



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 23, 2010
7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, Municipal Hall

PRESENT: Larry Dill, Chair
Mark Salter, Vice Chair
Councillor Randall Garrison
Beth Sobieszczyk
Dianne Kleinman – arrived 7:02 pm
Chris Zegger-Murphy

STAFF: Marlene Lagoa – Sustainability Coordinator (Staff Liaison / Recording Secretary)

REGRETS: Councillor Alison Gaul
Blair Irwin

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Dill called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. LATE ITEMS

The following late item was introduced:

1. Add to Agenda item **9. Work Plan Items / Reports From Sub-Committees** (5) Community GHG Reduction Participation (e) Municipal Fleet Operation

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Mark Salter, seconded by Councillor Garrison that the agenda of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of September 23, 2010 be approved as amended with the inclusion of the late agenda item.

The motion **CARRIED**.

4. PRESENTATION

(1) Andrea Lawseth, LifeCycles

Andrea Lawseth, Executive Director gave a PowerPoint Presentation on LifeCycle's current initiatives. LifeCycles, established in 1994, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to cultivating awareness and initiating action around food, health, and urban sustainability in the Greater Victoria community. The organization has over 350 volunteers and up to 15 staff members in the high season and only 2 staff the remainder of the year.

LifeCycles' current projects include:

Fruit Tree Project – picking fruit that would otherwise go to waste on both private and public property.

Growing Schools – gardening workshops reach approximately 500 students in 13 schools that already have a garden.

Urban Agriculture – newest program, a resource website: www.urbanagriculturehub.com.

Youth Food and Agriculture Work Experience Program – a six-month program funded by Service Canada to hire ten youth who face barriers to employment.

Sharing Backyard Program – connecting people with space to garden with those who want space to garden - www.sharingbackyards.com.

Garden Creation – LifeCycles offer volunteers to help setup new community or private gardens, offered on a fee for service basis.

Andrea Lawseth and committee members discussed opportunities for LifeCycles and the Township of Esquimalt to work together. Suggestions included assisting with the establishment and maintenance of new community gardens, edible landscaping and fruit trees. Committee members discussed the current progress on the Anderson Park Community Garden and the possibility of establishing a second community garden in 2011.

Discussion of future urban landscape projects and budget will be on the October meeting Agenda.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

(1) Committee Membership

Councillor Garrison reported that there was a lack of applicants for the vacancy on the Environmental Advisory Committee. The vacant seat will not be filled until 2011. Councillor Garrison and Councillor Gaul met with the Mayor to discuss ways to reach out to new applicants.

Some outreach ideas included approaching:

- Community groups and businesses with an environmental focus;
- Local High Schools for a youth liaison;
- Post-secondary institutions with environmental study programs.

(2) Election of Chair

Acting Chair Dill opened the floor to nominations for Chair.

Larry Dill was the only nomination received for Chair. Larry Dill was appointed to the position of Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee by acclamation.

Larry Dill noted that he will not be attending the November committee meeting and therefore will be unable to Chair that meeting.

Chair Dill opened the floor to nominations for Vice-Chair.

Mark Salter was the only nomination received for Vice-Chair, and was appointed to the position of Vice-Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee by acclamation.

6. MINUTES

Moved by Beth Sobieszczyk, seconded by Councillor Garrison that the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of June 24, 2010 be approved as presented. The motion **CARRIED**.

7. OLD BUSINESS

(1) Plastic Shopping Bag Resolution

Chair Dill reported that at the July 12th meeting of Committee of the Whole he made a presentation to Mayor and Council on both the Plastic Shopping Bag and Plastic Water Bottle resolutions. In regards to the Plastic Shopping Bag resolution, Council approved to:

- (1) Implement a voluntary ban on the distribution of single use plastic bags within the Township to take effect December 31, 2011 and design a recognition program for those businesses who are able to comply which would include a certificate and public recognition of their compliance;
- (2) Request the Environmental Advisory Committee, in consultation with the Esquimalt business community, develop and implement a social marketing campaign to reduce the distribution of single-use plastic shopping bags in the Township of Esquimalt;
- (3) Send a letter to the Capital Regional District, copying Mayor and Council of the 13 member municipalities, lobbying the development of a model plastic shopping bag bylaw; and
- (4) Send a letter to the Ministry of Environment lobbying for the inclusion of plastic bags in the BC Recycling Regulation.

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison reported on the opportunity for the Township to establish a project partnership with Royal Roads University to develop a social marketing campaign around plastic shopping bags. The program consists of a team of 4 to 5 undergraduate Environmental Science students working on the project beginning Fall 2010 and ending by August 2011. The expectation is that the team will engage both the Environmental Advisory Committee and Esquimalt business community in the development of the report. Costs of the project include a \$500 administrative fee and project expenses. Project expenses are projected by the students and approved by the sponsor.

Moved by Beth Sobieszczyk, seconded by Chris Zegger-Murphy that the Township of Esquimalt enter into a project partnership with Royal Roads University students to develop a social marketing campaign for plastic shopping bags, and \$500 of the Environmental Advisory Committee's budget, plus reasonable expenses, be allocated to the project, and that staff provide regular project updates.

The motion **CARRIED**.

ACTION ITEM

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison to work with Royal Roads University in developing a social marketing campaign on plastic shopping bags and provide regular project updates.

(2) Plastic Water Bottle Resolution

Chair Dill reported that at the July 12th meeting, Council approved to ban the sale of bottled water in municipal facilities and the free distribution of bottled water by the Township at events effective December 31, 2011, and that staff implement a plan to retrofit existing water fountains by that same date.

Chair Dill noted that progress has already been made with the first installation of a new water station at the Recreation Centre. Councillor Garrison noted that the extra year was given to allow time to upgrade all water stations. A committee member enquired into whether anything was being done for public awareness and if not would like to suggest that more public education be done on the matter. Committee members discussed the possibility of banning all plastic bottled beverages and replacing them with cans or glass containers.

ACTION ITEM

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison to share committee's suggestion with the Director of Parks and Recreation.

(2) 2009 Year End Final Report

Mark Salter distributed a draft memorandum of the Environmental Advisory Committee's activities and accomplishments in 2009. Committee members discussed some of the highlights listed in the report. The 2009 Year End Final Report will be on the October meeting Agenda for finalization.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- (1) Environmental Initiatives “Green Award” to Recognize Local Business

Item was postponed until the October meeting.

- (2) Heat Pumps – Decibel Levels and Placement

Vice-Chair Salter shared his concern regarding the development of green standards for buildings and GHG reduction strategies and an increase in the installation of heat pumps. Currently, the placement and noise level of heat pumps is a concern. Committee members requested more information from staff on the issue: Will heat pumps be on the sustainability checklist? Does the municipality keep track of heat pump installations? Would heat pumps be covered by the noise bylaw?

ACTION ITEM

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison to follow up with Development Services staff on heat pumps and report back to the committee at the October meeting.

9. WORK PLAN ITEMS / REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

- (1) Urban Landscape
(a) Esquimalt Community Gardens Society Update

Vice-Chair Salter provided an update on the Anderson Park Community Garden. The Esquimalt Community Gardens Society has still not entered into a user agreement with the Township for use of the site. Unresolved agreement issues include the request for liability insurance coverage and director and officers liability, which is unaffordable at \$650 and \$800 a year. A Community Garden Grand Opening and Pumpkin Carving is tentatively scheduled for Friday, October 22nd. The Society is also planning on a Saturday workshop in October on getting garden beds ready for winter.

- (2) Pesticide Reduction
(a) Increasing Public Awareness and Education Through Media
(i) Pesticide Awareness News Item for Community Newsletter

Vice-Chair Salter reported that the focus is to first promote the community garden and then use it as a platform to promote pesticide reduction.

- (3) Marina & Shoreline
(a) Westbay Outfall

Chair Dill noted that a sign has not yet been installed at the Westbay outfall and there is still a significant amount of water coming out.

ACTION ITEM

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison to follow up with Engineering staff and report back to the committee at the October meeting.

- (b) CRD Marine Monitoring Advisory Group

Chair Dill reported that he has been appointed to the CRD Marine Monitoring Advisory Group. The role of the committee is to advise on the monitoring of the outfalls at Clover Point and Macaulay. Over the next two years he will be reporting back on the findings of the committee.

(c) Marina Sewage Discharge

Councillor Garrison reported that he had met with one of the owners at Archipelago Marine Research, located at Westbay. A tour found that two marinas had hookups. Councillor Garrison did not visit Hidden Harbour Marina but it appears there are live-aboards and no evident sewage hookup. Committee members discussed reporting the concern to the Harbour Master. Chair Dill had done so in 2009 and requested follow-up.

Moved by Vice-Chair Salter, seconded by Chris Zegger-Murphy that the Environmental Advisory Committee request that Esquimalt Mayor and Council write a letter to the Harbour Master expressing concerns regarding sewage discharge of sewage from live-aboards at Hidden Harbour Marina.

The motion **CARRIED**.

(4) Solid Waste

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison reported on the final results of the spring Compost Bin Sale and workshops. In total 93 bins were sold: 70 backyard [earth machine] composters, 21 [green cone] digesters, and 2 worm bins. A total of 35 people attended one of the three workshops, some were non-residents. Committee members discussed the future ban of household organics from Heartland Landfill and the service delivery models being examined. Chair Dill suggested that the municipality may want to examine compost bin sales in the future as organics are being banned from the waste stream.

(5) Community GHG Reduction Participation

(a) Anti-Idling

(i) School Signs

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison reported that letters offering anti-idling signs were mailed to the four local schools. Positive responses were received from Macaulay, Rockheights and Esquimalt High School; no response was received from L'Ecole Brodeur. Both Macaulay and Esquimalt High received a sign. Macaulay school was open to accepting more signs. Rockheights were open to accepting a sign but an anti-idling sign was already up in front of the school and there was no pole or area for a second sign. Committee members suggested that staff look into the possibility of getting an anti-idling sign in French to offer to L'Ecole Brodeur and that the two remaining signs be given to Macaulay School.

ACTION ITEM

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison to present Macaulay with two additional anti-idling signs and examine the opportunity of providing L'Ecole Brodeur with French anti-idling signage.

(ii) Anti-Idling Signs for Businesses

Chair Dill spoke about expanding the committee's anti-idling initiative to local drive-thru businesses such as A&W and McDonald's. Committee members discussed possible placements for anti-idling signage: drive-thru entrance, pull over area for drive-thru orders, and street poles in the industrial area. Signage on private and public road around Country Grocer and Tim Hortons was also discussed. Chair Dill indicated he will approach the Manager of A&W to see if they are open to idea of anti-idling signage.

ACTION ITEM

Chair Dill to approach A&W to discuss the possibility of anti-idling signage and report back to the Committee at the October meeting.

(b) Progress on GHG Reduction Plan

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison reported that the Township of Esquimalt was invited to participate in BC Hydro's Community Energy and Emissions Planning (CEEP) QuickStart pilot. The CEEP QuickStart Program is geared toward municipalities with a population under 20,000. The purpose of the workshop is to assist local government in establishing its priorities for reaching its greenhouse gas reduction targets. Participants in the workshop include Council, senior staff and members of the Environmental Advisory Committee. The workshop will also include outside observers. Committee members were invited to participate in the workshop which will take place in mid-October.

ACTION ITEM

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison to send CEEP QuickStart Workshop invitation to all members of the Environmental Advisory Committee.

(c) Gas Powered Lawn Care Equipment

Vice-Chair Salter noted his interest to see gas powered lawn care equipment included in the Township's greenhouse gas reduction plan.

(d) Solar Lighting

Chris Zegger-Murphy raised the issue of solar lighting for parks, pathways, and street signage. The benefits of solar lighting include it being inexpensive and being easily moved from one location to the next. Committee members discussed the possibility of park and pathway lighting being replaced with solar when they reach the end of their operating life. Councillor Garrison noted that there is a light along the Westbay walkway which is solar and wind powered.

Moved by Chair Dill, seconded by Dianne Kleinman that the Environmental Advisory Committee recommend that Council direct Parks and Recreation, and Engineering and Public Works, to look into replacing park, pathway and street sign lighting with solar technology. The motion **CARRIED**.

(e) Municipal Fleet Operation

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison reported there were no updates at this time.

(6) Environmental Outreach Workers

(a) Framework Development

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison reported on the opportunity for the Township to again establish a project partnership with Royal Roads University, same as the plastic shopping bag social marketing campaign. Students of the BSc in Environmental Studies program would be asked to develop a framework on how the Township of Esquimalt can engage the community in meeting its community-wide greenhouse gas reduction targets. Overall, what is being requested is a high level conceptual approach to community engagement and communication around climate action.

Moved by Chair Dill, seconded by Vice-Chair Salter that the Township of Esquimalt enter into a project partnership with Royal Roads University students to develop a framework for community engagement in climate action, and \$500 of the Environmental Advisory Committee's budget, plus reasonable expenses, be allocated to the project; and that staff provide regular project updates. The motion **CARRIED**.

ACTION ITEM

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison to work with Royal Roads University in developing a framework for community engagement in climate action and provide regular project updates.

10. REPORT FROM STAFF LIAISON

(a) Home Energy Savings Workshop

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison reported on the July 15th workshop which took place at the Esquimalt Municipal Hall. Staff reported that future workshops are a possibility but there is no time available for putting on another workshop this fall. It was suggested that information and material from the workshop be made available on the municipal website.

(b) Solar Community

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison reported that the Township of Esquimalt was appointed a Solar Community and awarded \$5000 in funding to promote solar hot water. The Solar Community program will run from October to December 31, 2010, over which time there will be no charge for solar plumbing permits. All permitted and completed solar hot water installs between October and December 31st will be entered into a draw for one of three \$1000 grants. Until December 31st SolarBC will also be offering a \$2000 incentive for residential solar hot water installations.

(c) CRD Website - Sustainable U

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison informed the committee of a new website being used as a platform for CRD climate action programs – www.sustainableu.ca. The website features articles and programs on how to live sustainably in the capital region; topics include such items as laundry and bottled water.

(d) CRD Transportation Tune Up

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison reported that the CRD will be launching a Transportation Tune Up Program this Fall. The program includes free two-hour workshops to train 700 community members on sustainable transportation options. Participants then commit to sharing their knowledge with others which qualifies them for prizes. In November two workshops will be hosted at the Esquimalt Recreation Centre.

ACTION ITEM

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison to forward, when available, Transportation Tune Up information and workshop dates to the Environmental Advisory Committee.

11. COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Garrison reported that the Township has created a new sewage treatment campaign and website - www.thewrongplan.ca – and provided an update on the campaign's progress.

12. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will take place on October 28, 2010.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Larry Dill, Chair

This 28th day of October, 2010