

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2

September 19, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Leif Wergeland

Members: Kevin Brown, Mary Haig-Brown, Al-Nashir Charania, Kyle Empringham
Roberta Hesselgrave, George Klima, Ryan Senechal, Carmel Thomson.

Staff: Adriane Pollard, Manager Environmental Services and Jeff Keays,
Committee Clerk

Regrets: None

MINUTES

MOVED by R. Senechal and Seconded by K. Brown, "That the minutes of the Environmental and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held March 21, 2018 be adopted as amended."

CARRIED

CUTHBERT HOLMES PARK – BERM/SEDIMENT FENCE UPDATE

The Committee Clerk circulated a memo from the Senior Manager – Parks titled, Update on McKenzie Interchange and Cuthbert Holmes Park, and dated September 19, 2018.

ENA AWARDS UPDATE

The Manager of Environmental Services provided a brief verbal update on the event. The following comments were highlighted:

- Award winner selection meeting was in April.
- An article outlining the winners was published in Our Backyard. A copy was provided to each committee member.
- The Awards event went smoothly.
- All the members of ENA committee were in attendance.

The Clerk thanked the committee members for providing the written feedback of the event. The many suggestions will be incorporate into future events. The Clerk advised the committee that staff had held a debrief meeting and had begun to look at the 2019 event and where they could recognize efficiencies and incorporate best practices and committee feedback.

The Clerk recognized the correspondence from K. Brown and offered apologies for not better highlighting the role of the committee membership in the corporate communications. The municipal clerk will ensure that the future releases highlight the important role the committee plays in the awards selection.

Committee discussion ensued, the following notes are highlighted:

- Providing an opportunity for the winners to speak would be a welcome addition to the event.

NATIVE POLLINATORS HABITAT RESTORATION GUIDE

Member K. Brown provided an overview of the Native Pollinator Habitat Restoration Guide: Best Management Practices for the Puget Sound Lowlands. The following highlights are noted:

- The guide was an appropriate and useful resource for the committee's review following past discussions on the topic.
- There is very little information available on the District's website.
- More information would help community members and groups in their naturalization efforts

The Manager of Environmental Services noted the following:

- The Naturescape 150 Challenge is the closest item in the District that promotes this type of biodiversity and planting initiatives.
- The minutes of the June 2016, ENAC meeting highlight the Environmental Education Officer's presentation on pollinators.
- The Habitat Acquisition Trust published the Stewardship Series: The Pollinator Guide resource in 2017.
- Increasing on-line information and resources regarding pollinators is on the radar for Saanich staff.

NEW BUSINESS

HARO WOODS

The Clerk circulated an update on Haro Woods Management Plan from the Senior Manager – Parks. Parks has implemented short-term measures to educate and address environmental damage. The following was highlighted:

- Signage at main entrances and trail junctions
- Educational signs identifying damage caused by unauthorized digging/jump building.
- Protective split rail fencing to protect specific trees.
- Surveyed and flagged property lines.
- Bi-weekly monitoring by Parks Natural Area crews. Damages are being recorded and repaired. Damages observed on CRD or UVic parcels are being reported to the appropriate jurisdiction.
- 9 volunteer monitors have come forward to help assist in the early reporting of damage. Monitors do not engage in enforcement or confrontation.

Committee discussion followed, the following was noted:

- Member M. Haig Brown advised that they were contacted regarding Haro Woods.
- The resident advised that they were very angry about the damage caused by mountain biking in the park and noted that this wouldn't happen in Mt. Doug
- Pleased to see the volunteer monitors coming forward from the community.

KING’S ROAD – BC HYDRO PROPERTY

The Chair introduced the item and noted that it was brought forward by a memo from committee member K. Brown. The Clerk circulated a hardcopy of the memo dated September 19, 2018 to the committee. The Chair invited K. Brown to speak to the item.

K. Brown spoke to his memo regarding the BC Hydro property located at 1843 Kings Road. The following highlights were noted:

- The local community is supportive of the hydro parcel being maintained as a park on natural green space.
- Item brought forward to in an effort to represent the broader community through the advisory committee
- The memo proposes two actions for the committee’s consideration:
 1. Request Council to formally express interest to BC Hydro in acquiring the land as a Saanich Park or to otherwise ensure that development is precluded.
 2. Request staff and invite neighborhood proponents to speak to the need for the park at the next ENA and Parks advisory committee meetings

The Chair noted that he didn’t feel it was within the scope of the committee’s mandate to be recommend property acquisitions to Council. Further, he did not feel that additional action, aside from formally receiving the report, would provide any additional value to Council’s current conversations on the matter.

MOTION

MOVED by R. Senechal and Seconded by G. Klima, “That the Environmental and Natural Areas Advisory Committee receive Kevin Brown’s September 19, 2018 memo regarding King’s Road.”

Committee discussion ensued, the following is noted:

- How will the Bowker Creek watershed fit into any future plans?
- What is the current market value of the property?

The Clerk recommended, as the appropriate staff persons were not in attendance to speak to questions related to cost, proposed future uses etc., that those questions be reserved for a future meeting.

Discussion continued:

- Concern was raised with the Chair’s comments regarding the scope, and perceived value of the committee’s discussion on the matter.
- It was noted by a member that the approved Terms of Reference outline that the purpose of the ENAC is to advise Council and recommend policies on urban forestry including Significant Tress, natural parks; and,
 - Develop and recommend policies to Council; and

- Provide a community perspective on services, programs, events and capital projects related to...natural parks (P-4N zone).
- The committee can add significant “pre-purchase” value to the conversation by demonstrating support for the area’s potential future use as a natural park.

The MOTION was Put and Carried

PLASTIC BAG BAN – UPDATE

The Manager of Environmental Services circulated a report, dated September 7, 2018, from the Director of Building, Bylaw and, Licensing and Legal Services regarding the Plastic Bag Ban.

The Manager of Environmental Services highlighted the timeline and work schedule that was presented to Council. The following was noted:

- January 2019: Present Bylaw to Council for 1st and 2nd readings.
- January – April 2019: Engage with public, business and stakeholders to obtain input.
- May 2019: Summary of engagement results to Council. Bylaw 3rd reading.
- June 2019: Bylaw for final reading with an effective date of six months from the date of adoption (approximately December 2019), and providing a further six month period for businesses to distribute remaining plastic bag stock.

UBCM – NATIONAL STRATEGY TO COMBAT PLASTIC POLLUTION

The Manager of Environmental Services advised that UBCM endorsed a resolution regarding Uniform Business Regulations for Disposable Plastic Packaging at their 2018 UBCM Annual Convention.

GEOHERMAL EXCHANGE LOOPS

The Manager of Environmental Services advised that the District received an electronic referral from the Province regarding a proposed Geothermal Loop in Prospect Lake. The following highlights were noted:

- The impacts in large bodies of water (ocean) are small
- Council’s policy states that: the use of geothermal heat exchangers (GHX) in Saanich freshwater ecosystems such as ponds, rivers and lakes, will not be approved until Council is satisfied that the cumulative environmental impacts of these systems have been sufficiently studied and determined to be negligible
- Council recommended on September 17, 2018 that the application be rejected.
- Any study of the cumulative impacts of this infrastructure by Council would be huge in scope.
- Potential for Geothermal Loops to help mitigate climate change, but what are the trade-offs, and at what cost?
- There isn’t a large body of research on the impacts of these systems in freshwater systems.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2018.

Councillor Wergeland, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary