

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
March 28, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Leif Wergeland (Chair), Hal Gibbard, Kevin Brown, Mary Haig-Brown, Roberta Hesselgrave, Al-Nashir Charania, George Klima

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

Regrets: Harry Drage, Jude Coates

MINUTES

MOVED by M. Haig- Brown and Seconded by H. Gibbard: “That the Minutes of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held January 24, 2017.”

CARRIED

GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Chair updated the Committee with a request from the Governance Review Committee for two members of ENA to meet with the Governance Review Committee to discuss the role of ENA.

UPTOWN DOUGLAS CORRIDOR UPDATE

The Senior Planner updated the Committee on the proposed Uptown Douglas Corridor Plan. The following highlights are noted:

- The overall vision for the Uptown Douglas Corridor Plan is to create spaces for people, the heart of Saanich.
- Design workshop to discuss land use provided information to help develop a draft of strategies for the Uptown Douglas Corridor.
- The information from the design workshop has been integrated into themes/layers:
 - Green layer: Parks, open space, natural environment, green building, cultural/recreational connections and sustainability.
 - Mobility layer: recognizes the need for all transportation modalities.
 - Land-use layer: building form and character, economic vibrancy and place making.
- A “new idea” was raised regarding turning Blanchard Street back into a two way road and updating Vernon Avenue into a neighbourhood street. This proposed adjustment in the roadways would result in improvements for active transportation modes.

Committee discussion occurred and the following highlights are noted:

- Transportation impacts and studies need to be carefully considered in this main transportation corridor to ensure that the proposed redevelopment is appropriate.

- Consideration for mixed use residential housing to allow for families to live within the proposed update area, should be explored.
- Future opportunities for Cecelia Creek daylighting should be explored in the Uptown Douglas Corridor Plan.
- Extensive efforts have been made to engage stakeholders to participate in the public engagement sessions.
- Consideration of the development communities needs when requesting the addition of significant amounts of green space, parks and creek daylighting need to be addressed. Will Saanich be prepared to allow development opportunities to free up land for the gray to green transition?
- The City of Victoria is also exploring the updating of the neighbouring Burnside Gorge area.

****** The Chair left the meeting at 6:00 pm. ******

According the Committee resolved as follows:

MOTION: MOVED by K. Brown and Seconded by R. Hesselgrave “That the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee appoints M. Haig-Brown to Acting Chair.”

CARRIED

ROLLO REPORT

The Manager of Environmental Services updated the Committee with the findings in the Rollo Report, January 2017. The following highlights are noted:

- Many of the properties that are “negatively” effected by the EDPA have issues beyond the scope of the EDPA such as, land slip and erosion problems that have negatively impacted the property value.
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MOTION: MOVED by R. Hesselgrave and Seconded by K. Brown “That the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee requests that Council recommend that due to the information presented in the following reports:

- Rollo Report;
- Tracking Report of December 2016; and
- The Public Process Report of December 2016

that the EDPA guidelines of the Official Community Plan be kept in place while amendments are being considered by Council.”

CARRIED

CONSERVATION TAX CREDIT

The Manager of Environmental Services facilitated a continuing discussion on a Conservation Tax Credit. The Manager of Environmental Services discussed the correspondence with A. Birch, Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia, Volunteer addressing question the ENA Committee put forward. Accordingly the Committee resolved as follows:

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MOTION: MOVED by K. Brown and Seconded by H. Gibbard “That the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee requests that Council ask staff to draft a letter to the province in support of exploring a Conservation Tax Exemption Program.”

CARRIED

UPDATES

THE WEST COAST LAW INITIATIVE

- The West Coast Law Initiative was founded in 1974 as a legal champion for the environment.
- Request for a presentation from a member of the West Coast Law Initiative will be put forward as the topic ties to Councils renewables targets.

PLASTIC BAGS

- City of Victoria has done a significant amount of work with respect to banning single use plastic bags. The Committee will monitor the processes at the City of Victoria and CRD with moving toward banning single use plastic bags.

ENA AWARDS

- A date will be set for the adjudication of the nominees for the 2017 Environmental Awards.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Non-farm uses of agricultural land.
- Brief overview of Climate Change current timelines.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2017.

Councillor Wergeland, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

