



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 27, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Municipal Hall

PRESENT: Patrick O'Hara, Chair
Chloe Blankers, Vice Chair
Gail Willson
Carole Witter
Brenda Bolton
Susan Low
Casey Brant
Councillor Beth Burton-Krahn (Council Liaison)

STAFF: Marlene Lagoa, Community Development Coordinator (Staff Liaison)
Deborah Liske, Recording Secretary

REGRETS: David Shaw
Councillor Meagan Brame (Council Liaison)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair O'Hara called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Carole Witter, seconded by Casey Brant that the agenda of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of October 27, 2016 be approved as presented.
The motion **CARRIED**.

4. INTRODUCTIONS

Committee members provided brief introductions for those members not in attendance at the September meeting.

5. MINUTES

(1) Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting, September 29, 2016

Moved by Gail Willson, seconded by Carole Witter that the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of September 29, 2016 be approved as presented.
The motion **CARRIED**.

6. NEW BUSINESS

(1) Urban Agriculture and Food Systems (OCP Review)

GOALS

- Food literacy
- Food resiliency

OBJECTIVES

- Increase number of allotment gardens, community gardens, edible landscapes, food bearing trees and other types of food production activities
- Food access is available, affordable and culturally appropriate
- Promote local food production and distribution as a means to limit transportation energy and greenhouse gas use and food resiliency

POLICIES

- Community gardens
 - Support expansion of allotment community gardens on public land
 - Allow community gardens as a permitted use in all zones
 - Develop mechanisms to encourage developers to include community gardens as part of the design process for restaurants / commercial
 - Encourage gardens and food production spaces in multi-unit residential buildings, including rooftops
 - Establish a minimum lot size for community gardens in multi-unit residential buildings
 - Support community gardens on institutional lands (schools)
- Edible landscapes
 - Encourage food production in suitable public places
 - Planning and plant selection for public gardens, green spaces and boulevards to include food production as one of the selection criteria
 - Identify and preserve edible native and medicinal plants
- Food production on private land
 - No restrictions on placement of food producing plants on private property
 - Support rainwater harvesting and grey water reclamation
 - Support urban farming on private land
 - Support small scale greenhouse and aquaculture practices
 - Protect neighbors access to sufficient solar exposure as new development proposals come forward
 - Expand kitchen scrap collection system to include garden and yard waste plant material
 - Encourage backyard composting
- Food access
 - Allow the sale of products from urban animals and agricultural products under same conditions as business licensing
 - Ensure continued access to sustainable local artisanal marine harvesting
 - Support local markets – encourage daily, year-round markets
 - Permit farmers markets in commercial and institutional zones
 - Support the creation of central, multi-use gathering place for food based community activities
 - Supporting food sharing by limiting restrictions on distribution channels
 - Inventory community food access points and identify gaps
 - Encourage local food distributors to make “ugly” food available at affordable prices to minimize food waste
 - Integrate food systems across all land use designations
 - Support agencies and community groups that provide food access to vulnerable population with incentives and grants
 - Golf course – support agricultural land protection
- Food literacy
 - Promoting food security initiatives and food literacy (nutrition, food preparation / production, lifecycle input / process of food, minimize food waste, etc. as a resource)
 - Encourage the development and use of community kitchens / commercial kitchens for groups to learn food literacy and skills related to affordable and nutritious food

Other

- Establish a vision that supports food systems and food security and what it means in Esquimalt

7. REPORTS FROM STAFF LIAISON

- (1) BC Government Grow Local Program (<http://iafbc.ca/funding-opportunities/grow-local/>)

Chair O'Hara provided an overview of the program and responded to questions.

- (2) Esquimalt Neighborhood Watersheds Map Display

Ms. Lagoa provided an update on the usage and promotion of the display and educational material.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Chloe Blankers, Vice Chair
This 23rd day of February, 2017

Certified Correct:

Anja Nurvo, Corporate Officer