

Minutes of a Meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee held in the St. Albert Business Centre, on the above date at 6:00 pm.

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**Present**

Councillor N. Joly  
T. Doran  
T. Fulton  
A. Lefebvre  
B. Marsh  
B. Peori  
M. Wheatley

**Absent**

B. Thronson

**Staff**

C. Benson, Manager, Environment  
M. Myers, Environmental Coordinator – Community Strategy & Engagement  
M. Logan, Environmental Coordinator – Sturgeon River & Natural Areas

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The Chair declared the agenda adopted as presented.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The Chair declared the minutes of March 28, 2019 adopted as presented.

**RIVER WATER QUALITY INDEX**

M. Logan, Environmental Coordinator – Sturgeon River & Natural Areas

- The Environmental Master Plan identified the River Water Quality Index as a tool to communicate the health of the river to residents.
- Public perception is that our river is unhealthy.
- Alberta Environment was working on a tool however are not supporting the tool anymore, so the City needed to develop their own.
- Map of sampling sites - most sites have been monitored for over 13 years.
- For a river of this size, St. Albert has adequate data to develop an index
- Used to use consultant to sample and in 2019 changed to complete this work with City staff. This provides another sample in the winter.
- Test for basic water chemistry, nutrients, bacteria and pesticides.
- Looked for similar water quality indices - only one - Vermillion River Watershed (looked at this index to see if the work completed in this

watershed could be used for the Sturgeon River). The framework for the Vermillion indices was followed for the Sturgeon River.

- Left out dissolved oxygen from the index as this parameter has daily and hourly variations in the Sturgeon River.
- For the Sturgeon River index, total phosphorus, total nitrogen, chlorides, e coli, total suspended solids parameters are used.

Discussion included:

- When changes occur within the monitoring program – is there management options in place that can make a difference?  
The program is not rigorous, but it can identify problem areas within the stretch in St. Albert and highlight problem parameters (i.e. chlorides getting high). The work that the City does with the Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance helps bring issues to light on a regional level. Suggestion to highlight management decisions because we know what is in the water. Answer the question, so, what? Need to communicate the why we are monitoring with the management decisions.
- Would be nice to see a range of the numbers for the parameters.
- Is this data going to be added to our open data portal? Environment meets with the lead on the project and will discuss adding this to the portal.

## **NET ZERO RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT**

C. Benson, Manager, Environment

Council made a motion (when the EAC Chair presented to Council on the EAC annual report and 2019 priorities) to include Net Zero Residential Development as a priority for EAC in 2019. Council may require advice from EAC on this topic.

- Project is focused on homes. Definition of Net zero home - produces as much energy as it consumes on an annual basis (heating, electricity).
- The building code will require all homes to be net zero ready by 2030 (Pan Canadian framework on clean growth and climate change).
- Edmonton is known for being innovative in net zero homes. Edmonton has a high solar coefficient.
- Net zero is becoming more popular because of the economics. Only about 3-4 % increase in the cost of a home build.
- Already have some net zero single family homes in St. Albert – there are few administrative barriers (some changes to City bylaws required). St. Albert can accommodate net zero homes now.
- Next steps – Council presentation third quarter of 2019, Municipal Development Plan/Land Use Bylaw updates (ongoing), building code changes, green utilities and climate change resiliency.

Discussion included:

- No formal EAC advice required at this time but an introduction of the scope of the project to this date. C. Benson will likely return to EAC with a formal request for advice to support a Council Agenda Report.

- Incentivizing going above the building code (i.e. speeding up an application). Giving penalties for not meeting code.
- Energy labelling of homes so consumers will know how energy efficient a home is they are looking to purchase.
- The market will likely help make the shift to net zero housing.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL POLICY**

### **Review & Discussion**

Required to review policies every 5 years. Of the 3 policies under the Environment portfolio, EAC identified the Environmental Sustainability Council Policy required changes.

Attendees had a brief discussion on proposed changes to the policy. M. Myers will complete a red lined version and send it out to the Committee for the next meeting.

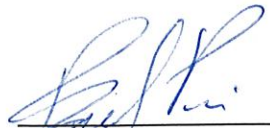
## **ROUND TABLE**

- Councillor Joly mentioned an Information Request requesting what other municipalities have done to ban plastic water bottles. The request was expanded to include single use food containers.
- Awarded the tender for a Stormwater Management Facility education sign project. 11 signs at 9 stormwater management facilities.
- Environment received grant funding from TD Friends of the Environment for a classroom received over \$7800 for classroom version of the Home Energy Assessment Toolkit.
- Spruce Up St. Albert kicked off this week with the Garbage Can Contest – 15 entries. Go online and vote for your favorite garbage can design. Theme is Care About Air. Send out link
- Partners in Parks kicks off April 30 – vegetable talk and container gardening with Jim Hole. Send out link
- May 11 – Clean and Green RiverFest
- Dock has been installed at the BLESS shelter.
- Environmental tour in June – stop ideas (past grant projects, capital projects, lift station, David Duley project, capital region waste water treatment plant).

**NEXT MEETING – May 23, 2019**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

  
CHAIR

  
DESIGNATED OFFICER