

**LEDUC ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022
VIRTUAL MICROSOFT TEAMS
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REGULAR MINUTES Minutes of the LEDUC ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD Regular Meeting held Tuesday, February 8, 2022 via Virtual Microsoft Teams, Leduc, AB.

PRESENT: Councillor Lars Hansen
Councillor Ryan Pollard
Benjamin McDonald
Jennifer Roach
Wendy Yule
Lynne Chalmers
Mindy Paradis
Sheila Ruddy
Brittany Onysyk

WITH REGRETS: Ngaire Nix

ALSO PRESENT: Shelby Lowe – City Representative
Jenna Chernuka – City Representative
Keri Nelson – Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

I. CALL TO ORDER

Wendy Yule called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA
09/2022**

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: It was Moved by Brittany to approve the January 11, 2022 Agenda.

MOTION CARRIED

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES
10/2022**

Motion: It was Moved by Jenn to accept the meeting minutes of January 11, 2022 as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

IV. SAFETY MOMENT

**SAFETY
MOMENT**

- Lithium Ion batteries caused three residential fires in Leduc
- City of Leduc and Leduc Fire Services are asking the public to be mindful of how they use lithium ion batteries and raising awareness around the potential fires these batteries can cause.
- Manufacturers use this technology more and more so there will be a possibility for these types of fires to become more common
- Lithium batteries are found in a number of household devices, including smart phones, laptops, smoke alarms, toys, cars, e cigarettes and more.
- According to the safety checklist posted by the City of Leduc on social media these batteries store a large amount of energy in a small space and can catch fire or overheat when not used, charged, or disposed of properly.
- Fire services recommend people only charge devices with these batteries on hard, flat surfaces not on anything soft like a pillow or couch and out in the open, away from anything that could catch fire.

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- National Fire Protection Association advises users to stop using batteries if you notice odour, change in colour, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, odd noises
- These fires require a lot of water to put out
- Users should not put lithium ion batteries in the garbage, but should instead recycle them at the City of Leduc Eco Station

- Button Batteries – Are small enough to be swallowed by children. Our digestive enzymes eat away at the battery and will burn a hole in the esophagus within 2 hours
 - Do not allow children to take battery toys to bed with them
 - If you feel they have swallowed a battery get them to the hospital immediately to be seen by a doctor.

V. REPORTS

A. Chair's Report

- Keri sent out a link to **Canadian Wildlife Federation's 'Gardening for Wildlife'** online course. There are 5 weeks of videos and supporting material to help you with the basics of wildlife-friendly gardening. Explore at your own pace, although starting with Week 1 at the beginning is helpful. From there, the other sections can be explored in any order. Sign up deadline is Feb 14th.
- The website states: "**As more land is developed for human use, our gardens are needed now more than ever to provide wildlife with habitat that wouldn't otherwise be there. Every wildlife-friendly garden is a haven that can act as a stepping stone between larger areas of natural habitat**".
- If you don't already have one, you'll need to sign up for a TakingItGlobal account by entering a username and password (not a Cdn Wildlife Federation account).
- Lynne Chalmers and I have been working on the Citizen of Distinction nominations in the Environment Category. It involved many discussions with those involved in each of the environmental initiatives, as well as obtaining letters of support.
- Lynne is working on getting her report copied over to the template. Request to the board if 2 or 3 members could write a letter of support for the Diversion of Waste at the Leduc Coop store.

REPORTS

B. Council's Report

- REP and capacity limits will end in City Facilities
- Challenging year with snow clearing, crews have been working 24 hours a day 6 days a week to remove snow. They are running out of space to store the snow on site. As of today crews are all caught up They are circling back to some areas that did not get cleared due to vehicle being left on the road.
- Inspector from the RCMP came and did an update on intelligence based policing, focusing on areas that they have received from their crime analysis. Overall crime is down within the City of Leduc.
- City has launched a survey to increase the level of public engagement to see if we are doing well. Take the survey on the city website.
- Citizens of Distinction applications due by February 28, 2022
- Parking ban was discussed in regards to a potential update to the Traffic Bylaw within the City of Leduc. The request was brought forward to bring in parking bans for road clearing, so that Bylaw would have the

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ability to ticket and tow when vehicles are left on the road during snow removal in that area. Council is now considering this new bylaw change. No changes have been made as of yet.

- Potential pan handling bylaw.
- Property assessments went out in January.
- Economic update within the City of Leduc is seeing an increase in industrial growth.
- Implementation of the Provincial Police force. Meetings will be held on February 14 & 28. Please reach out to MLA Rutherford's office to get a link for the meetings.
- Airport Vicinity Protection Area Survey is open until February 11, 2022
 - The City of Leduc and the Edmonton Airport Authority have been working together, along with the Government of Alberta, on a path forward for amendments to the Edmonton Airport Vicinity Protection Area (AVPA) regulations. The City of Leduc supports 24-hour operations at the Edmonton International Airport and recognizes this as a vital part of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region. The proposed amendments will allow Leduc to grow and thrive, while also continuing to support 24-hour operations at the airport
- Public Engagement Survey is still open until February 11, 2022
 - Lynne and Wendy attended the virtual strategic sessions.

C. Administration's Report

- The survey results around adjusting meeting start times have been reviewed and evaluated. The majority voted to shift meeting start times to 6:00pm moving forward.
- Administration also connected with three other City boards for comparison (PRC, FCSS, and the Library) and found their meeting start times fell between 4:30pm-6:00pm so an earlier meeting would be consistent with what other boards currently have in place.
- Based on all of this information, we recommend shifting meeting start times to 6:00pm beginning with our March 8th meeting. And, if there are no concerns I suggest a motion is passed to amend the start time.
- 2022 has been declared the "year of the garden" by Communities in Bloom and the Canadian Garden Council. The campaign is designed to reach and inspire the public to learn about the connection gardening has to important community benefits. Leduc will be competing internationally with judges arriving sometime between June and July. The initiative is being managed between Community Development and Parks & Open Spaces but our Environmental team will be involved to ensure all of our department's projects and LEAB's initiatives are highlighted.
- Administration has decided to apply for a grant through Natural Resources Canada's 2 Billion Trees Program. The program objective is to plant two billion trees in Canada over the next 10 years, permanently increasing forest cover across the country.
- Andy Tait submitted a report for circulation (titled "Executive Summary Bird Dynamics Winter and Summer Species 2012-2022"). The report includes his analysis of data gathered in our local bird counts since 2012 and summarizes some conclusions on trending species that inhabit our region year-round (overwintering birds).
- We've officially hired a solar consultant – SMP Engineering.
 - Carport: Our first solar carport has been successfully installed at the ATB parking lot downtown. This was funded through the

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MCCAC's (Municipal Climate Change Action Centre) AMSP (Alberta Municipal Solar Funding Program) Grant.

- We're waiting for our ZEVIP (Zero Emission Vehicle Awareness) grant approval from Natural Resources Canada to be signed and will then move ahead with purchasing 4 EV chargers for the carport.
- EV Chargers: We also applied to the MCCAC's EV Chargers Grant and have secured \$200,000.00 in grant funding towards the installation of new EV chargers at the LRC.
- E-Scooters: In total, there were 1107 survey respondents and votes for and against were very close. Administration presented a "what we heard report" to Council yesterday and proposed a bylaw amendment that would enable a pilot program to roll out this summer. We received unanimous support to proceed.

MOTION: It was moved by Lynne to amend the start time to 6 pm starting March 8, 2022

MOTION CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF
TIME CHANGE
11/2022**

VI. APPROVAL OF REPORTS

Motion: It was Moved by Jenn to accept the above noted reports for information purposes only.

MOTION CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF
REPORTS
12/2022**

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Coal Policy – Update

- Alberta's Energy Minister has not yet released to the public the AB Coal Policy Committee's report which was submitted Dec 30/21.
- It was recently announced that Alberta's Court of Appeal rejected an appeal by Benga Mining (a company owned by Australian billionaire Gina Rinehart) that its provincial regulator treated the company unfairly when it rejected the controversial Grassy Mountain project last year.
 - "At its core, Benga's argument is that the panel should have preferred Benga's expert evidence," ruled Court of Appeal Justice L. Bernette Ho in part of her 32-page decision.
- Last June, a Joint Review Panel, conducted by the Alberta Energy Regulator, concluded that Benga's proposal for an open-pit coal mine had grossly underestimated the impacts of selenium pollution on the Oldman River basin and overstated its economic benefits in a 679-page decision.
- The report also noted that the destruction of Grassy Mountain in the Crowsnest Pass would threaten already endangered cutthroat trout populations and surface water quality in the Oldman River basin, which is already under stress due climate change and other developments.
 - Just because a company might disagree with a regulatory decision doesn't mean it was performed unfairly, contravened the law or ignored the evidence, argued Ho in her 32-page decision

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

B. Single Use Plastics – Update

- LEAB will follow closely to see if the information is sent out a bit faster, the draft regulations look good for now.

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- Council update next week
 - LEAB has committed to the continued watchful eye over the federal requirements as well as the local requirements of Spruce Grove and Edmonton as they have rolled out their new bylaws
 - LEAB will report back to council.
- C. Spraying fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides in Leduc – Sub-group update**
 - Hiring a company to do up the survey that can be sent out to City of Leduc residents.
 - Questions will all be fact based. 5 main principals will be highlighted.
 - Administration has asked for a Request for Proposal (RFP) before hiring the company.
 - LEAB wants to be actively involved with the company when they do up the survey.
 - Documenting what is presently being done to reduce pesticides and what are the goals.
 - Sub Committee meeting on February 23, 2022.
 - At the January 18 subcommittee meeting, members compiled a list of items they would like to see addressed in the survey.
 - Administration is still in support of a spring/summer roll out while topic is top of mind for residents. Administration is working on an RFP to help secure a consultant to assist with building a statistically significant survey.
 - Any recommendations for potential budget required in 2023 will be flagged during June budget deliberations.

ACTION: Subcommittee Flag a need for budget in June to council which hopefully will extend the deadline. Spring/Summer timeline roll out for the survey

- D. Green House Gas Plan/CEIP Update**
 - Council voted yes to the E Scooters in Leduc.
 - The public may require more education and information on them, an extra update on the regulations in place would be good for confidence from the public. Awareness that E Scooters will have a speed limit
 - E Scooters are considered a form of Active Transportation. It is important to consider the GHG's emitted during their manufacture, maintenance and end of life disposal or ability to recycle parts.
 - GHG Committee to look into how that measures up in regards to GHG.

- E. Dark Skies**
 - Lighting on the North Side of Telford is very bright.
 - The lights at the old City of Leduc shops are very bright; is there something that can be done to cut down on light pollution there?
 - Would motion lights be an option along the multiway of Telford Lake as well as in the newer developments of the industrial parks to help with security?
 - January 14, 2022 Doug's interview was published in the Leduc Rep
 - Recommending to council that LEAB is considering a local strategy and will report back to council in the future.

ACTION: Keri Book Sub Committee Meeting Combining Dark Skies and Buffers & Berms

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F. Bees and Hens

- Administration has prepared social media posts and an ad for the paper to be published late February. This will serve as a friendly reminder that the program is still available for interested applicants.
- Towards the end of the pilot, program success will be evaluated against criteria originally laid out by LEAB. Recommendations to extend the pilot program will be flagged by Administration during budget deliberations in June.

G. Telford Lake Berms and Buffers

- Wendy to catch up with John Stevens and report back
- Administration is presenting to Council on February 14th. Administration would like to formally thank the Province for funding contributed through Alberta Environment's Wetland Replacement Program thus far (which has been over \$200,000.00 to restore just under 1 hectare of wetland habitat in the City). This year we will be focusing our efforts on the monitoring and maintenance of the two wetland restoration projects we've completed to date and helping them establish. We would also like to celebrate these projects through our website, social media, and educational signage to help spread awareness of the program and the benefits of wetlands in general and to highlight the City's participation in the program.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- Kelly Stadnyk – City of Leduc Planning

- Presented the Telford Lake Master Plan

<https://www.leduc.ca/sites/default/files/Telford%20Lake%20Master%20Plan%20Final%20Report.pdf>

- Land Use Bylaw

<https://www.leduc.ca/sites/default/files/Land%20Use%20Bylaw%20809-2013%20-%20October%202013%202021%20%28last%20edit%29.pdf>

- Land Zoning Map

https://www.leduc.ca/sites/default/files/Land%20Use%20Bylaw%20809-2013_9.pdf

- Telford Industrial Overlay Map

https://www.leduc.ca/sites/default/files/Land%20Use%20Overlay%20-%20Telford%20Industrial_3.pdf

- Kelly was interested in the Dark Skies initiative, requested Admin to send her supporting documents from LEAB.
- Board member asked "Can you ask businesses to shut off the lights in the evenings, so the birds/wildlife are not affected?"
 - Bylaw has revisions for lighting and it's a balancing act. Industrial areas face high rates of theft and vandalism. Studies show that crime prevention is best handled through lighting, We light the property to deter crime activity, along with balancing for transit and people making them feel safe. People feel more comfortable walking in well-lit areas. Raising concerns about the wildlife is important and it would be a good idea to work with Dark Skies to find the best lighting

**NEW
BUSINESS**

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for the area to make sure that we are protecting the industrial sites as well as the wildlife.

- Board member asked “Wondering where requirements came from and what data was used to decide how many trees need to be planted in new developments?”
 - This was based on lot area; the area was calculated based on percentage. Minimum requirement of trees from the slide tree. Storm water management, mixes of shrubs and trees. Bylaw was done in 2013 the regulations have been around for a while. Report found that Leduc is comparable to many districts based on land size. That is what impacts how many trees need to be planned
- Board member voiced the “Concern around Telford Lake and the multiway; How close can businesses be built to Telford Lake?”
 - Narrowest area is 75 meters for development
 - Ducks unlimited was consulted in the process before approval.
- Board member asked “What type of enforcement will these businesses have to abide by over the years if trees die?”
 - The City of Leduc does an inspection after landscaping is complete. Following that, is a 1-year maintenance check. The City of Leduc does not schedule further inspections following the maintenance check.
 - The developer is aware of the Bylaw. If they were to remove 30% of their trees on site, drainage issues would likely occur. At that point the City of Leduc could go back to the master plan and advise around the required number of trees and enforce said requirement.
- City of Leduc has a Land Use Bylaw in place – if the change is made tomorrow it would be for development moving forward. These changes would not take effect for older developments.
- Perhaps an Industrial zone review could be requested. May be able to incorporate the request for appropriate lighting for wildlife and security of businesses.

IX. OPEN DISCUSSION

- Mindy will present the Safety moment for the March 8, 2022 meeting
- Elena Hansen could support finding volunteers for tree planning perhaps. Mention of noxious weeds. Is that something that the volunteers could help with?
- LEAB would like to organize a couple days to get out and get rid of the weeds around Telford. Promoting doing it in a non-toxic way. Jenna to follow up with Parks in regards to the best areas for that.
- Best wishes to Shelby on her next adventure of motherhood
- LEAB could potentially be losing some board members in 2023 as terms are coming due. Recruiting would be in LEAB’s best interest.
- Jenna to determine everyone’s term and who we can expect to be leaving the board.

**OPEN
DISCUSSION**

X. FUTURE TOPICS

FUTURE TOPICS

- A.** ICI, Multi-Unit and Industrial Pilot.
- B.** Urban tree removal and replacement policy/bylaw.

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XI. ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: it was Moved by Brittany to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

13/2022

MOTION CARRIED

XII. NEXT MEETING

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on March 8, 2022 at virtually



Chair



Recording Secretary