

Present:

Councillor Bose, Vice-Chair
M. Lamont
K. Purton
S. Sajda
D. Smith

Absent:

Mayor Locke, Chairperson
D. Jack

Staff Present:

Y. Yohannes, Director Engineering Ops
J. Sung, Legislative Services Coordinator
A. Yahav, Legislative Services Assistant

Councillor Bose assumed the role of the Chair.

A. ADOPTIONS

1. Adoption of the Agenda

It was Moved by K. Purton
Seconded by S. Sajda
That the agenda of the Environment and
Climate Change Committee meeting of October 23, 2024, be adopted.
Carried

2. Adoption of the Minutes – September 11, 2024

It was Moved by M. Lamont
Seconded by K. Purton
That the minutes of the Environment and
Climate Change Committee meeting of September 11 2024, be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Zero Waste Solutions – City of Surrey

Dr. Waqas Cheema, ZeroW Group

The delegation provided a presentation regarding possible zero waste alternatives for transportation, housing, and swimming. The following information was highlighted:

- The ZeroW Group encourages governments world-wide to adopt a circular economic infrastructure model for recycling and composting which allows cities to utilize its own waste for its own benefit.
- The ZeroW Group proposes various zero waste initiatives which span three broad areas of transportation, housing, and swimming pools:
 - Transportation: When the temperature decreases, cement streets begin to crack, resulting in potholes. Potholes increase emissions related to construction, traffic, and material production. To minimize these emissions, ZeroW Group proposes an alternative to traditional road repairing strategies. This involves recycling single-use plastic containers into small pellets which can be used to repair City roads. These roads are more advantageous compared to standard asphalt as they are more longevous. This alternative has been proven to reduce road maintenance and transportation emissions by 50%. This procedure has already been implemented worldwide, including in the United Kingdom, the United States of America, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Pakistan, and more.
 - Housing: Organic waste materials that are not treated properly or in a timely manner produce emissions and lose its natural benefits. The zero waste housing initiative proposes a system which more quickly and efficiently treats organic waste produced in homes to decrease emissions and increase the natural benefits for compost for farming.
 - Swimming Pools: Swimming pools are emitters of harmful chemicals due to the sanitation processes commonly used to filter the water. The ZeroW Group proposes an alternative to traditional water sanitation methods which involves UV and ozone-based treatment systems.

In response to questions from the Committee, the following information was provided:

- The ZeroW Group has already worked with the City of Hope and will shortly be presenting to their mayor and council.
- This presentation is the ZeroW Group's first point of contact with the City of Surrey and intends to present to mayor and council after receiving feedback from the ECCC.
- The plastic asphalt production is designed such that the pellets will never return to plastic form. There is no potential for the plastic materials to degrade into the ground.

- There is currently 22 years of data available to substantiate the merit of repairing roads with pellets made from recycled single-use plastics.
- The ZeroW Group uses AI infrastructure to generate real-time data on waste collection in cities.
- The ZeroW Group believes that the current City of Surrey compost collection system is ineffective at reducing emissions as it is not collected frequently enough.

The Committee provided the following comments:

- The Committee would like the Engineering Department to review the efficacy of these improvements before engaging in further discussion.

C. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Memo - Update for Bear Creek Park Improvements

The Chair informed the Committee that an update on Bear Creek Park Improvements will be presented at the next ECCC meeting on November 13, 2024. The Chair reminded the Committee that a memo has been provided in the agenda package for members and was also provided to the former subcommittee members for information.

In response to questions from the Committee, the following information was provided:

- Accommodations will be made at the November 13, 2024 ECCC meeting to allow input for the Bear Creek Park Improvement project.
- The October 9, 2024 meeting was rescheduled to October 23, 2024, to accommodate Staff schedules and absences.
- The Engineering Department kept track of the water levels during the atmospheric river weather event from October 18, 2024 to October 19, 2024.

2. Update on Proposed Amendments to Streamside Protection Bylaws and Policy

The Chair provided an update on Proposed Amendments to Streamside Protection Bylaws and Policy. The following information was highlighted:

- The proposed amendments to the streamside protection bylaws and policy were included on the October 7, 2024 Regular Council – Public Hearing meeting agenda for reconsideration. Council did not reconsider the bylaws and instead, passed a resolution to refer this matter back to Staff for additional information; refer this matter to the newly established Development Approval Process Improvement Task Force to consider best practices; and for Council to set a new public hearing date once additional information is received. This starts a new process for this matter, meaning there will be an opportunity for the public to provide comments to Council in writing or in person at the public hearing. Regular updates will be provided to the Committee regarding progress and input opportunities.
- The Task Force was established as a Select Committee, with Councillor Hepner, Councillor Kooner, the General Manager of Planning and Development, and the General Manager of Engineering appointed as members. The General Manager of Planning and Development was authorized to appoint members from the development community and appointed Rob Blackwell, Anthem Properties; Josh Gaglardi, Orion Construction; and Avtar Johl, Platinum Group. At the October 21, 2024 Regular Council Public Hearing meeting, Council approved the appointment of one additional member of the development community to the Task Force to specifically represent single-family home developers in Surrey. This will provide a complete representation of the City's development industry.
- It is expected that the Development Approval Process Improvement Task Force will report back to Council by the end of 2024.

In response to questions from the Committee, the following information was provided:

- The Task Force is focused on providing best-practices within the approval process and reducing the bureaucratic delay in the way of housing construction.
- The Terms of Reference of the Task Force has been set, as per Council direction, thus amendments cannot be made at this time.
- The Committee members are able to submit comments to the Task Force as residents of Surrey.

The Committee provided the following comments:

- The Committee expressed concern that environmental experts are not represented in the Task Force.
- The Committee would like to review the minutes of the Task Force meetings to be shared with them. The Chair approved this request.
- The Committee expressed concern that the current Task Force will increase bureaucratic red tape on housing construction due to the need to refer to Provincial decision making process.

- The Committee expressed concern that Corporate Report R155 was not forwarded to ECCC members prior to being discussed in Council.
- The Committee would like to write a letter to the Task Force expressing concern for the composition of their membership.

It was

Moved by S. Sajda

Seconded by M. Lamont

That the Committee recommends that

Council request the Development Approval Process Improvement Task Force to access advice from a licensed qualified biologist for streamside protection issues when relevant.

Carried

3. Civic Distinction Awards Ceremony

Staff invited the members of the ECCC to the Civic Distinction Awards Ceremony.

The Chair also reminded the Committee about the Volunteer Appreciation Reception on Thursday, October 24, 2024.

4. Roundtable

A roundtable discussion ensued as follows:

- The City of Surrey rain gauge showed that rainfall was 24-25mm greater during the 2024 atmospheric river event than it had been during the 2021 atmospheric river event.
- Due to the October 2024 weather event, the Serpentine River dykes were overtopped in two locations. Minor overtopping was experienced on the north dyke between 88 Avenue and 176 Street and a second overtopping occurred where the Serpentine River crosses Fraser Highway, west of 176 Street). The Metro Vancouver's trunk watermain was exposed on the west dyke. City Staff were on site and were able to repair the damages.
- The Committee discussed the potential for reusing single-use plastics as road repair material.
- Staff agreed to further investigate the merit of the ZeroW Group's plans to ensure that the conversion of plastic to asphalt is more energy-efficient than creating new roads.
- The Chair requested that Staff provide record daily rainfall at the next ECCC meeting.

It was

Moved by M. Lamont

Seconded by D. Smith

That the Committee requests that staff

provide an update on the effects of the atmospheric river weather event that took place from October 18, 2024 to October 19, 2024 on Surrey urban streams.

Carried

- D. Smith provided a copy to the Committee Clerk, of their written submission to Council which was expressing opposition to the streamside protection bylaws and policy.

D. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environment and Climate Change Committee is scheduled for 5:00pm on November 13, 2024.

E. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by D. Smith

Seconded by S. Sajda

That the Environment and Climate Change

Committee meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The Environment and Climate Change Committee meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Jennifer Ficocelli
City Clerk and Director Legislative Services

Councillor Mike Bose, Vice-Chair