

THE CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF WHITE ROCK
15322 BUENA VISTA AVENUE, WHITE ROCK, B.C. V4B 1Y6

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes from a meeting held June 19, 2007 in the Council Chambers at White Rock City Hall located at 15322 Buena Vista Avenue, White Rock, B.C.

PRESENT: James Coleridge, **Chair**
Estelle Bogoch
Wilma Boyd (departed 7:18 p.m.)
Tom Delaney (departed 6:09 p.m.)
Joe McIvor
David Riley
Councillor Matt Todd
Nicole Weaver (departed 6:19 p.m.)

STAFF: David Pollock, Director of Municipal Operations
Susan Campbell, Committee Secretary

ABSENT: All members were present.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. AGENDA APPROVAL

THAT the Agenda for the Environment Committee Meeting scheduled for June 19, 2007 be adopted with the following addition:

- Item 1.1 - Councillor Todd re FCM¹ Conference

M/S/C

1.1 Councillor Todd - FCM Conference

Councillor Todd reported on a recent FCM conference with respect to the following new technology initiatives:

- (a) Bio-gas and its potential for generating electricity and reducing the waste stream;
- (b) Ravines and why can't the water power be harnessed to produce electricity;
- (c) Honeywell Workshop – the company has maps of the world that have the ability to assess potential regions for solar and wind power for electrical power generation.

¹ Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Councillor Todd advised that he was hoping that the Committee could recommend to Council that staff investigate energy generation and conservation methods in the City's operations.

The Chair thanked Councillor Todd for his presentation.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

THAT the minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held Tuesday, May 29, 2007 be adopted with the following amendment: Page 3 item 3.10 should read as CMN.ca.

M/S/C

3. OTHER BUSINESS

3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIC PLAN – Chair and Staff Liaison

Review of the draft plan – the record notes that copies of the draft Environmental Strategic Plan was previously circulated.

The Consultant addressed the Committee noting the importance of the performance measures and action plans and that there were two proposed approaches for review: (1) see how far the Committee gets today and continue on at the next month's meeting; or, (2) following the discussion of some of the issues today identify two or three people that are interested in particular areas and have them collect further information through telephone calls. The Chair observed that his preference would be for the Committee to meet together to review the plan and accordingly the Committee agreed to review the document together. Committee members observed that it was important to do the plan right and that the Committee should take the necessary time to do the work.

Semiahmoo Bay – the Committee reviewed this section and revised the document in real time on the presentation screen. Highlights of the lengthy discussion that ensued include:

- Suggestion that White Rock needs to combine tourism and environmental branding.
- With respect to the issue of funding that the City contribute funding to the water quality initiative in Semiahmoo Bay to ensure that the City is a stakeholder at the table.
- The Committee agreed to add as a new action item – “reopen shell fishery”.

***6:09 p.m.**

Tom Delaney departed.

- A Committee member observed that the word “green” was overused suggesting that a better word be chosen, for example, be more specific with respect to what “green boating” means. It was agreed that the action would be changed to: establish ‘leave-no-trace’ boating practices. As well the action with respect to the Pier and Foreshore Management Plan would be amended to ensure that the Plan

follow 'leave-no-trace' principles and further along "install signs along the beachfront describing environmental values and 'leave-no-trace' principles".

- A Committee member asked if remedial action was contemplated and was advised that yes it was. With respect to the eelgrass habitat the Committee agreed to support education of eelgrass in relation to the marine habitat.

***6:19 p.m.**

Nicole Weaver departed.

- Suggestion that a photo inventory of the foreshore be conducted as a baseline study – action item.
- On the introduction – suggestion to change "issues" to "concerns". Also, with respect to disturbance of wildlife at the beach, add people and boating.
- With respect to monitoring of bird population add, "work in cooperation with other agencies to monitor..."
- A Committee member observed that the Plan was 'huge' and expressed concern that the initiatives would be implemented based upon the size of the Plan. The Chair noted that while this Plan appeared overwhelming actions would be phased and time lines would be attached to initiatives.
- The Chair noted that there should be a place on the City's web site for water quality and to provide links to Annual Reports.

The Consultant noted that the draft edit of Section 1 would be circulated.

Land – this section was reviewed and highlights of the lengthy discussion include:

- Expand the section on weeds to include education as part of the goal.
- Develop an educational plan around weeds and unwanted plants within the City. Work with 'Communities in Bloom' in the development of natural plantings.
- Naturescape – continue to support Naturescape principles in private and public development.
- No. 21 size of rat population: the goal is to reduce the amount of habitat and food sources for rat population. Suggestion to use the word "rodent" instead of "rat". Action: develop wildlife feeding bylaw. The need for education around feeding of wildlife was stressed. Review City bylaws to ensure continuity with Surrey.

In conclusion, a revised draft plan, with the amendments, will be sent to Committee members. The Chair noted that subjects would be prioritized in preparation for the next meeting.

***7:18 p.m.**

Wilma Boyd departed.

3.2 TREE BYLAW REVIEW – Staff Liaison

Note: The draft bylaw will be reviewed at the July 17th Committee meeting.

3.3 PARKS MASTER PLAN REVIEW – Staff Liaison

Review of the plan – the record notes that copies of the plan have been previously circulated and hard copies were available through the City Clerk’s Office. The Director of Operations reviewed the next steps noting that the intent was to move from the Environment Committee to the Committee of the Whole July 3rd or July 16th, an open house during the week of early September, with the option of an additional Environment Committee presentation, and seek Council adoption by October 2007. The parkland supply by area (strengths and weaknesses) was reviewed, as was coverage east versus west for neighborhood parks in the City and financial strategies.

A Committee member observed that the west side does need a park. With respect to the Semiahmoo Park, if it is removed as a park, the City would be very short of park space on the east side and that issue should be addressed in the Plan. The Director of Operations observed that while the area was short of parks it needed to be put into context.

The Chair summarized that while the City of White Rock has no control over the future disposition of Semiahmoo Park, that the Parks Plan should not take this for granted and continue to pursue parkland. As well add in a statement about BSNF² and the relationship of the lease to the foreshore – these clarifications should be added into the Plan.

A Committee member observed that the foreshore functions as a Regional Park and wondered whether that needed to be further addressed in the Plan. The Director of Operations indicated that he would total the number for all of the services needed to support the foreshore park and report back. As well revitalization efforts for the promenade would be in the range of about \$1.5-million.

The Chair suggested that discussion of the Master Parks Plan continue onto the Committee of the Whole in July.

3.4 OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN (OCP) REVIEW UPDATE

Committee member Wilma Boyd will be asked to represent Mr. Riley at the next OCP Task Force meeting, as Mr. Riley is unable to attend. Mr. Riley reported that he forwarded comments on the OCP to Stantec Consultants.

3.5 PIER AND FORESHORE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Director of Operations reported that there was nothing further to report however Council has requested a report back on issues around management issues on the Pier. Mr. Riley reported, in discussions with the Chair of the Economic Committee, that a longer-term study is needed to tie into the Economic Strategic Plan.

With respect to the jurisdictional issues around the Pier, the Chair requested that the draft report be vetted through Mr. Riley prior to finalizing.

² Burlington Northern Santa Fe

4. NEW BUSINESS

There were no further issues presented.

5. NEXT MEETING

Suggested future Committee dates will be emailed to Committee members and that it was anticipated the next meeting would take place within two to three weeks and would involve a 4-hour dinner meeting.

6. CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 7:55 p.m.