



MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL TASK GROUP

REMOTE VIDEO CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021 at 7:04 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

Absent: David Chang, Post-secondary Institution

1) **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the March 11, 2021 agenda for the Environmental Task Group be adopted.

CARRIED

2) **MINUTES**

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the February 11, 2021 minutes of the Environmental Task Group meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

3) **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

The existing EV charging station in the City Hall parkade is inaccessible due to COVID restrictions and is further restricted in non-COVID times when Timm's Recreation Center is closed. There was consensus on the task group that the City should consider adding additional 24/7 EV Stations in various locations on City Property.

- Staff noted that there are no plans at this time to put another charging station at City Hall or other city facilities.

- An issue surrounding supplying these stations is it is the municipal taxpayers who would be subsidizing the cost of installation, maintenance and power for these vehicles.
- A question was asked if it would be possible for the City to charge a fee for the charging via credit card?
- It was noted that BC Hydro and senior governments offer rebates for charging station installation costs.

After further discussion it was suggested that the TG ask Council to direct staff to look into installing EV charging stations in various locations throughout the city and on city property that would be accessible 24 hours a day.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to investigate installing a user pay EV charging station at City Hall and other civic facilities that is accessible 24 hours a day to the public.

CARRIED

4) DISCUSSION

- a) Review improving sorting of the 3 streams, garbage, food waste and recyclables, at City Events with the City's Event Co-ordinator, Tera Edell.
 - Event Coordinator unable to attend, deferred to the April 8th meeting.
- b) Review of Street Scape receptacle information.

Staff provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the following:

- City has a contract with Creative Outdoor which supply's streetscape recycling/waste receptacles in exchange for advertising rights
- The contract term is 2016 to 2026 with a six month notice for termination with possible payout costs for amortized cost of receptacles for remaining years in contract
- There are 71 street receptacles provided by Creative Outdoor
- The contamination rate is very high and therefore all 3 streams are disposed of in the landfill as garbage.
- The City's collection system consists of a single operator collection packer truck which collects all the material from the Creative Outdoor receptacles, as well as all other city garbage receptacles on city streets, in parks and trails
- To improve waste diversion, it would be necessary to review the following:
 - Receptacle design and signage to clearly identify the acceptable materials that go into each slot/opening.

- If Creative Outdoor would work with the City to implement a new receptacle design or if there would be a cost to terminate the agreement?
- Determine waste contamination rates and reasonable expectations to be able to reduce contamination by making changes to receptacle signage
- Cost to supply new streetscape receptacles and implement a new multi-stream collection system
- Total streetscape waste/recycling weights and potential costs/savings to divert materials from the waste stream (landfill)

Upon further discussion there was general agreement that a better job in streetscape waste diversion needs to be made. A few other comments, questions and suggestions for the City's consideration were:

- Could city's existing receptacles be adapted to accept dog waste?
- Could a pilot project be done for dog waste at a couple of parks in the City, to gauge public response.
- Could city take out advertising on the receptacles to educate the public about separating the garbage and recycling streams?

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED**

THAT Council request staff to include a budget in 2022 to retain a consultant to complete a street scape and park waste audit and provide options to improve waste diversion

CARRIED

- c) Review Terms of Reference and members idea list (attached in email to the March agenda package) and select task group priority items.

Some mandates from the Terms of Reference were clarified for the group:

- The 'Install rain barrels for watering plants' point is meant for residential, businesses and parks. Wherever possible.
- 'Create an Urban Forest' refers to more plantings on City property. An urban forest management plan is in the 2023 budget. The plan is to complete an inventory of city trees.
- It was noted the City recently hired a full-time arborist

5) **ROUND TABLE**

Discussion followed about the following:

- Utilizing information from organizations, such as Kwantlan that has both horticulture and environment programs.
- About having volunteers to help with initiatives to help avoid costs. The Vice Chair noted that there could be a list of initiatives guided by council and another list organized by the ETG.
- Concerns that the owner/builder may need financial assistance to continue installation of Mason Bee Homes annually in Sendall Gardens.

ACTION: Rick will speak with the owner/builder to find out his funding situation.

ACTION: Ask staff to check on Status or Timeline of the Climate Emergency declaration report around actions?

ACTION: Include an excerpt from the Declaration Report with April's Agenda

For discussion at next meeting:

- Review priorities previously set out by the Task group in the "List of Preferred Initiatives" created in 2019 (pre-Covid)
- Review Terms of Reference, and members list submitted and focus on the group's priorities

6) **ADJOURNMENT**

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the meeting adjourn at 8:25 pm.

CARRIED

CHAIR

Certified Correct:
jc

RECORDING SECRETARY