



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ROSSLAND

Minutes of Meeting of Rossland Sustainability Commission Held December 10, 2009 KAST Boardroom

PRESENT	Kelvin Saldern (Chair) Bob Reardon Kathy Moore Sarah Golling Steve Ash Patricia Marshall-Thompson Erin McGuigan (Consultant) Hanne Smith
STAFF IN ATTENDANCE	Jennifer Ellis (Recording Secretary) Victor Kumar Mike Maturo
AGENDA MOTION	Moved by Kathy Moore/Seconded by Steve Ash THAT the Sustainability Commission adopt a modified agenda to include Energy Task Force Interim Report and Recommendations and the Task Force Terms of Reference after Item #6. <u>CARRIED</u>
CALL TO ORDER	Kelvin Saldern called the meeting to order and welcomed Victor Kumar, the new CAO for the City of Rossland.
MEETING MINUTES MOTION	Moved by Kathy Moore/Seconded by Bob Reardon THAT the Sustainability Commission meeting minutes from November be adopted. <u>CARRIED</u>
MANAGER'S UPDATE	Jennifer Ellis provided an update regarding Sustainability Commission projects. The State of Rossland Indicators Package will be presented to Council after Christmas, once it is approved by the Sustainability Commission. As a result, the final deadline for the State of Rossland project has been moved back by two months. However, this is not an issue as the Columbia Basin Trust very pleased with our progress.

COUNCIL UPDATE

Kathy Moore provided a Council Update. The arena roof issue will be revisited. Kathy Moore noted that a longer-term plan for the arena should be developed before decisions are made. Kathy Moore noted the Council is also discussing the Planning for the Future Part 2 process and will formulate a strategy that will hopefully involve other communities.

**2010
SUSTAINABILITY
COMMISSION
BUDGET
SUBMISSION**

The Sustainability Commission Annual Report and 2010 Budget Submission were discussed in detail.

Everyone has read the Sustainability Commission Annual Report and it is ready to submit to Council. Kelvin Saldern commented that he is very proud of the amount of work and successes the Commission has had.

Steve Ash raised several concerns regarding the budget submission including: 1) The conflict between the need to reduce taxes and applying for a significant Sustainability Commission budget increase; 2) the Sustainability Commission was intended to be a volunteer operation; 3) Prior to 2009, the decisions of the Sustainability Commission and the City were coordinated due to the participation of the City CAO on the Commission. The Commission is now too independent from Council and therefore the Commission budget is too large. Bob Reardon supported this position and indicated that there should be a decrease in the Commission budget not an increase as the Commission needs to show that it is doing the responsible thing. Patricia Marshall-Thompson noted that the Commission came in 15 percent under budget in 2009 and the 2010 budget request actually reflects a 15 percent reduction in the 2009 budget. Moreover she noted it is the Commission's job to identify and work on things that we think are important for the sustainability of the community. Those things have costs and current expenditures are quite reasonable. Kelvin Saldern noted that Jennifer Ellis and Deb Timm do work closely in making consultative expenditure decisions.

The issue of whether taxes are too high in Rossland was disputed. Kelvin Saldern noted that affordability issues in Rossland are also related to the cost of real estate. Sara Golling added that communities, in general, are undertaxed with respect to the real cost of City infrastructure and Rossland is no different.

Kelvin Saldern indicated that the Commission must decide whether it will submit all three budget options (the 15 percent reduction, the 40 percent reduction and the 60 percent reduction) or just the 15 percent reduction. Kelvin Saldern indicated that he would prefer to submit all three options to give Council as much information as the Commission has and let them decide on the value of the work done by the Commission. Steve Ash noted that it is important for Council to see that they can keep the Commission going for considerably less money. Kathy Moore indicated that it would be important for Council to see how many of the Commission's activities would be lost with that kind of budget reduction and that the 60 percent reduction would likely significantly impact the Commission's functioning. Sara Golling indicated that if all three options are to be put forward she would like to see an expansion of the description of what would be lost in the larger budget cut scenarios.

Victor Kumar noted that it would be important to the City to see a return on the money it invests in the Commission through revenues. Kelvin Saldern responded that there is a social benefit to many of the Commission projects that do not necessarily generate monetary revenues. Patricia Marshall-Thompson noted that the SC brought in over \$100,000 in leveraged funding from outside funders through its core budget.

**BUDGET REQUEST
MOTION**

Moved by Sara Golling/ Seconded by Patricia Marshal-Thompson
THAT All three budget options be presented to Council with an expansion of the description of what Commission services and activities will be eliminated in the larger budget cut scenarios.

CARRIED

**STATE OF
ROSSLAND FINAL
INDICATORS
PACKAGE**

The Commission members reviewed the outstanding questions associated with the package of recommended indicators for the State of Rossland project developed through public and Commission input. Minor wording changes were made and the Commission provided some clarify with regard to the outstanding questions. Erin McGuigan noted areas where there were gaps and where data might be challenging to acquire.

Victor Kumar noted that there was a concern that collecting data on all of the sustainability indicators on an annual basis would be expensive for the City. Kelvin Saldern observed that there is a resolution of Council that implementation of the Strategic Sustainability Plan would be monitored through the use of indicators.

**HOUSING NEEDS
ASSESSMENT
GRANT SEED
MONEY MOTION**

A draft motion was presented to commit \$2500 of the 2009 Commission Grant Seed Money funds to a 2010 regional housing needs assessment being undertaken by the Affordable Housing Committee of the LCCDT, with whom the Housing and Affordability Task Force is working. All of the Lower Columbia municipal governments will be asked to contribute a small amount of funding to the regional project.

There was discussion as to whether 2009 budget money can be carried forward into 2010. It was agreed that Jennifer Ellis would follow up with Deb Timm, the Manager of Finance, regarding this issue. Steve Ash requested to see a copy of the Housing Needs Assessment Request for Proposals.

**TASK FORCE
TERMS OF
REFERENCE
MOTION**

The Task Force Terms of Reference have been revised as per Council's comments to be consistent and simplified. All four Task Force Chairs and Task Forces agree on the revised Terms of Reference.

Moved by Bob Reardon/Seconded by Steve Ash

THAT the revised Task Force Terms of Reference be submitted to Council.

CARRIED

**ENERGY TASK
FORCE INTERIM
REPORT AND
RECOMMENDATIONS
TO COUNCIL**

Steve Ash provided an update on the activities of the Energy Task Force. The Task Force is working on getting baseline data to move forward on creating energy plan for Rossland. The Task Force has a draft action plan with priorities in place. The Task Force has already recommended to the City an audit on municipal buildings. The Task Force is considering a fleet management plan and a review of street lighting policy. The Task Force would like to get a City representative to attend their meetings as it considers its role to be advisory rather than implementative. The Task Force also considers it imperative to have an Energy Manager on city staff to coordinate a corporate community energy plan. Discussion ensues regarding the street lighting policy. The Task Force will put forward a request for a person with the City be assigned as an Energy Manager.

There were no objections to the Task Force Interim Report and Recommendations. They will be put forward to Council.

**ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
PROPOSAL NEXT
STEPS**

Kelvin Saldern indicated that there would be a special meeting to address the Commission's Economic Development efforts.

**SUSTAINABILITY
COMMISSION
SOCIAL EVENT**

Kelvin Saldern proposed a Commission Christmas potluck with invitations to the Task Forces, City Council, and City Staff. Kathy Moore volunteered to host and organize the event.

NEW BUSINESS

Bob Reardon indicated that he wanted to provide an update on the activities of the Economic Development Task Force. He noted that the Nomadic Entrepreneur project is on track and that, with the help of Jennifer Ellis, the Task Force has completed the surveys and written a report. The group has also met with the Chamber regarding the project.

Bob Reardon also indicated that he and Don Thompson are now on board of directors for LCI group. It is a very high-powered group. Zac Gribble has now joined the Economic Development Task Force and is contributing to the City's new website.

CLOSE

Meeting adjourned at 11:08 am

I hereby certify the preceding to be a true and correct account of the Sustainability Commission Meeting held on 10 December 2009.

CHAIR

RECORDING SECRETARY