes, Public Works, Utilities and Transit. Environment got a new position with the approved budget (focus on Sturgeon River and Natural Areas). A position moved from Rec and Parks to Environment which coordinates the Spruce Up St. Albert portfolio. Also, inherited a brand-new group – Waste and Diversion Environment moved from SABC to 2nd Floor of City Hall.
- Air quality monitoring data will be available January 31 on AEP website.
- Carbon tax rebate.
- Getting It Right – A more energy efficient Alberta document release to the public from Alberta Energy Efficiency Advisory Panel. Access from the government website.
- Environmental Coordinator attending Community Development Services neighborhood tool sharing evening to promote the EIG and Spruce Up St. Albert programs in the middle February – send out dates for tool sharing and EIG info session.
- Environment working with U of A and the province – students will be gill netting gold fish at Edgewood pond. If everything gets approved by the province they will be starting next week.
- On January 9 Tanya presented the EAC priorities to Council.

NEXT MEETING – February 23, 2017

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.


CHAIR


DESIGNATED OFFICER



**ENVIRONMENTAL
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

DATE: Thursday, January 26, 2017
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 26, 2016**
- 6. Urban Forest Management Plan & Tree Canopy Target**
*Presentation and Discussion – Louise Stewart, Operations Manager,
Parks and Open Spaces*
- 7. City-Owned Contaminated Sites Policy Update**
Presentation and Discussion – Christian Benson, Manager, Environment
- 8. Establish Subcommittees for 2017**
Council approved EAC Priorities
- 9. Round Table**
- 10. Next Meeting Date - February 23, 2017**
- 11. Adjournment**