



## CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

### MINUTES ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 26, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Municipal Hall

**PRESENT:** Patrick O'Hara – Vice Chair

Carole Witter

Gail Willson

Susan Low

Casey Brant (Arrived 7:49 p.m.)

Councillor Beth Burton-Krahn (Council Liaison)

**STAFF:** Marlene Lagoa, Community Development Coordinator (Staff Liaison)

Deborah Liske, Recording Secretary

**REGRETS:** David Shaw – Chair

William MacGillivray

Councillor Meagan Brame (Council Liaison)

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair O'Hara called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

#### **2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by Carole Witter, seconded by Gail Willson that the agenda of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of May 26, 2016 be approved as presented.

The motion **CARRIED**.

#### **3. MINUTES**

(1) Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting, April 21, 2016

Moved by Carole Witter, seconded by Gail Willson, that the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of April 21, 2016 be approved as presented.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Committee members provided brief introductions and welcomed new committee member Susan Low.

#### **4. OLD BUSINESS**

(1) Green Event Planning Guide – Memorandum to Council

(2) Council Referral – Request for Local Government Input, Climate Action and Climate Leadership Plan – Memorandum to Council

Vice Chair O'Hara reported on the positive feedback and appreciation expressed by Council for the committee's work, suggestions and input on the Green Event Planning Guide and Climate Action and the Climate Leadership Plan.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### (1) Official Community Plan Review – Looking Forward Forum

Committee members discussed ideas and provided feedback for the Official Community Plan review.

#### Garden suites

- Permit garden suites
- Increases density without adding height
- Often have students / seniors living and won't necessarily have a car – Esquimalt is well served by transit / close to downtown
- Reduce urban sprawl
- Garden suites can be pilot for micro-homes
- Possible economic development to allow for short term stay (Air BnB)
- Provide additional affordable rentals

#### Housing security

- Air BnB and rising housing costs are threatening housing

Casey Brant arrived 7:49 p.m.

#### Healthy Built Environment

##### Naturescaping

- Xeriscaping, drought resistant plants, low water landscaping
- Choose appropriate native plants for site / area
- Select native plant species that support ecological systems and services (e.g. pollination / habitat, resilience / diversity)
- For an example – see the District of Highlands

#### LEED

- Have an appendix that lists 5 – 6 different programs that developers can use (example: Green Globes; BREEAM; BOMA 360; EnerGuide; Energy Star, R 2000 Homes; LEED; Class G)
- Municipality should provide incentives for green buildings (example: increase in density for building green)

#### Urban Forest

- More incentives
- Focus on incentives not penalties
- Retain trees we have (make it harder to remove trees)
- Plant more native species including food producing varieties (create list of recommended tree types)
- Encourage more drought resistant trees – more economic, conserve water use

#### Landscaping for energy efficiency

- Shading in summer, light in the winter – supports food security / gardens (example: garlic)
- Discourage the installation of green lawns

Food systems

- Policy to encourage residential food production
- Have separate section in OCP that deals with food security (example: Victoria OCP)
- Support innovative ways for people to grow and connect with local food
- Ensure that food systems are comprehensive and considered at various scales (example: new development causing shadow on neighbouring properties threatening food production)
- Ensure that food systems are valued and considered
- Being innovative – rooftop garden, small space gardens
- In higher density areas – allow height but support rooftop gardens and other innovative solutions
- Increase food production on private and public lands – allow chickens, ducks, goats, bees, rabbits, aquaculture
- Allow garden waste in compost collection to reduce use of bags, decrease smell and avoid growth of flies
- Strengthen local food production infrastructure
- Recognize the resources that come from local food production and keep it in the community (example: closed loop system within the region)
- Support backyard composting and digesting (of kitchen scraps)

Rainwater retention

- New developments should include rainwater retention on-site
- Consider innovative grey water management systems
- Citizens have access to affordable, healthy and local food – including schools

Waterfront setbacks

- In addition to environmental consideration – encourage vegetation / plantings to hold soil in place – softscaping of shorelines
- Increase setbacks greater than 30 meters due to climate change impacts (example: extreme flooding)
- Maintaining public access to the water for the public – for recreation and food harvesting (example: Swallows Landing – access) – provide access to Esquimalt harbor

Stormwater management

- Improve stormwater management at the time of new developments – protect local receiving bodies from contaminants

Invasive Species

- Remove them in all areas not just natural areas

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

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<p>Certified Correct: _____  <hr/> <p>Anja Nurvo, Corporate Officer</p></p>
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