

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

Present

Councillor H. Jolly
T. Doran
T. Fulton
A. Lefebvre
B. Marsh
B. Thronson
B. Peori
M. Wheatley

Guests

E. Pickard, Operations Manager, Parks and Open Spaces, City of St. Albert
M. Logan, Environmental Coordinator – Sturgeon River & Natural Areas, City of St. Albert

Staff

J. Mason, Acting Director, Utilities and Environment
C. Benson, Manager, Environment
M. Myers, Environmental Coordinator – Community Strategy & Engagement

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Chair declared the agenda adopted as presented.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Chair declared the minutes of June 27, 2019 adopted as presented.

GREY NUNS WHITE SPRUCE PARK– PROJECT UPDATE

Erin Pickard, Operations Supervisor, Parks & Open Spaces

E. Pickard provided an overview of the history of Grey Nuns White Spruce Park and an update on the projects within the area including:

- grant funding
- external grant funding
- trial plots (13) to test the conditions to successfully establish seedlings within the forest
- cone collection and seed extraction
- seed growing through Coast to Coast Reforestation
- order 3000 seedlings for 2021
- planting in forest through reforestation companies between 2016-2019



- Close to 18000 seedlings have been planted into the forest.
- Tree tubes to discourage rabbits and mice from eating the tree seedlings. This gives the trees 2 -4 years of extra growth, so they can establish.
- Invasive plant management
- Snag and fallen tree management – factors for removing fallen trees included safety, the fallen trees inhibited regeneration within the forest, and the fire hazard started to increase. Instead of using machinery that would impact the forest, horse logging was used in 2018.
- Partnerships – U of A hydrology study (impact of development on the forest), volunteer interpretive signage development (2 local MSc students/graduates designed signs for events), U of A silviculture (class site to study), Bellerose High School completed a quadrat study for bio 20.

CN FENCE - UPDATE

Melissa Logan, Environmental Coordinator – Sturgeon River & Natural Areas

M. Logan provided a brief presentation on results of the wildlife cameras set up along the CN fence within City limits..

- Background – funding to fence the railway within St. Albert boundaries.
- 5 cameras were purchased to monitor wildlife movement for 3 months (June to August).
- Signs used and place by the cameras to satisfy FOIP legislation.
- 20000 images captured
- Coyote and white-tailed deer captured on camera
- Wildlife Committee established with Municipal Enforcement Services (MES), province, and Communications. The group meets quarterly, review MES reports and important wildlife seasons i.e. rutting season.
- M. Logan is tracking wildlife throughout the City by mapping public sightings reported to Public Works and Municipal Enforcement Services.
- The position (towards the railway and away from the railway) and the location of the cameras will be changed throughout the year.
- The topic can be added to the EAC work plan in November to go to Council for approval in January 2020.

ROUND TABLE

- Councillor Hansen is providing a notice of motion on Council governance and one of the changes proposed is that Councillors aren't expected to attend Committee of Council meetings. Comment that members of the EAC appreciate the representation of Council on the EAC and would like that to continue. M. Myers to send notice of motion for the Committee to determine if they would like to draft advice to Council on this motion.
- Councillor Joly has submitted a notice of motion specific to flyers and an opt in option. If goes forward she will request this topic comes back to the committee for consideration and advice.
- Council BBQ on Saturday, September 28 in Lion's Park.
- Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance (SRWA) presenting to City Council Oct 15 on seven technical reports. Might have some recommendations or



potential impacts to the Municipal Development Plan currently underway as it pertains to the protection of the river valley. SRWA will be attending EAC in November to present and obtain feedback on the Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan.

- St. Albert recently received Alberta Urban Municipality Association (AUMA) award for the Environmental Master Plan. This is the second year in a row St. Albert has received recognition for the Environmental Master Plan.
- Council approved funding for Municipal Energy Manager position. The position will be provided with 80% funding through Municipal Climate Change Action Centre. This will be a 2-year term and the position will look at energy efficiencies at City facilities.
- Five separate regional reports for Climate resiliency funded through Federation of Canadian Municipalities – water security (100-year modelling), invasive species vulnerability, tree planting guide, climate resilient home (modelling), and state of knowledge (predict what we would see short medium and long term in our region).

Matthew Wheatley departed 7:31 p.m.

- Environmental Initiatives Grant subcommittee – Tara, Allisson and Ben. Deadline October 10. Staff will email subcommittee on October 11 with the final number of grant applications to confirm if a subcommittee meeting is required prior to the EAC meeting on October 24.
- Teacher Professional Development Day focused on energy and air on September 26. Teachers visited St. Albert Transit and the air quality monitoring station to learn more about energy efficiency and air quality monitoring. Also making progress on the School/Teacher Home Energy Assessment Toolkit in which Environment received funding through TD Friends of the Environment grant program. Tested the kit with teachers at the PD session.
- Four positions are vacant on the Committee this December. If Committee members know anyone interested, please send them to the website to apply. The application deadline is October 30.
- Environmental Sustainability Policy update (included EAC's suggestions) approved by City Council at the end of August.
- Lacombe Garden group have completed EIG application. T Fulton will send it to M. Myers.

NEXT MEETING – October 24, 2019

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



CHAIR



DESIGNATED OFFICER

