



MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL TASK GROUP

REMOTE VIDEO CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021 at 7:03 P.M.

Present: Councillor Rosemary Wallace, Chair
Councillor Paul Albrecht, Vice Chair,
Nichole Marples, Langley Environmental Partners Society
Lisa Dreves, Langley Field Naturalists
Ellen Hall, Member at Large
Lisa Stephens, Member at Large

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

1) ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the MAY 13, 2021 agenda for the Environmental Task Group be adopted.

CARRIED

2) MINUTES

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT APRIL 8, 2021 minutes of the Environmental Task Group meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

4) DISCUSSION

a) Langley City's Interim Strategic Plan
Presentation from Francis Cheung, Chief Administrative Officer

We are making this presentation in the hopes to get feedback from all the City's Task Groups.

- i. The 2017 adopted strategic plan is expiring in 2021. As a result of the pandemic, council & staff could not meet in person to develop another 5 year plan. In March 2021 they looked at developing a 2-3 year 'interim' plan that will take us past the covid recovery phase. The following concerns were discussed:
 - Acknowledge this time we are in now
 - Help people cope with the struggles that are a result of the pandemic and the isolation created by it
 - We want to support and guide people to help get through this pandemic.
 - We continue to provide services just as pre-pandemic
 - This is giving us a new way to think and work and be innovative moving into the future – processes and technology
- ii. What factors for a period of 1 to 2 years will be the most effective?
We want to maintain a focus on the people:
 - Social & fiscal responsibility, leadership, health & well being
 - Make sure we have funding – seek new sources
 - Acknowledge & address the infrastructure deficit
 - Stability and confidence for development
 - Effective communication
 - Building partnerships and connections
 - Project a positive image of community
 - Managing expectations – realizing we can't do it all and need balance and to prioritize
- iii. We broke it into 3 different groups:
 1. Address safety and security, revitalize downtown
 2. Create environmental rules, less reliance on vehicles
 3. Acknowledge social issues – affordable housing and having resources available to address these concerns
- iv. Outline of guiding principles: How, Now & Wow:
Now: immediate action; quick, affordable and effective to implement immediately.
Wow: ideas that are innovative but doable with current budget or practices
How: great Ideas for future
- v. Items for Immediate Action:
 - Close out the 2017-2021 strategic plan. Confirm outstanding initiatives to continue to meet and which are no longer needed.
 - Support arts, culture and recreation
 - Complete a review of waste management with a goal to improve waste diversion
 - Revisit the financial plan to ensure we have funding for Covid recovery and grant funding for infrastructure renewal.

- Revisit Council Blue Sky Ideas & Council Motions to confirm which ideas have been advanced, are part of the interim plan, are to be retained for future consideration or no longer relevant.

The City intends to approve the new Official Community Plan (OCP) by the end of June / early July, 2021.

The City is looking to develop and implement social, environment and fiscal programs and priority initiatives. This will include confirming funding, creating new protective and supportive services (CPO Liaison, Block Watch program) and complete a streetscape waste audit and Urban Forest Management Strategy. We will revisit and reconfirm the City's vision as a destination city. One where everyone has a job, roof over their head, can feed their family and feel connected, safe and included. This is not going to be able to be done during our current isolation! It took Township 2 years to develop a framework and it is something the City is anxious to consider and implement. We want to make Fraser Hwy & Douglas Cres so that it will attract people to visit the area. Increase patrols downtown on foot and by bike through the trail system. We will work together with RCMP to have a presence and work towards people feeling safe.

Any ideas can be sent directly to Rick rbomhof@langleycity.ca or Francis fcheung@langleycity.ca

Q: Member asked if City is considering offering more exercising classes in outside areas?

A: It will depend on the Provinces announcement after the May long weekend. It all depends if enough people have had the vaccine and the trend of infection continues to decrease?

The Director of Recreation is in constant discussion with the province. We are all anxious to be able to offer more but we need to wait for the provincial go ahead. We are currently looking into what we can do once restrictions relax!

Proposal for Parks & Recreation Master Plan: requesting what public would like to see in the City in the future?

Q: Member asked if streetscape plan include a tree bylaw?

A: We are looking at the OCP to protect trees in development urban forest protection plan would not address a tree bylaw but record what trees we do have.

b) Review Edible Planter photos and information.

- Discussion ensued about these street planters and the businesses responsible for them in Victoria, BC
- This initiative could be a natural fit for LEPS.
- It can be presented as a pilot project
- Explore businesses willing to contribute funding
- LEPS will reach out to TD Bank for possible funding opportunities to purchase a couple of self watering planters.

- c) Review priorities previously set out by the Task group.

The Chair lead the task group through the priorities and initiatives that were set out. Many are on hold as a result of the Covid Pandemic.

- d) Review Terms of Reference, List of preferred Initiatives from 2019, members idea list and select task group priority items.

Compostable packaging was discussed:

- More information / education needed about what is compostable and what isn't in the City's curbside pick-up service. Businesses are purchasing take-out containers labeled to be compostable, however, it may not be permitted in the City's stream.
- It was suggested that the Downtown Langley Business Association could be approached to consider buying compostable containers in bulk, then selling them to local city businesses. It would be cheaper than businesses buying small quantities on their own. The chair and vice chair will discuss and figure out how to address these concerns.
- Member offered to research existing incentive programs in other municipalities that recognize the use of sustainable containers by local businesses.
- Metro Vancouver is working on a draft bylaw where municipalities can ban the use of particular products ie: plastic bags.
- Committee discussed the Pitch-in clean up of the Nicomekl. Langley Field Naturalists will be organizing it for this August and will inform the Task Group if anyone wants to volunteer to help out.

ACTION: Has Paula been in contact with LSS for a youth member?

NEXT Meeting: we may consider meeting outdoors at Sendal Gardens, Douglas Park or City Park?

6) **ADJOURNMENT**

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the meeting adjourn at 8:50 pm.

CARRIED

Certified Correct:
jc



CHAIR



RECORDING SECRETARY