

MINUTES of a special joint meeting of the COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE of The Corporation of the District of Oak Bay and the PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION, held in the Council Chambers, Oak Bay Municipal Hall, 2167 Oak Bay Avenue, Oak Bay, B.C., on Friday, October 21, 2016.

PRESENT: Mayor N. Jensen, Chair  
Councillor T. Croft  
Councillor K. Murdoch  
Councillor T. Ney  
Councillor E. Zhelka  
  
Chair, S. Piercy  
Commissioner D. Therrian  
Commissioner A. Davies  
Commissioner M. Fairburn  
Commissioner L. Allen

STAFF: Chief Administrative Officer, H. Koning  
Director of Corporate Services, W. Jones  
Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture, R. Herman  
Director of Engineering, D. Horan  
Manager of Planning, D. Jensen  
Manager of Parks, C. Hyde-Lay  
Municipal Arborist, C. Paul

Mayor Jensen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENTATION:

1. ***Urban Forest Management Strategy***
  - Report – Diamond Head Consulting, Oct. 17, 2016

The Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture provided an overview of the Urban Forest Management Strategy process and introduced representatives from Diamond Head Consulting.

Mayor Jensen informed the joint committee that a recent court decision resulted in guilty pleas and a \$30,000 fine for the illegal removal of a tree on Cavendish Road in November 2015.

Diamond Head Consulting reviewed the findings and recommendations contained in the draft report entitled “Oak Bay Urban Forest Strategy”. The report’s findings and recommendations were based on public input that included open houses and a survey that had 316 responses. It was noted that Oak Bay was beginning this process from a position of strength given the existing tree canopy and the public’s interest in preserving the coverage.

Public Comments

Joan Rousseau, Oak Bay, suggested that municipalities are being required to act to reduce carbon because of provincial and federal governments’ failure to respond. She suggested that implementing the strategy in bits and pieces might jeopardize the overall impact of the strategy.

Committee members offered the following suggestions for the consultant's consideration for the final draft:

1. Could the executive summary include the report's recommendations?
2. Is it possible to clarify what changes to existing bylaws may be required in order to implement the strategy?
3. Is it possible to determine the dollar value of the tree canopy in the reduction of GHGs?
4. Is it possible to speak to the value or benefits of urban agriculture and would a focus on urban agriculture result in any changes to the strategy?
5. Given the potential cost of implementing the strategy can the recommendations be prioritized? How might the recommendations be staged?

The Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture outlined potential next steps for the project. He suggested that the report be refined based on the feedback received and then the next steps determined.

Mayor Jensen declared the meeting adjourned – 11:45 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Certified Correct:

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Mayor

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Director of Corporate Services