

Oak Bay Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes

Meeting: Thursday, February 20 2014, 7:00 pm, Oak Bay Municipal Hall, 2167 Oak Bay Avenue

Present: Ron Carter (in Chair), Noreen Taylor, Kevin Murdoch, Chris Garrett, Andrew Stinson, Patricia Lane, Heather Sinnott

Regrets: Meegan Armstrong, Taylor Davis. Brian Holl, Norman Mogensen

Call to Order: 7:00 pm, Ron Carter, Acting Chair

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Moved by C. Garrett, seconded by A. Stinson Carried.
2. **Approval of Minutes** (as amended) of January 17, 2013. Moved by A. Stinson, seconded by C. Garrett. Carried.
3. **Business Arising:**
 - a. Results of the Council Priority Sessions (K. Murdoch)
 - Implement zero waste priorities; (concern was noted about soft plastics and Styrofoam)
 - Events – organic waste and recycling won't get done this year.
 - Uplands sewage
 - EAC's Deconstruction and Zero Waste recommendations deferred until 2015
 - Priorities remaining
 - Energy policy
 - Carbon reserve fund policy
 - Sustainability policy in front of Council - 2015
 - b. Carbon neutral referral- it was agreed that once we have M. Armstrong's report it will be circulated to allow the Committee to prepare in advance of the next meeting.
 - c. OCP communication –
Moved by N. Taylor seconded by A. Stinson that we request a formal presentation to the OCP committee before the first draft is released for comment.
 - N. Taylor agreed to act as collector of things we would like to see in the OCP; P. Lane agreed to talk to the providers of the BCSEA webinar for advice about climate change mitigation/adaptation. N. Taylor and P. Lane will make a recommendation to the committee at the March meeting so the Committee is ready to communicate to OPAC by the end of March.

Concepts discussed included:

- Rising sea levels and building regulations for set backs which account for that;
- Negative comment re harmful invasive species terrestrial and marine;
- Climate change adaptation and management as a central planning concept; P. Lane provided information on this subject
- Windfirm trees as part of the overall Urban Forest Strategy
- Flooding storm water management

4. Sub-committee reports:

- a. Marine (C. Garrett):
 - Public event at Windsor Park went well; Kiosk planning well underway. C. Garrett requested assistance in fundraising \$20,000 for the kiosk.
 - Oil spills –drift cards; VNHS website presentation. UVic Monday night.
 - Mapping eel grass project coming to Oak Bay. Their application must be in by end of February. C. Garrett will send around a motion, which we will consider, and vote on electronically to let Council know we support this project.
- b. Terrestrial (R. Carter) reported that he attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and that a decision had been made to restart the working group on the Urban Forest Strategy to write terms of reference for strategy development by June and hope to dovetail this with OCP. The program ‘Embrace the Night’ went well; next walk is on March 16 (full moon). Uplands Park is a possible future site for a night walk.
- c. Waste Management (N. Taylor) reported on discussions about how to make the Tea Party a “Green event”. Progress is being made.

2. New business

- a. Council Update/Referrals – K. Murdoch – nothing further to above report on priorities sessions
- b. OCP – EAC and other Committees/Commission input to OPAC
- c. OB Website consultation with EAC representative – R. Carter; EAC will have its minutes and agendas posted. Caution has to be exercised with regard to line between advisory to policy and policy.
- d. Request from Pat Wilson, Heritage Commission re: demolition and blasting. Concern expressed re damage to trees and neighbouring vegetation and noise and vibrations was discussed. There was general agreement that demolition and blasting are “noteworthy as potential environmental hazards. Low velocity and

low toxicity methods are preferable in terms of environmental damage mitigation.

Next meeting: March 20, 2014, 7 p.m.

Motion to adjourn – A. Stinson.

Meeting adjourned by Chair at 8:55 p.m.