

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
September 27, 2016 at 5:15 p.m.

Present: Councillor Dean Murdock (Chair), Harry Drage, Hal Gibbard, Kevin Brown, George Klima, Mary Haig-Brown, Al-Nashir Charania

Staff: Adriane Pollard, Manager Environmental Services; Shari Holmes-Saltzman, Senior Planner; Jeff Howard, Manager of Underground Services; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Jude Coates, Roberta Hesselgrave

Guests: Bob Bridgeman, Douglas Creek Steward

Minutes

MOVED by A. Charania and Seconded by H. Gibbard: "That the Minutes of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held June 28, 2016, be adopted as amended."

CARRIED

UPTOWN DOUGLAS CORRIDOR UPDATE

The Senior Planner provided an update on the Uptown Douglas Corridor Plan and the highlights are noted:

- Planning is currently completing Phase 2 and are starting on Phase 3 of the Uptown Douglas Corridor Plan (UDCP).
- The UDCP is a 30 year land use plan.
- 322 respondents were recorded on the on-line survey. To date approximately 600-700 respondents have participated in community consultation.
- Not all respondents are citizens of Saanich.
- The plan seems very idealistic. Many cost implications to consider.
- There will be opportunities for all stakeholders in the plan area. Currently this area seems to have a "shopping" focus.
- Planning will continue to update ENA Committee with the progress of the Uptown Douglas Corridor Plan.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The Environmental Manager introduced B. Bridgeman, Douglas Creek Steward. The following was noted:

- Pollution and stormwater runoff surges are an ongoing issue and impede the restoration of and conservation efforts in Saanich watersheds.
- Thousands of volunteer hours and hundreds of thousands of dollars including cash and in kind have been put toward the restoration of Douglas Creek.
- Efforts towards absorbing the destructive influence of unregulated stormwater surges.
- The following are abiotic filters that continue to impact Douglas Creek:

- Excessive downstream bed movement and streambank erosion.
- Irregular flow
- Water pollution
- Biotic filters that continue to impact Douglas Creek:
 - Extirpated salmonid populations
 - Simplified and reduced invertebrate communities
 - Lack of seral vegetation
- The abiotic and biotic filters are all linked to unregulated urbanization of the watershed.
- Social filters that impact Douglas Creek:
 - Long term urbanization of the watershed
 - Undervaluation of urban adjacent natural systems
 - Municipal bylaws, policies and schedules
- Schedule H to Bylaw 7452 is contributing significantly to the blockage and filtration issues in Douglas Creek.

The Manager of Underground Services stated that Type 1 and Type 2 classifications in Schedule H to Bylaw 7452 may have originally been a practical solution to stormwater management. This was a small step in the right direction to manage stormwater surges.

- A fresh look at Schedule H to Bylaw 7452 may be warranted in light of the ongoing problems with stormwater surges into Douglas Creek and other watershed within Saanich.
- The ENA Committee should consider doing a careful review of the Schedule H to Bylaw 7452.

The Committee thanked the speaker and look forward to future presentations to further discuss the stormwater management.

ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS

Committee member A. Charania led a discussion on the evaluation of the progress towards fulfilling Council Resolution #2560-50: Healthy Environment as passed on January 26, 2015. The following was noted:

- MOTION: MOVED by A. Charania and Seconded by K. Brown: “That the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee in support of Council resolution #2560-50: Healthy Environment, requests that Council consider as part of the Strategic Planning process, providing staff resources to work with the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee on the following:**
- 1) To catalogue current District of Saanich environmental actions;
 - 2) To conduct a gap analysis by reviewing Council Resolution #2560-50 objectives, targets, timelines and actions (information to be provided by District of Saanich staff, and deliberations of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee);
 - 3) To develop a list of model environmental rights provisions including, but not limited to, substantive and procedural rights;
 - 4) To provide recommendations on new objectives, targets, timelines and actions as it pertains to the right to a healthy environment; and
 - 5) To consult District of Saanich residents and other key stakeholders as part of this process.”

CARRIED

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The Chair gave the Committee an update on the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP), and requested feedback from the Committee. The following was noted:

- The Committee has four areas of concern with the TPP:
 - Legal
 - Environmental
 - Food Security
 - Investor-State Dispute Settlement Process.
- Consideration should be given to the costs of not being part of the TPP.

MOTION: **Moved by G. Klima and Seconded by A. Charania: “That the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee requests that Council express opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement for its restriction on the ability of Saanich to protect the natural environment.”**

CARRIED

SIGNIFICANT TREE TOUR

The Committee discussed the Significant Tree Tour. A thank-you was extended to the enthusiastic guide, for his extensive knowledge of significant trees in Saanich. A suggestion for more advertising of the tour for next year was made. The brochure that was distributed is a draft version and contains errors that will need to be corrected. An “App” for significant trees could be developed that would list all the trees and the backstory as to why the tree was designated as significant.

UPDATES

The Chair provided updates to the Committee, and the following was noted:

- Council has requested that the ENA Advisory Committee review the Tree Protection Bylaw.
- Derelict vessels and enforcement of the Gorge Bylaw continue to be a challenge, with staff looking at potential solutions.
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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 25, 2016.

Councillor Murdock, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary