



ENVIRONMENTAL TASK GROUP

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2021 AT 7:00 p.m.

MEET AT PORTAGE PARK, 5147 204 STREET
(in covered picnic shelter)

A G E N D A

1) **AGENDA**

Adoption of the June 10, 2021 agenda.

2) **MINUTES**

Adoption of the minutes of the Environmental Task Group meeting held May 13, 2021.

3) **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

4) **FOR DISCUSSION**

- a) Waste Audit, Report to Council
- b) Task group feedback from action items
- c) New Initiative "Get To Know The Tree Species" at Portage Park

ADJOURNMENT

2021 MEETING DATES

Jul 8, Sep 9, Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 9

Please notify Janine Clough at jclough@langleycity.ca of your **confirmed attendance** to be able to meet the quorum requirements to hold this meeting.



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

CHAIR

Certified Correct:
jc

RECORDING SECRETARY



REPORT TO COUNCIL

To: **Mayor and Councillors**

Subject: Funding Request for Streetscape Container Waste Audit

File #: 5210.00

Doc #:

From: Rick Bomhof, P.Eng.
Director of Engineering, Parks & Environment

Date: May 26, 2021

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a City Streetscape Container Waste Audit be completed at a budget of \$14,000.00.
2. THAT funding for the City Streetscape Container Waste Audit be allocated from the Enterprise Fund.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the report is request funding approval from the Enterprise Fund to complete a streetscape container waste audit.

POLICY:

N/A

COMMENTS/ANALYSIS:

At the March 22, 2021 meeting Council approved a recommendation from the Environmental Task Group, namely 'THAT Council request staff to include a budget in 2022 to retain a consultant to complete a streetscape and park waste audit and provide options to improve waste diversion'.

Staff obtained a quote from Dillon Consulting, the same company used by the Township of Langley, to complete the Streetscape Container Waste Audit and

Options Review to improve waste diversion. The proposal quote is broken into five tasks as follows:

<u>Task</u>	<u>Description</u>
1.	Complete a baseline waste audit. Includes sorting of materials collected from a sampling of 25% of the City's 175 streetscape containers. It also includes an observational visual audit to see if multi-stream container labelling makes a difference to people's disposal/separation habits.
2.	Review of the existing City Streetscape system and comparison with other Metro Vancouver municipalities.
3.	Identification and Analysis of Preferred Options and assessment of costs.
4.	Undertake a pilot project for preferred options as identified in step 3.
5.	Implementation of approved streetscape program

Staff believe there is value to complete the baseline audit (task 1) this year to:

- advance the schedule of the project
- understand the material quantity and type
- help in the decision to move forward with the rest of the study and possible implementation in subsequent years.

It is also better to complete the waste audit in the summer months when more people are outside and using the containers.

The full study could take a number of years to complete so it is recommended to complete the waste audit (task 1) in 2021.

The waste audit includes all types of city containers, i.e. not only the multi-material containers. The purpose for this is to gain a full understanding of the materials in each type of container to assess if there is value to change them all to multi-material containers. Staff also plans to change the signage of a number of the multi-material stream containers to improve the visibility of the acceptable materials in each stream. The study will also assess if this makes a difference.

The budget estimate to complete the waste audit (task 1) is \$14,000 and tasks 2 – 4 between \$48,000 - \$65,000. If task 1 is approved this year, and subject to the audit results, a 2022 capital budget request will be submitted for tasks 2 – 4. Subject to the report findings and available funding a 2023 capital budget request would be submitted to implement the new streetscape program.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

The estimated cost of to complete a streetscape container waste audit (task 1) is \$14,000. This is proposed to be funded from the Enterprise Fund.

ALTERNATIVES

Do not complete the waste audit this year and submit a budget in 2022 to complete the full Streetscape Container Waste Audit and Options Review study in 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rick Bomhof, P.Eng.
Director of Engineering, Parks & Environment

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

I support the recommendation.



Francis Cheung, P. Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer

Janine Clough

Subject: FW: Compostable bags

From: Rick Bomhof
Sent: May 19, 2021 8:55 AM
To: E Hall
Cc: Councillor Rosemary Wallace; Councillor Paul Albrecht; Janine Clough
Subject: RE: Compostable bags

Hi Ellen,

Your point is well taken. I posed the question to Metro Vancouver and here is their response.

We recognize this can be a frustrating issue for many residents and businesses who are trying to do the right thing, only to find out that what they buy at their grocery store isn't actually compostable. This issue expands beyond compostable plastics to all sorts of claims on products as to how sustainable they are. The good news is more and more consumers are becoming aware of these sorts of claims and putting pressure on governments to take action – here in Canada and around the world.

The bad news is that at the Metro Vancouver level there's very little we can do other than advocate to other levels of government. Labelling of products sold in stores falls under the federal [Consumer Labelling and Packaging Act](#). The federal competition bureau has guidelines on making [environmental claims](#), but it was published in 2008 and is in need of an update. Metro Vancouver staff has provided feedback regarding the challenges around products being labelled compostable when they aren't readily accepted by composting facilities across Canada. The feedback also flagged similar challenges with products being labelled as biodegradable and flushable – these products also belong in the garbage not the green bin or toilet.

In the meantime, we're trying to get the word out via our website and campaigns that plastic doesn't belong in the green bin. We've targeted some of these campaigns recently at residents in apartments and multi-family dwellings because there are more challenges and less accountability in a shared bin setting. The last time we did a composition study on organics, we found about 2% of the material from green bins was contamination, and the majority of that was plastic (overwhelmingly conventional plastic vs. compostable plastic). Municipalities and hauling companies around the region are also working hard to reduce plastic in green bins through education.

We will be issuing more social media notices and considering a letter delivered to each residence to advise these are not permitted and we will begin rejecting containers using plastic liners of any sort.

By copy of this email I will ask Janine to include this email on the next ETG agenda for information.

Thanks,
Rick

From: E Hall
Sent: May 14, 2021 8:39 AM
To: Rick Bomhof
Subject: Compostable bags

Not compostable in Langley. This is from a local langley business I think save on. A confusing message for consumers and maybe produce manager who thinks he is doing a good thing



Sent from my iPhone