

Ecological Community Advisory Committee

Report

The 2nd Meeting of the Ecological Community Advisory Committee
January 18, 2024

Attendance PRESENT: S. Levin (Chair), S. Evans, T. Hain, S. Hall, B. Krichker, R. McGarry, G. Sankar, S. Sivakumar and V. Tai and H. Lysynski (Committee Clerk)

ABSENT: M. Lima and K. Moser

ALSO PRESENT: S. Butnari, K. Edwards, E. Hunt, M. Shepley and E. Williamson

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 PM; it being noted that S. Evans, T. Hain, G. Sankar, S. Sivakumar and V. Tai were in remote attendance.

1. Call to Order

1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

2. Scheduled Items

2.1 Draft 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget

That it BE NOTED that the presentation from K. Murray, Director, Financial Planning and Business Support, appended to the Ecological Community Advisory Committee Added Agenda related to the Draft 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget, was received.

2.2 Civic Infrastructure Compensation

That it BE NOTED that the presentation from K. Edwards, Manager, Community Planning, appended to the Ecological Community Advisory Committee Added Agenda related to Civic Infrastructure Compensation, was received.

3. Consent

3.1 1st Report of the Ecological Community Advisory

That it BE NOTED that the 1st Report of the Ecological Community Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on December 14, 2023, was received.

3.2 Municipal Council Resolution – 12th Report of the Ecological Community Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council resolution adopted at its meeting held on December 19, 2023 with respect to the 12th Report of the Ecological Community Advisory Committee was received.

4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

None.

5. Items for Discussion

5.1 Multi-Year Budget Business Cases 61, 62 and 63

That the following actions be taken with respect to Business Cases 61, 62 and 63 in the Draft 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget:

- a) the Municipal Council BE REQUESTED to include Business Cases 61, 62 and 63 in the Final 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget;
- b) the revised, attached, 2024-2027 Budget recommendation BE FORWARDED to the Budget Committee for consideration; and,
- b) the Ecological Community Advisory Committee Vice Chair BE REQUESTED to attend the January 29, 2024 Budget Committee meeting to support the above-mentioned business cases.

5.2 Environmental Management Guidelines Update (2024) Terms of Reference

That a Working Group BE ESTABLISHED consisting of S. Levin (lead), S. Evans, S. Hall and B. Krichker, to review and report back on the draft Terms of Reference for the Environmental Management Guidelines; it being noted that the Ecological Community Advisory Committee heard a verbal presentation from E. Williamson, Ecologist Planner and received the draft Terms of Reference for the Environmental Management Guidelines update appended to the Ecological Community Advisory Committee Added Agenda.

5.3 Byron Gravel Pits Draft Secondary Plan

That a Working Group BE ESTABLISHED consisting of S. Hall (lead), S. Levin and K. Moser with respect to the Byron Gravel Pits Draft Secondary Plan; it being noted that the Byron Gravel Pits Draft Secondary Plan was appended to the Ecological Community Advisory Committee Agenda.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Ecological Master Planning Funding – Business Case #61

There are three parts to this. The budget impact is not until the last year (2027) because of a legislative change of what Development Charges can be used for. However, the next DC by law is now planned to come into force and effect Jan 1, 2028 which may affect the 2nd and 3rd parts of the case.

First Part: In 2024 there is a request for \$50,000 (.01% or 22 cents in 2024 but at the end of the 4 year cycle there is NO INCREASE) to do the Council directed bi-annual review of the Environmental Management Guidelines. This document was updated in 2021 (after 15 years). Not currently funded.

Budget impact:

2024 – increase of \$50,000

2025 – DECREASE of \$50,000

2026 - increase of \$50,000

2027 - DECREASE of \$50,000

Second and Third Parts: Conservation Master Plans and Post development EIS compliance monitoring. No budget impact until 2027 when Development Charges can no longer be used (legislation change). The next DC by law will start in 2028, making for a possible change to these parts of the business case.

Budget impact:

NO IMPACT ON 2024-2026.

2027 – increase of \$170,000 for both (Increase of 76 cents on the budget in 2027)

ESA Management – Business Case #62

To restore staffing level to the level of 2014 in 2024 (one new member of the ESA Team) and increase it by another staff person in 2026. Total increase for four years is \$1.32. ESA Management consists of

five elements:

- Monitoring and enhancing including invasive species management
- Enforcement of provincial and municipal regulations and by laws
- Overseeing and implementing hazard tree policies to keep trails safe
- Developing and maintaining the trail system
- Community

education Budget impact:

2024 increase of \$140,000 (0.02% - 63 cents)

2025 increase of \$6,000 (0.00% - another 2 cents)

2026 increase of \$143,000 (0.02% - another 64 cents)

2027 increase of \$7,000 (0.00% - another 3 cents)

Use of ESAs has increased since COVID and has not returned to pre COVID levels. The team has also been involved in working with the city with encampments. The amount of land has increased without an

increase in staffing stretching resources even further. Also since 2015, there have been 6,900 new housing units built within 500 m of the 12 ESAs. As you will note on page 728 of the budget document, most of their time has been spent on trails and less on monitoring and enhancing the natural resource.

As with a growing city that needs more fire protection, you can't really add part of a truck and part of a crew, at a certain point, you build the firehall and staff it with the equipment and people you will need for the present and the future, the need for extra staff in the ESA team has reached that point.

An alternative would be to wait a year on the new hire, or add one position in 2024 and the second position in 2027. Or some other combination, but one additional staff only replaces what was lost in

2014 and reflects the increase in land being managed.

The risk of doing nothing is continued degradation of city property (ESAs)

SILVER CREEK – BUSINESS CASE #63

To implement a recommendation of the Sub-watershed Plan and Conservation Master Plan for the Coves that has been left undone for over 10 years. This will improve the trail connection with an accessible link between Southcrest Ravine and Euston Park as well as improve ecological health in the Coves subwatershed and ESA.

Budget impact (capital levy):

2024 – increase of \$200,000 to update 2018 restoration design work (0.03% or 90 cents)

2025 – increase of \$1,600,000 to do the work (0.2% or \$8.06)

2026 – decrease of \$1,800,000

Risks include siltation of the Coves ponds harming fish habitat and risking violations of the Fisheries Act (see page 734 of budget document).