



## MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Langley City Hall – CKF Room  
20399 Douglas Crescent, Langley, BC

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M.

Present: Councillor Paul Albrecht, Chair  
Councillor Rosemary Wallace, Vice Chair  
Nichole Marples, Langley Environmental Partners Society  
Lisa Dreves, Langley Field Naturalists  
Amika Watari, Post Secondary Institution Rep  
Marcela Ferreira, Member at Large  
Ellen Hall, Member at Large  
Zana Gordon, Member at Large

Staff: Rick Bomhof, Director of Engineering, Parks & Environment  
Janine Clough, Recording Secretary

Absent: Stafford Richter, Member at Large, with regrets

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The Chair acknowledged that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Katzie, Kwantlen, Matsqui and Semiahmoo First Nations.

### 1) **AGENDA**

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the April 13, 2023 Agenda for the Environmental Task Group be adopted.

**CARRIED**

### 2) **MINUTES**

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the March 9, 2023 Minutes of the Environmental Task Group meeting be adopted.

**CARRIED**

### 3) **DISCUSSION**

1. Earth Day Event Update:
  - a. Ms. Marples shared the site map & set up in Douglas Park
  - b. FVRL, BC Hydro energy outreach team, Andrew Mercier, have all confirmed attendance, and John Aldag will attend in the morning.
  - c. The Answer Garden Products is providing bags of compost for a 'give-away'
  - d. The upcycle prize vouchers were given to Councilor Wallace
  - e. Committee members obtained gift cards from some local businesses for prizes at the event.
  - f. The committee discussed allowing winners of the upcycle challenge to choose between gift cards and vouchers to Timms Centre.
  - g. General set up for the day was discussed.
  - h. Operations will set up one garbage / recycling station at the event.
2. Follow up about the request for City of offer a rain barrel program to residents.

Rick gave the committee an overview of the challenges the City encountered when we offered this program in 2016. He also mentioned that the rain barrels don't impact the peak water demand in summer time since rain barrels would likely be empty at that time and it does not impact lawn watering which is the prime peak water cause. He suggested that if the committee wanted to that they could discuss offering a rain barrel rebate to residents. Rick said he would look into what other municipalities do. (Subsequent to the meeting Rick did search out municipalities however it was harder to locate ones that offered rebates and he was running out of time before his retirement date. He contacted Ellen Hall and she agreed to do further checking and report back)

**ACTION:** Staff to investigate how a rebate program would work.

LEPS offers rain barrels every 2<sup>nd</sup> year to the public and public sign up online. The next event will be in 2024.

3. March Meeting Action Item Updates:
  - a. Ms. Ferreira invited Hives for Habitat to attend Earth Day, however, they never responded to the email invite.
  - b. Ms. Marples has confirmed BC Hydro's attendance at the Earth Day Event.
  - c. Ms Marples sent the city the Earth Day schedule and site map.
  - d. Updated Earth Day and Upcycle Challenge posters sent to committee.
  - e. Email sent to committee about Douglas Recreation Centre renovation to start in July 2023.

- f. Staff to prepare a large City of Langley map titled “Let Us Know Where You Are From”
- g. Staff emailed committee Recycle BC depot vs Return It Depot information with regards to recycling flexible plastics.

Staff (RB) suggested a future ESC work plan item for consideration is to review what items the local recycling depots accept and don't accept and compare this with what is supposed to be accepted according to Recycle BC. Many people wanting to do the right thing get frustrated since when they get to the depot the items are not accepted.

General discussion about the following:

- A carbon neutral plan for developments.
- Implementing a tree bylaw.

4. Review & confirm selections 2023 ESC Workplan for Council approval.

The committee made their top 5 choices, and it was noted to have all 10 items be identified on the 2023 Annual Work Plan.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council consider approval of all 10 items of the Environmental Sustainability Committee 2023 Annual Work Plan:

1. Annual Earth Day Event, planning 2023
2. Tree Preservation/Urban Forest Management Plan:
  - Review and provide input to Urban Forest Management Plan when ready and being prepared by Diamondhead Consulting.
3. Nicomekl River Clean Up Event
  - Investigate the amount of debris in the river and assess if this is something that can be addressed using volunteers
4. Discuss Environmental Recognition program(s)
  - in the business community
5. Raise “Point of Pride” profile:
  - Recruit new members.
  - Contest: ‘street of the year’.
6. Investigate the feasibility of ‘Self-serve bicycle repair kiosk’ located at City Hall
7. Host a Repair-It Cafe Event
8. Educational Sustainability Posters
9. Host a Recycling Event:
  - Target items difficult to recycle, ie. Textiles, Tires, etc.
10. Implement Edible Planters

CARRIED

#### 4) **STANDING ITEMS**

- a) Poster / Flyer – Determine Future Topic Ideas:
  - Mr. Richter suggested a Container Gardening poster, targeting multi-family residents.
- b) New Initiatives and Emerging Trends:
  - Food Security
  - Climate Action Strategy (ie. Emergency Preparedness)
- c) Community Day Update:
  - Scheduled for June 10, 2023 from 11am to 8pm,
  - 6 stations: need a total of 36 volunteers (for 3 hour shifts). It was requested for members to reach out to organizations they are associated with that may be able to provide volunteers.
  - ask Recycle BC to host a booth at this event.
  - Ms. Hall suggested obtaining a 'Return It' receptacle to collect recyclable cans & bottles at future events.

**ACTION:** Staff to contact Recycle BC and invite them to host an information booth at the Community Day event.

- d) Add to October 12, 2023 meeting agenda:
  - Review the Terms of Reference; "what does committee consider as being 'environmentally sustainable'?"

#### 5) **ROUND TABLE**

- a) Langley Field Naturalist Update:
  - LFN is hosting a Nature Challenge, April 28 to May 1<sup>st</sup>. It's a Bio blitz, discovering the diversity of life (plants, animals, etc.) that live in the Langley's.
  - LFN are currently working on publishing a book for their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Once completed, copies may be available for members of the ESC.
  - The Langley Arts Council is hosting a 'Sustainable Art' display called Pop'd Arts. This is a travelling, pop-up exhibition that features art made from environmentally friendly, non-toxic, natural or repurposed materials.
- b) Discussion:
  - Members discussed 'STAND.earth'. This is a company that "investigate, expose, organize, collaborate, and resolve – applying a just-right strategy to each issue we address. Our approach makes us one of the most efficient, effective problem-solving entities working on climate and environmental issues today."  
We discussed their 'Fossil Free Fashion' initiative that rates clothing companies. "Since launching our campaign, Levi's and American Eagle set industry-leading climate commitments that drastically cut

down their emissions, and dozens more have made climate promises as part of new initiatives like the UN Fashion Climate Charter.

- For more information on 'STAND.earth' follow this link:  
<https://stand.earth/our-work/campaigns/>

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the meeting adjourn at 7:45 pm.

CARRIED

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CHAIR

Certified Correct:

*jc*

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RECORDING SECRETARY