



## THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ROSSLAND

### Minutes of Meeting of Rossland Sustainability Commission Held June 18, 2009 City Hall

**PRESENT**

Terry Miller  
Steve Ash  
Aaron Cosbey  
Patricia Marshall-Thompson  
Jen Vogel  
Bob Reardon  
Hanne Smith  
Kathy Moore

**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 June 18, 2009 be adopted.

CARRIED

#### New Business

**MANAGER'S UPDATE**

Jennifer Ellis updated the Commission with respect to several items she had been requested to look into. The Sustainability Commission budget can be rolled over but next year's budget will be linked to requirements and spending from this year. Regarding the privacy of Task Force applications, the applications kept on file for one year and can be accessed by Task Force Chairs during that time. The City is planning to update its website. Jennifer will work with Stacey Lightbourne to ensure that the new website addresses Sustainability Commission's needs. A concern has been raised by a local builder that Golden City Manor is being renovated through BC Housing and no local businesses were invited to bid because they are not on the pre-qualification list. More information will be sought by Hanne Smith and Jennifer Ellis. If there are barriers for local companies on projects like this, it might be something the Economic Development Task Force should explore.

**TASK FORCE UPDATES**

Economic Development

Bob Reardon reported that the EDTF is conducting interviews for its nomadic entrepreneur project and will be meeting next week.

Housing and Affordability

Patricia Marshall-Thompson indicated that the current focus of the HATF is the upcoming Affordability and Choice Today (ACT) workshop on June 25th. The HATF is also reviewing housing needs assessment funding processes with the intention of developing an application in the fall. A letter of interest for a housing needs assessment was prepared to submit to the Real Estate Foundation of BC. However it was decided to hold off applying so the results of the ACT workshop could be incorporated and funding partners could be identified. The Columbia Basin Trust is now funding housing needs assessments so that is a potential partner that will be explored. A bigger picture concern of the HATF is the proposed DCC increase, which will negatively impact housing affordability. Patricia Marshall-Thompson submitted a letter of concerns to City Engineer that she will forward to the Commission. The concern is cumulative effects of taxes and fees are increasing the cost of housing in Rossland and need to be addressed. The City may need to find another source of funding for infrastructure upgrades. Population is already declining and increased fees may only exacerbate that resulting in the City not receiving the DCC revenues it requires for upgrades. Concern was also expressed that zoning bylaws to increase density may not have much impact if the DCC increases. We want to increase density, but higher DCCs could work against that. Steve Ash noted concern that the City created a Housing Affordability Task Force but then unilaterally moved ahead on DCCs without consulting the Task Force. Mike Thomas will be invited to the ACT workshop and mechanisms to promote better communication between the Sustainability Commission, Task Forces and City Council must be explored.

#### Water Stewardship

Jen Vogel provided an update from the Water Stewardship Task Force. The WSTF will be meeting on the June 23<sup>rd</sup>. They will be discussing DCCs and the Polis project at UBC with respect to whether the city should take part. The WSTF is looking at the existing City water management plan to identify gaps and make recommendations. They have not yet heard back from the CBT regarding the SHIM project application. They will be applying to the Stream of Dreams Mural Society, which provides watershed education for school children through art.

#### Energy Task Force (motion to create Task Force passed during meeting – see below)

Steve Ash provided an update regarding the actions of the pre-existing energy exploratory group. The first key action of the Energy Task Force will be to do an audit of current energy use in the City. An excellent questionnaire has been developed by Ken Holmes. A motion will be made with respect to moving the questionnaire forward later in the meeting.

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROGRAM PARTICIPATION**

The Columbia Basin Trust has invited Rossland to submit a letter of commitment to apply for funding through its Climate Change Adaptation Program. A key concern is to avoid adding significantly to staff workloads. A subcommittee met last week to discuss options for our focus with respect to the application. The group included: Hanne Smith, Kathy Moore, Mike Maturo, Mike Thomas, Jennifer Ellis, Kelvin Saldern and Deb Timm. Three main ideas emerged. The first was to focus on energy and find links between the Climate Change Adaptation program and the City's new obligations under the Province's new Bill 27, which requires City greenhouse gas reduction. The second possibility was to focus on water and house the initiative under the Water Stewardship Task Force. Local food security was also considered in terms of exploring and establishing more formal relationships with local growing areas. Aaron Cosbey noted that there is a messy connection between greenhouse gas mitigation and climate change adaptation. Jen Vogel noted that the WSTF members are already stretched for time. Concerns were expressed that

selecting one of the three options might be premature if we have not yet done the climate change impact assessment that is part of the process. Kathy Moore proposed proceeding with all three options, but this raised concerns again regarding capacity. It was agreed that the Commission could make a motion to proceed with the letter of commitment in principle, that the subcommittee should meet with the Columbia Basin Trust to discuss the issues raised around the options, and that a new proposal would be put forth to the Commission for approval by email the week of June 29th.

**MOTION** Moved by Cosby / Seconded by Moore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Sustainability Commission agrees in principle to apply to the Columbia Basin Trust to participate in the Climate Change Adaptation Program. Mike Maturo, Jennifer Ellis, and Hanne Smith will talk to the Columbia Basin Trust regarding our proposals and develop the letter of commitment. The letter will be sent back to Sustainability Commission to approve by email in advance of sending it to the Columbia Basin Trust on July 6th.

CARRIED

**CREATION OF ENERGY TASK FORCE**

In addition to passing a motion to create an Energy Task Force, Kathy Moore stressed the need to allow the existing Energy Exploratory Group to continue their work as an interim task force comprised of the exploratory group members and one City staff person, while the advertisements and interviews for members for the official Energy Task Force are conducted. The interim Task Force members will have to apply for membership on the Task Force in the same manner as anyone else who is interested. The Sustainability Commission should also authorize the interim Energy Task Force to approach Council to approve a letter of support regarding the release of information from Terasen and Fortis.

**MOTION** Moved by Marshall-Thompson / Seconded by Moore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Sustainability Commission authorizes the creation of an Energy Task Force. All member of the new Energy Task Force must go through the application process. The opportunity to join the Task Force will be advertised and interested parties can apply utilizing the original application forms. Applicants will be interviewed and selected by a Sustainability Commission sub-committee. Budget for the Energy Task Force will be addressed in next year's Sustainability Commission budget.

CARRIED

**MOTION** Moved by Moore / Seconded by Smith

BE IT RESOLVED that the Sustainability Commission strike an interim Energy Task Force comprised of Ken Holmes, Steve Ash, and Adam James and a City staff member until the Energy Task Force membership is finalized.

CARRIED

**MOTION** Moved by Cosby / Seconded by Reardon

BE IT RESOLVED that the Sustainability Commission authorizes the interim Energy Task Force to request Council to approve a letter of support to establish a formal

relationship with Terasen and Fortis and to put out a questionnaire on energy use to the citizens of Rossland. The questionnaire will come to the Commission by email for approval in advance.

CARRIED

**HONOURARIA  
OPTIONS** The discussion regarding honouraria options was deferred until the next meeting. It was suggested that the history of reimbursing Councillors with respect to mileage, honouraria and expenses be explored.

**TRANSITION  
TOWN TRAINING  
MOTION** Moved by Ash / Seconded by Moore  
  
BE IT RESOLVED that the Sustainability Commission authorizes the expenditure of funds from its budget to cover 50% of the costs of any Commission or Task Force member wishing to attend the Transition Town training being offered through Selkirk College in Nelson 17-18 July 2009.

CARRIED

**CITY  
PARTICIPATION IN  
POTENTIAL  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICE** Rationale for Motion (provided in advance)  
The Chair of the EDTF has been participating in Lower Columbia Community Development Team (LCCDT) meetings. The LCCDT, currently a loosely formed, but influential, volunteer organization, has been working towards formalizing the LCCDT into a body that is officially recognized and could then apply for grants or regional funding for various requirements. The LCCDT also has put forward a proposal and plan for a new Regional Economic Development Office (Greater Trail).

Mayor Granstrom has expressed his support to both the reorganized LCCDT and the recommendation for the formation of an Economic Development Office.

We fully realize that time is short and that Council must approve the funding requirement for Rossland, but time is of the essence and after rejoining the LCCDT following years of absence, we would again find ourselves on the outside if we cannot support this proposal. The EDTF has stated that our number one priority is to see a new Regional/Area Economic Development Officer in place as soon as possible as we feel that while we will have successes, much more could be accomplished with a full time position.

**MOTION** Moved by Moore / Seconded by Ash  
  
BE IT RESOLVED that the Economic Development Task Force is formally recommending through the Sustainability Commission that Council approve City participation within the Lower Columbia Community Development Team's (LCCDT) Economic Development Office initiative and continue to work with our local neighbours.

CARRIED

**REFOCUSSED LIRN  
EVENT PROPOSAL** Jennifer Ellis outlined the proposed Learning Initiative for Rural and Northern BC (LIRN) event to be one that focuses on regional interdependencies to emphasize how interconnected we all are within the region and to enhance our abilities to identify opportunities to work together. Kathy Moore felt it was a great idea and

should be recommended to Council with specifications with respect to how Council can support this event.

**MOTION** Moved by Moore / Seconded by Ash

BE IT RESOLVED that the Sustainability Commission approve the proposed LIRN event as an event to identify and map regional interdependencies (i.e. flows of people, goods, services, water, waste, and money) to enhance our abilities to understand regional flows and identify opportunities to work as a region.

CARRIED

**NEXT MEETING DATE** The next meeting date for the Commission be Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 from 8:00 am to 10:00 am.

**CLOSE** Meeting adjourned at 10:09 am

I hereby certify the preceding to be a true and correct account of the Sustainability Commission Meeting held on June 18, 2009.

---

**CHAIR**

---

**RECORDING SECRETARY**