



PUBLIC MINUTES

SASKATOON ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 8, 2017, 11:30 a.m.

Committee Room A, Second Floor, City Hall

PRESENT: Ms. K. Aikens, Chair
Ms. E. Akins
Ms. A. Bugg
Ms. K. Engele-Carter
Ms. A. Garg
Ms. S. Harrison
Mr. S. Homenick
Dr. D. McGrane
Ms. K. Palmer

ABSENT: Mr. B. Sawatzky, Vice-Chair
Councillor S. Gersher

ALSO PRESENT: Director of Environmental & Corporate Initiatives B. Wallace
Committee Assistant D. Sackmann

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order.

2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Moved By: S. Homenick

That the agenda be confirmed as presented.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Ms. Engele-Carter entered the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

Moved By: A. Bugg

That the minutes of meeting of the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee held on May 11, 2017, be approved.

CARRIED

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 CASH GRANTS PROGRAM - ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENT [CK. 1871-1]

Ms. Kathryn Palmer served as the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee representative for 2017 Assistance to Committee Groups - Cash Grants Program.

Twelve applications were received in 2017 with a combined request for funding of \$47,375. The Environmental Grant Program has an annual budget of \$10,000 for environmental initiatives. New in 2017 is an additional \$10,000 for projects that increase awareness and protection of water resources. Each year a competition for these funds is conducted. Six applicants were chosen to be awarded funding. The projects specifically address aspects of active transportation, wetland conservation, energy efficiency practices, wildlife conservation and rehabilitation and greenhouse gas emissions.

Moved By: E. Akins

That the information be received.

CARRIED

4.2 STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES [CK. 1704-5]

The Committee Assistant submitted a Statement of Expenditures for the Committee's review.

The Committee at its May meeting resolved to spend \$2,070 to engage in a contract with Unite Digital regarding a short-term promotional strategy for its climate change video. Later in the agenda is a request for funding from Student Action for a Sustainable Future (SASF) for the Committee's consideration.

Moved By: A. Bugg

That the information be received.

CARRIED

5. REPORT OF THE CHAIR [CK. 175-9]

Well wishes were extended to everyone to have a good summer. The following were noted:

- The Subcommittee on GHG Emissions will continue to meet throughout the summer.
- The Star Phoenix ran an article on sustainable solar neighbourhoods as presented to the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development & Community Services.
- A reminder that Kathleen and Sean will be presenting to the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities & Corporate Services meeting being held on June 12, 2017 regarding the Committee's proposed targets for community-wide GHG reductions, everyone is welcome to attend.

Moved By: S. Homenick

That the information be received.

CARRIED

6. COMMUNICATIONS

6.1 South West Sector Afforestation Areas [CK. 4000-1]

A request to speak from Julia Adamson, c/o Stewards of the Richard St Barbe Baker Afforestation Area was provided. Ms. Adamson circulated a handout to the members; and addressed the Committee requesting that it consider supporting the three South West Sector afforestation areas with an application for the Environmental Damages Fund available through the Government of Canada be accessed. The funds are available to projects aimed at preventing pollution and/or protecting the environment.

Ms. Harrison entered the meeting at 11:41 a.m.

Discussion ensued and Director of Environmental & Corporate Initiatives Wallace along with Senior Planner McShane addressed questions of the Committee.

It was suggested to Ms. Adamson she submit a request to speak through the City's website to the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities & Corporate Services for its August meeting regarding this matter.

Moved By: D. McGrane

1. That the information be received; and
2. That the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee (SEAC) support the Stewards of the Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area presenting to the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities & Corporate Services at its meeting to be held August 15, 2017 and that a representative from SEAC be present.

CARRIED

6.2 Student Action for a Sustainable Future (SASF) [CK. 1870-1]

Both Ms. Aikens and Ms. Bugg declared a conflict of interest regarding this matter due to their association with the Saskatoon Environmental Society and excused themselves from the vote.

A letter from Deb Hockley, SASF Program Coordinator, Student Action for a Sustainable Future, dated May 16, 2017, regarding a funding request was provided. The Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee has contributed \$1,800 to the program over the last few years. Ms. Bugg shared with the Committee the type of activities, events and items the classrooms have put the money toward. Discussion ensued. The Committee determined that supporting the program was a good idea especially with the reduced provincial education funding.

Moved By: S. Homenick

That the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee contribute \$1,800 from its 2017 budget to support the Student Action for a Sustainable Future (SASF) Program for 2017/2018.

CARRIED

6.3 School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS) U of S [CK. 175-9]

A partner letter, project agreements, and a request for proposal form received from the School of Environment and Sustainability, University of Saskatchewan, dated May 18, 2017, regarding a request to partner on student projects was provided. Discussion followed around time line considerations of this partnership and the Committee's capacity to supervise a student. Education & Environmental Performance Manager

Weckworth noted that the Environmental & Corporate Initiative Division would be able to help with student supervision.

Ms. Garg entered the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Moved By: K. Engele-Carter

1. That the information be received; and
2. That the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee decline the School of Environment and Sustainability's request to partner on student projects for 2017/2018.

CARRIED

6.4 Publication [CK. 175-9]

Planning and Design Newsletter, Spring/Summer 2017 edition.

The Committee Assistant provided a link to the City's website for access to the newsletter and it was noted that hard copies are available upon request.

Moved By: E. Akins

That the information be received.

CARRIED

7. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

7.1 Environmental & Corporate Initiatives [CK. 7550-1]

Director of Environmental & Corporate Initiatives Wallace advised the Committee that there were a number of reports from her division being presented to the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities & Corporate Services at its June 12, 2017 meeting. Education & Environmental Performance Manager Weckworth reviewed the report of the General Manager, Corporate Performance regarding Vehicle Idling Bylaw Implications with the Committee. The intent of the report is to provide information on policy options that could reduce vehicle idling in Saskatoon. The discussion revolved around enforcement challenges and resources required for Bylaw enforcement.

Moved By: A. Bugg

That the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee submit comments to the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities & Corporate Services in support of the report of the General Manager, Corporate

Performance, dated June 12, 2017 supporting municipal action on idle-free actions by the City of Saskatoon.

CARRIED

7.2 Elk Point Neighbourhood Concept Plan - Wetland Policy [CK. 4131-33, x 4110-38]

The Committee Assistant submitted a report of the General Manager, Community Services, dated June 8, 2017, which was considered at the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development & Community Services meeting held on May 1, 2017; it was resolved, in part, that the wetland section of the report be forwarded to the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee for its feedback before the report goes to City Council.

Manager, Development Review Dawson provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Elk Point Neighbourhood Concept Plan - Wetland Policy. Elk Point is located in the North East corner of the Blairmore sector and will be the second residential neighbourhood developed in this sector. The concept plan will incorporate constructed wetlands for stormwater management that are integrated within the linear park system. The Concept Plan identifies three constructed wetland ponds and one traditional stormwater management pond. City Council adopted the Wetland Policy in November 2013. Wetland Policy provisions allow for conserving wetlands in an urban context. Discussion ensued and Senior Planner Grazier and Growth Plan Manager Schulz addressed questions of the Committee.

Moved By: S. Harrison

That the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee provide feedback on the wetland section of the report of the General Manager, Community Services, dated June 8, 2017, to the Planning & Development Division for consideration.

CARRIED

7.3 Initiatives to Support Energy-Efficient Building Standards in Residential Construction [CK. 540-1]

The Committee Assistant submitted for the Committee's information a Resolution package from the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities & Corporate Services meeting held on May 8, 2017.

The report provides an overview of the next steps toward achieving energy efficiency performance gains in residential construction. A working group was established to evaluate and identify opportunities to achieve sustainable energy-efficient performance gains for new and existing residential construction. Proposed solutions for achieving this are outlined in Attachment 2 of the report. Discussion ensued.

Moved By: D. McGrane

1. That the information be received;
2. That the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee (SEAC) encourage the Energy Efficiency Working Group to move past the building codes that are coming into effect in 2019 towards net zero buildings;
3. That SEAC strongly support the Energy Efficiency Working Group's recommendations for reports on energy performance literacy and incentivized energy performance programs related to new and existing homes; and
4. That a SEAC representative request to speak on this matter at the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities & Corporate Services meeting to be held August 15, 2017.

CARRIED

7.4 Aquatic Invasive Species - Potential Local Impacts [CK. 7550-1, x 277-1]

The Committee Assistant submitted for the Committee's information a Resolution package from the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities & Corporate Services meeting held on May 8, 2017. The report provides detail about specific local impacts and resources required for management of aquatic invasive species. Discussion followed.

Moved By: A. Garg

1. That the information be received and
2. That the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee continue to support any future work by the Administration on the matter.

CARRIED

7.5 Waste Diversion Opportunities [CK. 7830-1]

The Committee Assistant submitted for the Committee's information a Resolution package from the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities & Corporate Services meeting held on May 8, 2017. The report provides a summary of waste diversion opportunities. Discussion

followed. The Committee was advised that the "Waste Diversion Opportunities Report" completed by Dillon Consulting is posted on the City's website for viewing. The Committee determined to put forth a request to speak at the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities & Corporate Services' August meeting on this matter.

Ms. Garg excused herself from the meeting at 1:14 p.m.

Moved By: D. McGrane

1. That the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee (SEAC) reaffirm its support for a mandatory city-wide composting program for residential households;
2. That SEAC call on the City of Saskatoon to develop a comprehensive strategy for improved recycling and composting within the industrial, commercial, and institutional (ICI) sector in Saskatoon; and
3. That SEAC support the exploration of making waste disposal in Saskatoon be administered and structured like a public utility; and calls for immediate action on waste diversion to meet the City's targets in this area.

CARRIED

8. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS SUBCOMITTEE [CK. 375-4]

The Committee at its meeting held on May 11, 2017 resolved, to engage with Unite Digital regarding a short-term promotional strategy for its video around climate change. In its meeting with Unite the Subcommittee discussed timelines and what type of commitment throughout the summer is required from the Committee regarding support for the video. The Subcommittee will continue to meet with Unite over the summer and run through the content this will then be brought back to the Committee for its September meeting. The intent is to have another media engagement push in September.

Moved By: K. Palmer

That the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Subcommittee take on the responsibility throughout the summer to continue with supporting the video.

CARRIED

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Ms. K. Aikens, Chair

Ms. D. Sackmann, Committee Assistant