

# Environmental Advisory Committee Annual Report - 2007 to St. Albert City Council

## 1. RECOMMENDATION

That the Environmental Advisory Committee's 2007 annual report be accepted as information and that the Environmental Advisory Committee continue to operate through 2008.

## 2. OVERVIEW

The Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) was established through Bylaw 29/2005 to advise Council on issues related to the environment. The purpose of the Committee is to assist City administration and **advise** Council with respect to environmental policies, strategies and initiatives especially where a public perspective is desirable. The Committee membership includes five citizens at large, one member of council, a representative of Alberta Environment, a representative of the Capital Health Authority and one representative from a post secondary institution.

Direction and assistance to the EAC was obtained through involvement of the City's Office of the Environment (OE) and frequent attendance of a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

As this was the second year of operation of the EAC, a number of activities carried forward from the first year, namely continued interfacing with the public through the City's web site, presentations by City staff on key environmental issues and programs and an effort to familiarize members with local site-specific matters by touring St. Albert. New membership included two additional citizen members based on a revised bylaw to increase the representation on the Committee. New tasks of significance included input into the development of two bylaws (Tree Bylaw and Idling Bylaw) and the allocation of grant funding through the newly-created Environmental Initiatives Grant Program.

## 3. MEMBERSHIP

January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007

- |                      |                     |                        |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| • Dan Stoker         | Citizen-at-large    | Last of two year term  |
| • Rasel Hossain      | Alberta Environment | Last of two year term  |
| • Ludmilla Rodriguez | Capital Health      | Last of two year term  |
| • Jason Cooke        | Citizen-at-large    | First of two year term |

April 2, 2007 through December 31, 2007

- |                    |                   |                        |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| • Audrey Hebel     | Citizen-at-large  | First of two year term |
| • Corey De La Mare | Citizen-at-large  | First of two year term |
| • Carole Newton    | Citizen-at-large* | First of two year term |
| • Merv Rogan       | Citizen-at-large  | Last of one year term  |
- \*in lieu of post-secondary representative

### Council representation

Following the City elections, Carol Watamaniuk replaced Neil Korotash as the council representative, and Roger Lemieux replaced Nolan Crouse as the alternate.

Committee assistance was obtained from Leah Jackson and Meghan Myers of the Office of the Environment. Jeannie York and Rachel Vincent of Legislative Services provided coverage of our minutes. Guy Boston provided representation of the Senior Leadership Team.

## **4. ACTIVITIES DURING 2007**

The Environmental Advisory Committee met ten times during 2007, meeting monthly except in July and December. A sub-committee of the EAC met with Council at the City's annual board meetings in November. No other meetings with Council or the Senior Management Team were deemed necessary.

### **Key Issues and Items Regarding Support to Council or Administration**

Two bylaw items prompted a need for the Committee to participate in public hearings to advise Council. The items were the proposed creation of the Tree Protection Bylaw 24/2007 and the Idling Bylaw 16/2007.

The Committee provided input to the development of the policies and procedures needed to implement a new program to support volunteer projects and activities related to improving the environment of St. Albert through the Environmental Initiatives Grant Program. Subsequently, the Committee undertook, on behalf of Council, a review and selection of the most fitting projects submitted which had passed basic administrative requirements. The Committee then passed on its recommendations to Council.

The Committee had representation in a review and revision committee which looked at the first year of implementation of the Beaver Guidelines, a set of operational procedures aimed at a balanced approach to co-existing with beavers in St. Albert.

### **Relevant Motions Made and Carried**

(EAC3-2007) Moved by D. Stoker

That the Environmental Advisory Committee Annual Report 2006 be received. CARRIED

(EAC21-2007) Moved by A. Hebel

That the Environmental Advisory Committee recommend to Council that the Environmental Initiatives Grant Program Policy and Administrative Procedures be approved. CARRIED

(EAC30-2007) Moved by J. Cooke

That the following Environmental Initiatives Grants be awarded:

Bertha Kennedy Catholic Community School – 'Seeds to Salad'	\$200.00
Ronald Harvey Elementary School – Discovery Garden	800.00
Wild Rose Elementary School – Worm composter and garden plots	200.00
E.S. Gish School – 'outdoor classroom'	2,000.00
Ecole Father Jan – study of aquatic environments	300.00
Neil M. Ross School - 'Seeds to Salad'	280.00
Muriel Martin Elementary School – park and pond studies	350.00

St. Albert Catholic High School – water quality probes for aquatic studies	2,949.75
“Leave Your Roots in St. Albert” – tree-planting in Oakmont Ravine	2,500.00
Big Lake Environment Support Society (BLESS) – Summer Nature Program	3,000.00
St. Albert Christmas Bird Count – participant registration	350.00
River’s Edge Enhancement Project (REEP) – Sturgeon Point Biodiversity Improvement	<u>1,500.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,429.75</b>
CARRIED	

(EAC37-2007) Moved by C. Newton

That the EAC endorse the revised Idling bylaw, in conjunction with a public education campaign.  
CARRIED

(EAC38-2007) Moved by A. Hebel

That the Committee recommend to Council that the issue of the collection and processing of curbside recyclable materials and compostables be investigated. CARRIED

### Other Issues and Presentations

- Reviewed and made suggestions for amendments to the **Report on the Environment 2006**;
- Reviewed and provided feedback (at each meeting) to staff on responses to **email received** from the general public through the City email address posted on the Office of the Environment page of the City web site;
- Received a presentation of the **Senior Leadership Team’s environmental priorities** for 2007 as well as the budget process and financial challenges;
- Received a presentation on the role of **Capital Health** and how it can possibly assist the Committee in environmental matters;
- Received an update on the **City’s Water Conservation Program**;
- Received information and provided suggestions regarding the operation of the **recycling depot**;
- Received information on the operation, construction and long-term monitoring of the **Outfall #17 Project** to capture silt from the storm sewer discharge;
- Received a presentation on the River Edge Enhancement Project (**REEP**).
- Received information on the **Noise Bylaw** revision;
- Provided suggestions related to a ‘Citizen Tips’ or FAQ locations on the **City’s web site**;
- Received an update on the **Parks and Open Spaces Management Plan**;
- Received an overview of the process by which City staff planned to develop an **Environmental Strategic Plan** for St. Albert and subsequently provide some feedback related to issues identification and prioritization;
- Received information related to **environmental events** such as ‘Springing to Life’, Earth Day and ‘Spruce Up the Sturgeon’;
- Received a presentation on **Pesticide Use Procedures** by Public Works;
- Received information on the proposed **Clean Air Day** activities hosted by the City;
- Received information on a proposed **rezoning along Grandin Road** of land currently zoned ‘Park’;
- Received encouragement to review the new **Municipal Development Plan**;
- Participated in a **Bus Tour** of St. Albert to some of the most significant issue areas.
- Offered recommendations to Council regarding the selection of a **new recycling contractor** for the City;
- Discussed the 2007 **Community Satisfaction Survey** relative to environmental issues;
- Brought forward concerns related to **burdock plant growth** along the Sturgeon River;
- Received an information update on **Flood Plain Delineation**;
- Received an update on the **Former Landfill Site Remediation**;
- Received an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the **Big Lake Task Force**;

## **5. YEAR 2008 EAC ACTIVITIES**

In 2008, it is anticipated that the Environment Advisory Committee will continue to provide input and advice as requested from Council especially related to issues where public consultation is necessary.

Issues, topics and other needs that may require specific involvement of the EAC could include, but are not limited to:

- Liaison with City departments
- Presentations or recommendations to Council
- Development of a Environmental Master Plan
- Assessment of grant applications on behalf of Council for the Environmental Initiatives Grants Program
- Participation in the City's Solid Waste Management Review
- Participation in the development of the Parks and Open Spaces Management Plan
- Further consideration of the Tree Protection Bylaw
- Consideration of the Utilities Master Plan
- Involvement in the Rotary Park and Lois Hole Centennial Provincial Park developments

## **6. CONGRATULATIONS EXTENDED TO CITY**

The Environment Advisory Committee wishes to congratulate the City on its innovative programs that encourage citizen participation in environmental responsibility as exemplified through implementation of the Environmental Initiatives Grant Program. Efforts to openly involve and encourage public input and involvement in improving our environment must be applauded.