REGULAR MINUTES

Minutes of the LEDUC ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD Regular Meeting held Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at the City of Leduc, Civic Centre, Telford Street Board Room, #1 Alexandra Park, 46TH Avenue & 48A Street, Leduc, Alberta.

PRESENT:
Katie Oliver
Councillor, Glen Finstad
Jill Mitchell
Linda McDonald
Tyler Dekok
Douglas Hube

WITH REGRETS:
Jaimee Dupont Morozoff

ALSO PRESENT:
Kerra Chomlak – City Representative
Shirley Weslosky – Recording Secretary

Melanie Nesimiuk, public - attended the meeting at 7:40 pm

CALL TO ORDER

I. CALL TO ORDER
Katie Oliver called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
One addition to the agenda was made under Unfinished Business: Light Pollution Abatement.

Motion: It was Moved by Linda McDonald to approve the October 18, 2016 agenda as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

III. APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
Motion: It was Moved by Glen Finstad to accept the regular meeting minutes of September 13, 2016 as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS

IV. REPORTS

Chairman’s Report
- Katie Oliver circulated the following article for review:
  - Leduc Rep, “Keeping Leduc Green and Wild.”

Council’s Report
- Glen attended the Alberta Urban Municipality Association’s (AUMA) meeting and spoke with Environment Minister Shannon Phillips. He requested the previously scheduled meeting with her proceed and include other waste reduction organizations such as: Alberta Care, Recycling Council of Alberta and Capital Region Waste Minimization Advisory Committee.
- Glen is following the AUMA position on the effect that the carbon tax will have on municipalities and will keep LEAB up to date.
• Glen attended the Leduc & District Regional Waste Management Authority meeting in the Lede room, which includes the City's new sorting station. The contents within the bins were not sorted properly. Glen would like to see more education for LDRWMA and City employees on sorting waste.
• Glen is in discussions with the Leduc County and City of Leduc to host the Alberta Care conference in 2017. He is looking into the possibility of MCL sponsoring the conference, with the aim of a three way split to support a $10,000-$15,000 sponsorship. LEAB will discuss in January whether they want to contribute to this sponsorship.
• Glen helped the CPO’s with a weed pulling event in Deer Valley during the summer.

Administration’s Report
• Advertising for LEAB members to join LEAB in 2017 was in the October issue of the Leduc Rep. There are six positions available; four residents have applied for positions including some current board members who have reapplied for another term.
• The LEAB budget update was presented to the board and will be circulated with the minutes. Expenses total $5,256 to date, with a balance of $1,244, which is expected to be fully spent by year end on: a year-end dinner, advertising, and Festival of Trees. LEAB did more advertising this year for events such as bird counts and Arbor Day because less was spent on professional development than budgeted.
• Kerra is working on a drainage study with Beaumont, Edmonton, Leduc County, Strathcona County and the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance. They are sharing information on water quality and erosion issues with the intent to agree to a plan that will assist with future Alberta Environment Water Act approvals.
• The City is working on an Environmentally Sensitive Areas Study, similar to what Leduc County has undertaken. It reports on habitat value and habitat connectivity in vegetated areas and water bodies in Leduc. The Eaton and Emery lands north of Robinson include the largest tree stand in the City and Administration is currently considering the requirements for a biophysical assessment.
• Kerra is working with the Alberta Capital Airshed Alliance to select locations for passive air quality monitoring in the Leduc area; one proposed site is in the area behind the police station.
• The LRC solar panel project is the largest commercial rooftop installation in Canada with 3622 panels. LEAB would like to know if there will be any future incentives for home owners to have solar installation on their homes.

Action: Kerra will look into solar installation incentives for residents and report back to LEAB.
V. APPROVAL OF REPORTS

Motion: It was Moved by Tyler Dekok to approve the above noted reports for information purposes only.

MOTION CARRIED

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Urban Bee Keeping Policy and Urban Hen Keeping
   • LEAB’s letter was sent to Council and was discussed at a meeting. Council’s feedback was to focus on bee keeping education as a first step, and wait on hen keeping to review the results of Edmonton’s project. A suggestion was to work with partners e.g. Canadian Tire to promote pollinator gardens. LEAB could consider a pilot in conjunction with Arbour Day. The bee keeping educational plan will be discussed at a later meeting.
   • It was suggested that LEAB put together an urban food policy; this may be a better way to approach Council than on urban bee keeping or hen keeping.
   • Communities in Bloom may be interested in the bee keeping/pollinator education and LEAB could work with them to get a pilot project going.

Action: Katie will attend a Communities in Bloom meeting in the future to discuss bee keeping.

B. Saunders Lake Area Structure Plan
   • Area F in the concept map is zoned, “Nisku/Leduc Business Industrial.” Attached. It was suggested that the City of Leduc/Leduc County should provide more information on what is expected here. Graphics of potential development would greatly assist LEAB members in understanding the vision for this area, and how it compares with the look and feel of the existing Nisku and Leduc Business Park area. LEAB’s questions include: What types of development would be permitted? How would this be enforced?
   • There will be a public hearing on October 25 at 6:00 pm at the Nisku Inn to discuss the inter-municipal development plan to accommodate the Saunders Lake Industrial Development Plan.
   • Some LEAB members have been receiving comments from residents in the Saunders Lake area. Katie reviewed LEAB’s mandate as stated in the LEAB bylaw:
     1. Purpose of the Leduc Environmental Advisory Board
        a) The Board shall advise Council on environmental matters and propose to Council any programs or practices for the protection, enhancement and wise use of the environment.
        b) The Board shall disseminate information to and for the residents of the City, to create a better appreciation of wise and prudent environmental practices.
• It was agreed that it is not LEAB's responsibility to represent the interests of residents in the Saunders Lake Area, but rather to be informed about the environmental issues related to the area and advise Council on specific topics as appropriate.

Action: Kerra will request from the Planning Department a definition and description of business industrial zone, including graphics, and potentially another presentation on the status of the various planning documents.

C. Environmental Reserve Definition in the Municipal Government Act
• Changes are being proposed to the ER definition in the MGA. Kerra will circulate by email a status update for LEAB's review and discussion at the next meeting.

D. Festival of Trees November 19 & 20, 2016
• The tree entry fees have increased since last year. The entry fee was previously $25.00, which has now increased to $250.00.
• LEAB is interested in putting a tree in this year but will first investigate if there is a special rate for non-profit organizations.

E. Toxic Round Up October 15, 2016
• There were 336 cars through the eco station dropping of hazardous waste, which is higher than expected considering the weather.
• There was 200 people in the tent entering the draw and enjoying coffee and donuts.

F. Light Pollution Abatement
• LEAB sent a letter to Council recommending a light efficient community policy be established.
• Doug delivered a very informative, well-received presentation to the Chamber of Commerce luncheon, with a focus on how Leduc businesses can be more light efficient.
• Doug provided a list of proposed next steps to move the light efficient policy forward (attached).

Action: Administration will draft a bylaw and an educational strategy for light efficiency for review at the next LEAB meeting.

G. The Southfork Community Gardens
Melanie Nesmiuk gave an update on the 2016 Southfork gardens.
• The Southfork gardeners would like to keep the gardens where they are located at this time.
• The season was very successful with 21 gardeners.
• They had some raised gardens, tarp gardens, and one bee pollinator garden.
• 50 pounds of vegetables went to the food bank and a separate package was provided to a family in need.
• The gardeners harvest deadline was Wednesday, October 12, 2016.
• Some gardens experienced theft, but signage seemed to help.
• Next year they would like to have some bat houses and bee hotels put up by the gardens.
• The garden location is temporary, they would like to see a permanent location for the gardens.
• Fifteen gardeners would like to continue to garden next year.
• The Southfork gardeners were charged a $20 membership fee to have a garden with a $50 deposit.
• Melanie asked if LEAB could write a letter to Council in support of the community gardens in Southfork.
• The project is being evaluated between Melanie, members of the garden group and City of Leduc. A detailed report is being written and will be forwarded to LEAB members prior to the November meeting.
• The most likely outcome will be a detailed policy and checklist to evaluate similar requests that may arise in other areas of the City.
• The key to success is to have a champion willing to invest time in coordinating the startup of a garden project.

Motion: it was Moved by Linda McDonald to defer the decision on the Southfork Community Garden support letter to the November LEAB meeting, to allow time for LEAB members to thoroughly review the City's evaluation report.

MOTION CARRIED

Action - Tyler to write a draft letter to Council in support of the community gardens in Southfork to review at November meeting.

IX. OPEN DISCUSSION

The Alberta Care conference will be held at Olds College on February 22 to February 24, 2017 and Alberta Care "Waste Recycling and Waste Minimization" will be held September 6 to September 8, 2017, hopefully in the City of Leduc.

In January, LEAB will review the agenda for the September AB Care conference and discuss the potential to support student registrations.

Jayco Welding constructed a drinking water trailer for the Alberta Summer games and other city events. Jayco Welding would like to make a similar trailer for waste diversion, e.g. to separate the various waste streams for events with the City of Leduc. Glen will follow up with Jayco.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: it was Moved by Jill Mitchell to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

Chairperson

Recording Secretary