



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ROSSLAND

Minutes of Meeting of Rossland Sustainability Commission Held 16 July 2009 KAST Boardroom

PRESENT

Steve Ash
Patricia Marshall-Thompson
Bob Reardon
Hanne Smith
Sara Golling
Kathy Moore
Mayor Greg Granstrom
Kelvin Saldern, Chair

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Jennifer Ellis (Recording Secretary)
Mike Maturo

AGENDA

Moved by Smith / Seconded by Reardon

BE IT RESOLVED that the agenda for the Sustainability Commission meeting of July 16, 2009 be adopted.

CARRIED

New Business

MANAGER'S UPDATE

Jennifer Ellis provided a number of updates:

- An outline for the LIRN event planned for November to emphasize and map out regional interdependencies was distributed.
- The Climate Change Adaptation letter of commitment went to the CBT. If approved, the Commission will act as the Steering Committee for the process.
- The CBT State of Rossland Indicators and Monitoring process public event is scheduled for Thursday, September 24th from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. Speakers will provide the public with information on what indicators are and how they can be used. The draft set of indicators will be posted around the room and members of the public can wander around and make comments. Commission representatives will be needed to serve as ambassadors at each of the posters.
- The Commission has been asked if it wants to have a Sustainability Commission or Task Force table at the Fall Fair for Golden City Days. It was felt that this was a good opportunity to provide information on the Sustainability Commission. Patricia Marshall-Thompson suggested placing the table downtown to get more exposure. Jennifer Ellis asked for volunteers to stand at the table. Steve Ash indicated that the Energy Task Force would do a table separately with Fortis and Terasen Gas at the Fall Fair. It was agreed to canvas for volunteers at the August meeting.

- The International Climate Change Day of Action on October 24th is being planned by a sub-committee consisting of Jennifer Ellis, Aaron Cosbey, Michelle Laurie, and Adam James. The sub-committee is meeting August 6th. Anyone from the Commission is welcome to join. Jennifer Ellis provided copies of the draft brochure for the event.

**TASK FORCE
UPDATES**

Economic Development

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

- Tourism Rossland is almost finished its office space survey. Deanne Steven has a student doing this and it will be made available to put together a relocation package for Rossland in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce has a new executive director starting Monday. The EDTF will be working more closely with Chamber with a meeting scheduled towards end of August.
- The Nomadic Entrepreneur surveys have started. There is a blurb on nomadic entrepreneur project in the Rossland Telegraph and a press release to encourage nomadic entrepreneurs to fill out a survey will go out soon.
- The EDTF is discussing the LCCDT economic development plan individually with councillors to gauge Rossland's support. It is an informal discussion to gather people's ideas with regard to whether Rossland should support it and how we can support it. If Council approves the ideas, then the Mayor can take them to the LCCDT. Mayor Granstrom confirmed that this issue is on the agenda for COW meeting on Tuesday, and Council will decide how it is participating in the LCCDT. Bob Reardon indicated that the results of his discussions would be provided to both the Commission and Council, but that there is no expected recommendations arising from them at this point in time.
- The EDTF has discussed the DCC issue.
- The EDTF is also trying to bring the BC home inspectors conference to Rossland in April 2010. With Deanne Steven's support, we could invite groups to hold their conferences here.
- The EDTF will replace their Task Force member soon. There is the option to advertise for a new Task Force member in the City or Sustainability Commission newsletter.

Housing and Affordability

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

- The HATF met on June 22nd. They discussed the DCCs and the Task Force Terms of Reference and the letter that Patricia sent to Mike Thomas regarding the DCCs.
- Three Task Force members and Patricia attended the HATF/City ACT workshop on June 25th, which was excellent.
- The HATF received the report from the Attainable Housing Forum in Trail and will be attending the next meeting on July 30th.
- The HATF will be reviewing ACT report and Attainable Housing Forum report and will bring recommendations to the Commission.

Water Stewardship

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

- At their last meeting, the WSTF engaged in a SWOT discussion on water collection, storage, treatment, distribution, and use. They are hoping to put together results and consider the next steps.
- The WSTF added a line to their Terms of Reference addressing members not

- attending meetings and being removed from the Task Force.
- Kathy Moore asked if there had been any progress on the water monitoring program. Sara Golling indicated that Mike Thomas has contacted outfits who will do the monitoring, but has not heard back.
- Steve Ash raised the issue of utilizing Ophir Reservoir as a community resource for hiking and canoeing like they do in Europe. This would allow people to appreciate what a resource we have. There have been proposals for trails in the past but Council did not approve them due to concerns about risks to the reservoir and water. Mike Maturo noted that there is wording in the OCP to support this, and the BEAT report also supports it, but that there would likely be Interior Health Authority issues. Perhaps there would be a way to overcome the health concerns. It was suggested that this issue lies more in the purview of the Kootenay Columbia Trails Society, Tourism Rossland or Blackjack. It was agreed that Kelvin Saldern and Steve Ash would draft up a discussion piece and forward it to the relevant groups.

Energy Task Force

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

- The ETF is in the process of getting questionnaire out to citizens regarding their energy use. Terasen and Fortis are helping to fund this including prizes and programs for Rossland.
- Terasen and Fortis also agreed to do an audit of city facilities and the Task Force will be meeting with them this week. Kelvin queried how this ties in to Bill 27. Councillors got a package regarding Bill 27, which states that anything that we do to address the 33% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2020 has to be on track by 2012. Steve Ash indicated that the ultimate goal of the Energy Task Force is to produce a comprehensive energy plan.
- Kelvin Saldern enquired with regard to how the Task Force is liaising with the City. Steve Ash indicated that the Task Force would not have a permanent staff member but that next week the ETF will have a staff member attend the meeting. They also plan to have their meetings at City Hall so that staff members can drop in for short stints to stay on top of things.

Kelvin Saldern congratulated all the Task Forces on their progress.

DEPUTY CHAIR ELECTION MOTION

Moved by Marshall-Thompson / Seconded by Ash

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Terry Miller be appointed to Deputy Chair of the Sustainability Commission

CARRIED

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Jennifer Ellis indicated that all Task Forces need to have their Terms of Reference finalized to put in a package to submit to Council for July 27th, 2009. Steve Ash indicated that the Energy Task Force Terms of Reference would be completed in September. It was agreed that point 3.6 the Watershed Stewardship Terms of Reference should be incorporated into all the Task Forces' Terms of Reference. Kathy Moore proposed eliminating the need for new Task Force members to come back to Commission for approval. Jennifer Ellis indicated that the approval could be done by email.

MOTION TO APPROVE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Moved by Hanne Smith / Seconded by Sara Golling

THAT the draft Terms of Reference be approved.

CARRIED

HONORARIA OPTIONS

Jennifer Ellis indicated that there is no city policy on honoraria. Patricia Marshall-Thompson queried whether the honoraria proposal is a symptom of not having enough capacity to do the writing and grant proposals. Perhaps the resources available to the Sustainability Commission need to be addressed. Kelvin Saldern noted that the Sustainability Commission is like any other non-profit that faces similar issues and proposed that he and Jennifer Ellis look elsewhere for guidance, such as the Y, United Way or Northern Interior Development Trust. It was agreed that Patricia Marshall-Thompson would write up a proposal to advertise more broadly for volunteer grant writers that would be reimbursed with honoraria. This would separate it from the Task Forces and allow anyone to apply. Jennifer Ellis would manage the grant writers.

DEVELOPMENT COST CHARGES DISCUSSION

Kelvin Saldern identified two issues with respect to Development Cost Charges (DCCs) that the Commission should discuss: 1) The potential to utilize the DCC experience as a case study of the lines of communication between Council and the Commission. 2) The obvious link between DCC and housing, water, and everything. Does the Commission want to make recommendations on DCCs?

Question one was addressed first. There is concern that there was no effort on the part of Council to consult with the Commission on the DCC issue. But the Commission could have attended and provided input on DCCs at the public consultation. The bylaw does not provide any requirement that the City consult with the Commission. The communication issue needs to be resolved so that the Commission can ensure its concerns are heard by Council. Kathy Moore indicated that it was a rookie mistake on the part of Council. Mayor Granstrom noted that only five people attended the open house, but that the bylaw is still under development so there is still time for the Commission to come forward with recommendations. Kelvin Saldern suggested that maybe the Commission and the Council need to pay closer attention to each other. Patricia Marshall-Thompson observed that Commission members are new and now realize they should have started going to those meetings earlier. The key thing is that the Commission now finds the appropriate route to express concerns. City operations have to proceed in a certain way, but there has to be a way for Task Forces and the Commission to fit in and engage on the issues. Sara Golling indicated that DCCs are a good example of a case where the Sustainability Commission needs to accept input from all Task Forces because they all have different interests. Hanne Smith indicated that Council wants to hear from the Sustainability Commission, the Task Forces and residents, and hopes that there would be a way for residents to provide input through the Sustainability Commission. Kelvin Saldern noted that the Commission has Councillors here to be our liaison with Council. Council needs to give the Commission a heads up regarding upcoming decisions and the Sustainability Commission and Task Forces need to be more aware. Once the City has a new CAO in place the flow of information will be better, as the CAO writes the agendas for Council. It was agreed that Council Updates would be made an official agenda item on the Sustainability Commission agenda.

The second question with respect to whether the Commission should provide input on DCCs was addressed. The letters that came from Bob Reardon and Patricia Marshall-Thompson regarding DCCs did not say clearly whether they were endorsed by their Task Forces. Bob Reardon indicated that he wrote his letter as an individual. Patricia Marshall-Thompson indicated that her letter was endorsed by her Task Force and noted that the Commission has an important role in addressing

the bigger picture with regard to how Council decisions affect community both currently and in the future. She suggested that the ACT Workshop Summary be consulted as a useful source of information regarding DCCs and housing affordability that represents the views of a lot of people in the community. Kelvin Saldern observed that the Commission is in agreement that Commission should provide recommendations on DCCs. The issue of what to do if Task Force members were not in agreement was discussed. Kelvin Saldern questioned how the Commission would help Council with decisions if it can't provide Council with unified synthesized thoughts. Hanne Smith and Kathy Moore indicated that they would appreciate hearing the dissenting opinions. Hanne Smith proposed that the Commission present Council with an Executive Summary that highlights majority views, but with appendices that detail each Task Forces views and opinions.

Mayor Granstrom indicated that the DCC bylaw would not be coming forward until the City has a new CAO in mid-September. It was agreed that Task Force chairs should consult with their Task Forces and come prepared to discuss the issue at the August Commission meeting. It was also agreed to put a note in the Commission newsletter that if members of the public want to have input into Commission issues that they can contact Jennifer Ellis.

**ECONOMICALLY
SUSTAINABLE
ROSSLAND**

Kelvin Saldern circulated a discussion piece on creating an economically sustainable Rossland written by Steve Ash and Graham Kenyon. The discussion piece could be forwarded to the Economic Development Task Force, but Steve and Graham may want to advance it to the City independent of the Sustainability Commission. Bob Reardon suggested that the Economic Development Task Force should look at it. Steve Ash indicated that the document came about due to the concern that Rossland is not economically sustainable due to our tax bills and there are fundamental questions with respect to how we are going to create a sustainable community. Property taxes are too high compared to the provincial averages and we are not going to attract people. Businesses outside the municipal boundaries pay significantly less. If taxes are too high, you reach a certain curve and revenues start to go down. Graham Kenyon observed that the DCC issue is related to a challenge that we face associated with infrastructure. It is a logical and rational response to those challenges but ignores the bigger picture of creating an economically sustainable community. The role of the Sustainability Commission is to implement a SSP that has three elements: economic, social, and environmental.

Steve Ash suggested that the Commission needs to create an economic plan that can be put forward to the City. Rossland did this in the early 1990s and that's when it decided to focus on tourism and became the Alpine City. Rossland needs to do some strategic planning on where we should go now from an economic standpoint. Hanne Smith suggested that we should get feedback by the fall to coincide with the budget cycle and that this issue needs to have the full interaction of Sustainability Commission and the community.

Kelvin Saldern indicated that the Economic Development Task Force only has so much capacity and Steve Ash and Graham Kenyon need to decide how they are going to take their proposal forward. Graham Kenyon noted that it was their hope that the proposal could be reviewed by the Commission and then be forwarded to Council. Patricia Marshall-Thompson suggested that the Commission present the document as a Yellow Paper to City Council as a comment on Economic Development and Affordability. Kelvin Saldern noted that the proposal requires Commission review and input first. Kathy Moore indicated that she would like the proposal to be circulated to all of Council.

It was agreed that Commission and Task Force members would review the proposal

and send comments to Jennifer Ellis by the end of July. The comments would be incorporated for further Commission discussion.

EQUIPMENT

Jennifer Ellis indicated that the Commission conducts many public events that require equipment such as large screens and sound systems that we currently have to rent. Over time, those rental costs will exceed the cost of purchasing our own equipment. Jennifer proposed considering the purchase of equipment and presented some possible costs. Kelvin Saldern suggested that Jennifer prepare a recommendation regarding potential purchases for the next meeting. Kathy Moore noted that BlackJack has good sound system.

**STRATEGIC
PLANNING
MEETING
PLANNING**

Jennifer Ellis reminded Commission members to go to Doodle.com and fill in the dates that they are available in late August and September for the Commission Strategic Planning Session.

**OUTSTANDING
ACTION ITEMS**

Jennifer Ellis provided a handout outlining outstanding action items since April, 2009. She noted that, while there are still some tasks to be undertaken, many of the Action Items have been achieved.

CLOSE

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 am. Next meeting is August 20, 2009 at 8:00 am.

I hereby certify the preceding to be a true and correct account of the Sustainability Commission Meeting held on July 16, 2009.

CHAIR

RECORDING SECRETARY