



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ROSSLAND

Minutes of Meeting of Rossland Sustainability Commission Held August 20, 2009 KAST Boardroom

PRESENT	Steve Ash Patricia Marshall-Thompson Bob Reardon Sara Golling Terry Miller Aaron Cosbey Kelvin Saldern, Chair
STAFF IN ATTENDANCE	Jennifer Ellis (Recording Secretary) Mike Maturo
AGENDA	Moved by Reardon / Seconded by Ash

BE IT RESOLVED that the agenda for the Sustainability Commission meeting of August 20, 2009 be adopted.

CARRIED

New Business

MANAGER'S UPDATE

Jennifer Ellis provided a number of updates:

- Jennifer Ellis provided an overview of the plans for Golden City Days including a Sustainability Commission brochure and banner and the Stream of Dreams fish painting. Commission members signed up for time slots to be at the Sustainability Commission booth at the Fall Fair. Jennifer will prepare a draft brochure and banner for email discussion and approval.
- Jennifer distributed copies of the International Day of Climate Action poster and encouraged Sustainability Commission and Task Force involvement.
- The City/Sustainability Commission application for funding for the Columbia Basin Trust Climate Change Adaptation program has been successful. The project will start in September.
- The Development Cost Charges discussion that was supposed to be on the August agenda was deferred to the September agenda as there were too many items on the August agenda. Mike Maturo agreed to provide Jennifer Ellis with an update on the status of the DCC discussion at the City. Mike Maturo will also send three documents on DCCs to Jennifer Ellis from the BC Ministry of Community Services to forward to the rest of the Commission.
- Jennifer Ellis requested Commission input with regard to how widely to advertise for members of the Energy Task Force. It was in the Commission Newsletter and is on the website. It was agreed to also put it in the Rossland

Telegraph and on Bhubble as well as distributing it to members of the community on the Sustainability Commission email list.

**MEETING MINUTE
APPROVAL
MOTION**

Moved by Golling / Seconded by Miller

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Meeting Minutes from June 16, 2009 be approved.

CARRIED

**TASK FORCE
UPDATES**

Economic Development

Bob Reardon provided an update for the Economic Development Task Force (EDTF):

- The Nomadic Entrepreneur surveys have started. There were articles on nomadic entrepreneur project in the Rossland Telegraph and Trail Times.
- Bob Reardon is still talking to the Mayor about LCCDT issues.
- Deanne Steven and Bob Reardon are taking a look at tax issues and invigorating the City in creative ways from a business perspective.

Housing and Affordability

Patricia Marshall-Thompson provided an update for the Housing and Affordability Task Force (HATF):

- There will be a regional housing needs workshop organized by the Fraser Basin Council in October. Kelvin Saldern suggested that Jennifer Ellis talk to Laurie Cordell regarding getting the Rossland HATF to be part of the agenda.
- Patricia reviewed her grant writer proposal, which allows any resident (including Task Force members) to apply to be a volunteer grant writer for \$10 an hour up to a maximum of \$250 to be managed by Jennifer Ellis. It was agreed to discuss the proposal further at the September meeting as a grant application for a housing needs assessment has to be prepared in time for the BC Real Estate Foundation's November intake.

Water Stewardship

Sara Golling provided an update for the Water Stewardship Task Force:

- The WSTF is considering adding a new member to help with capacity issues.
- The WSTF discussed DCCs at their last meeting and support the proposed DCC increase. The Task Force felt that high taxes are more of a disincentive to people moving to Rossland than the higher DCCs. Sara Golling felt that DCCs should be structured more so that they apply only if there is an additional burden on City infrastructure. However some Task Force members felt that might be too difficult to administer.
- On the SHIM project, the WSTF is facing some challenges in accessing the funding as the WSTF is not a legal entity and therefore cannot receive cheques. However the CBT does not wish to provide the funding to the City. It was proposed that Jennifer Ellis check with Deb Timm whether the cheque could go to the Sustainability Commission instead and Jen Vogel check with the CBT with regard to whether this would be acceptable to them. Patricia Marshall-Thompson noted that we have to be cognizant of the fact that the Task Force is an arm of the City and therefore the City of Rossland is still responsible for the money and protocols need to be developed to ensure that it is spent appropriately.
- Jen Vogel provided an overview of the SHIM project plan. There will be a Streamkeepers Event with Red Mountain Ventures in September and a Stream of Dreams event with MacLean School. The interim report is due on November 16th and the final report is due May 17th.

- Jen Vogel indicated that there is an invasive plant pull program called “Communities Pulling Together” through the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee. Community groups can get \$250 if they pull invasive plants in priority areas. The group just needs to hold general liability insurance. Patricia Marshall-Thompson noted that private land owners need to be informed if the pull will be on their land.

Energy Task Force

Steve Ash provided an update for the Energy Task Force (ETF):

- The ETF is meeting with Fortis to formulate a plan for auditing City buildings and participating in the Fall Fair for Golden City Days.

Steve Ash asked if Task Forces are going to be requested to prepare a report to Council outlining their progress over the last year. Kelvin Saldern noted that there is no current requirement for this and proposed developing a template and a schedule at the September meeting or in the Strategic Planning session.

**PRESENTATION BY
MIKE STOLTE OF
THE CENTRE FOR
INNOVATIVE AND
ENTREPRENEURIAL
LEADERSHIP**

Mike Stolte of the Centre for Innovative and Entrepreneurial Leadership in Nelson provided an overview of the Centre’s Community Vitality Initiative (CVI) and Business Vitality Initiative (BVI).

The BVI was developed for small communities that were experiencing economic challenges, but were also characterized by some degree of community conflict. These communities needed a process to rebuild trust and develop workable strategies. The goal of the BVI is to get communities to look at their business friendliness and take small apolitical actions to get their businesses moving forward. The BVI was conducted in many Kootenay communities and has since been undertaken in seven provinces and Oregon. Part of the process involves a Communities Matrix, which determines how ready communities are for certain actions based on the level of conflict in the community.

The CVI focuses on three pillars of prosperity – communities should be economically profitable, ecologically sustainable, and socially desirable. The CVI measures community vitality across nine categories and tries to bring urban measures down to rural levels. The process takes a lot of perceptual data and combines it with statistical data. The nine categories, with examples of potential indicators for each, include: a) personal and economic security (can you afford a house, do you feel safe to walk streets), b) learning community (are people looking to learn), c) culture of wellness (do you have healthy looking seniors), d) leadership (do people have a voice in the community are they made to feel welcome), e) a clean environment f) vibrant arts, heritage and culture (do people know local history), g) sense of community and connectedness (do people feel welcome and optimistic about their community), h) community entrepreneurship and innovation (is there a buy local mentality), and i) physical space (is the town well laid out are municipal buildings well cared for).

The CVI is a way of measuring community quality of life relative to other communities by gathering the perceptions of citizens through meetings, open-ended questions and focus groups. The process involves a meeting with community sponsors, an assessment meeting with business people and community leaders, and a focus meeting with the whole community. After these meetings, the report is produced identifying priorities for short and long-term action. Many communities in the area have undertaken CVI or BVI processes including Harrop-Proctor, Nakusp, and Nelson. The perceptual component of the processes is very important.

CIEL also has a new publication entitled "Beyond Economic Survival: 97 Ways Small Communities can Thrive" which is available on its website.

Mike Stolte indicated that there are a few timeframes for doing a BVI or CVI including the Fall (Oct/Nov) and the Spring (Jan/May). The process takes 6 to 8 weeks. The Columbia Basin Trust is interested in providing funding for BVI and CVI processes. Patricia Marshall-Thompson, Bob Reardon and Kelvin Saldern expressed interest in the BVI and suggested it might be more appropriate for Rossland's situation. It was agreed that Bob Reardon and Patricia Marshall-Thompson would have some preliminary discussions and make the potential of undertaking a BVI or CVI an agenda item at the September meeting.

**ENVIRONMENTAL
INITIATIVE
PROGRAM
FUNDING (SHIM
PROJECT) MOTION**

Moved by Cosby / Seconded by Golling

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Sustainability Commission requests that the City of Rossland consider providing \$3000 in additional funding to the Watershed Stewardship Task Force project entitled Sensitive Habitat Inventory Mapping (SHIM) of Rossland Watershed to provide SHIM and GPS-Trimble training to the consultants and technicians who will be undertaking the mapping work.

TABLED

**DISCUSSION ON
THE MOTION**

Jennifer Ellis noted that the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) communicated to Jen Vogel that the City of Rossland should contribute some funding to the SHIM project, but that the CBT's funding was not contingent on funding from the City. Concerns were expressed that although it is a separate project, the WSTF has already received \$40,000 in funding for creek monitoring. Patricia Marshall-Thompson indicated that a request for additional funding needs to be accompanied by a budget and a written request from the CBT. She further noted that such a request should come directly from the CBT to the City. Sara Golling expressed concern that the CBT is just trying to leverage more funding and that the Commission in sending the request to the City is enabling that. Concerns over the wording of the motion were noted with regard to whether it is the WSTF requesting the funding, the CBT or the Commission. Kelvin Saldern suggested that the motion could be reworded. Jennifer Ellis noted that the funding could be taken from the Commission budget rather than requesting it from the City, but that it could have implications for the delivery of other projects. Patricia Marshall-Thompson indicated that perhaps someone else in the community could provide the funding. It was agreed to table the motion and send it back to the WSTF for recommendations.

CLOSE

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am. Next meeting is September 17, 2009 at 8:00 am.

I hereby certify the preceding to be a true and correct account of the Sustainability Commission Meeting held on August 20, 2009.

CHAIR

RECORDING SECRETARY