

Minutes of a Meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee held in the Synergy Building and remotely via Zoom, on the above date at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Biermanski
B. Marsh - Chair
C. Piercy – Vice Chair
K. Aschim
S. Kilborn
A. Luck – attended virtually, left the meeting at 7:02 p.m.
M. Veitch

Absent:

J. Lucas

Staff:

M. Myers, Manager, Environment
P. Homeak, Environmental Coordinator – Community Strategy & Engagement, Environment

Guests:

Mary Ellen Green, Resident
Ashley King, Resident

Welcome and Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and welcomed the Committee members and staff in attendance.

Adoption of Agenda

The Chair declared the March 21, 2024 agenda adopted as amended.

Adoption of Minutes

The Chair declared the minutes of February 22, 2024 adopted as presented.

Environmental Initiative Grant Application Extension Request - Update

M. Green, and A. King provided an update Braeside Community Pop up Garden pilot project and requested an extension request.

Moved by M. Veitch

That the Environmental Advisory Committee approve the Environmental Grant Extension request for the Braeside Community Pop Up Garden pilot project to December 31, 2024.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Environmental Initiatives Guidelines – Review

P. Homeak reviewed the Environmental Initiatives Grant Guidelines.

Climate Adaptation Strategy – Update

M. Myers provided an update on the EMRB and Local Climate Adaptation plan.

A. Luck left the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Millennium Park –Discussion

Moved by K. Aschim

That the Environmental Advisory Committee recommend to Council to consider that the conceptual design for the Millennium Park is contrary to the principles and objectives of the City's own Green Environment Strategy. Specifically, the Green Environment Strategy sets out goals for the protection of natural features, biodiversity, wetlands and urban forests.

Whereas the Strategy states that the community of St. Albert, which received designation as a "Tree City of the World" in 2021 and 2022, is committed to the preservation of our urban forest. The selected conceptual design for Millennium Park is in direct contradiction to these stated objectives because it requires the removal of 56% of the trees and most of the wetlands along the Sturgeon River that falls within the proposed park boundaries.

Now therefore, to ensure protection of the few natural areas remaining along the Sturgeon River within St. Albert the Environmental Advisory Committee respectfully recommends to Council, that Council not proceed with passage of the Borrowing Bylaw 3/2024 to provide the \$20.8 million funding required for the Millennium Park.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

For: K. Aschim, S. Kilborn, C. Piercy, M. Veitch

Against: none

B. Marsh did not vote on the Millennium Park motion.

Round Table

The Environmental Advisory Committee members and staff provided feedback, discussed items of general interest, and gave final comments.

Next Meeting Date

Thursday, April 25 – 6:00 p.m. at Synergy Building, 110 Carleton Drive

Adjournment

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

CHAIR

DESIGNATED OFFICER