

**LEDUC ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2018
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REGULAR MINUTES Minutes of the **LEDUC ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD** Regular Meeting held Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at Kosmos Two Boardroom, 5010 - 49 Avenue, Leduc, AB

PRESENT: Katie Oliver
Councillor Lars Hansen
Councillor Glen Finstad
Sheila Ruddy
Jennifer Roach
April Ziegler
Cory Kartz
Douglas Hube
Thorren Koopmans

WITH REGRETS: Brad Beesley
Jill Mitchell
Jaimee Dupont Morozoff

ALSO PRESENT: Kerra Chomlak – City Representative
Shannon Bremner – Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

I. CALL TO ORDER

Katie Oliver called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA
42/2018**

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: It was **Moved** by Doug Hube to approve the December 11, 2018 agenda as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

43/2018

III. APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

It was noted that April Ziegler was not present for the November 20, 2018 meeting.

Motion: It was **Moved** by Sheila Ruddy to accept the regular meeting minutes of November 20, 2018 as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS

IV. REPORTS

Chairman's Report

- The "Single-use plastics ban approved by European Parliament" BBC News article was discussed, which was previously circulated to LEAB members by Councillor Lars Hansen. The European Parliament has voted for a complete ban on many single use plastics, however, it still

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needs to go through some procedural hurdles. The ban is expected to take effect by 2021, which will target the most common plastics that are polluting oceans such as plastic cutlery, plates, straws, stir sticks and balloon sticks. Many plastics have alternatives readily available; however, plastics where no alternative exists will still have to be reduced by 25% by 2025. Cigarette filters contain plastic and are commonly littered on beaches; plastic in filters will be reduced by 50% by 2025 and 80% by 2030. Parliament has also set a target to collect and recycle 90% of plastic drink bottles by 2025, which account for 20% of all sea plastic.

- Redwood Meadows is the first municipality in Alberta to begin composting disposable diapers. Residents are invited to leave their diapers at the convenient drop-off site located at the town office parking lot.
- The world's first industrial facility to recycle diapers and feminine napkins has opened in Italy. Diapers and sanitary napkins are sterilized, dried and separated into different components, which can then be used in furnishing, utensils, cables and building materials. The materials will be stocked piled for now until legislation is updated to allow the products to be sold, as they are still considered waste at this time. This facility was built by Procter & Gamble and the Angelini group, who produce Pampers and Tampax products.
- Katie Oliver reviewed an article concerning a City of Leduc resident who wants to bring forward information and awareness about green burials in cemeteries. Green burials are currently legal in Alberta, but she is working with Honourable Shaye Anderson Minister of Municipal Affairs to petition for changes in the Alberta Cemeteries Act to allow for alkaline hydrolysis process (water cremation) as well. The City of Edmonton and City of Calgary are currently planning to accommodate green burial options at city cemeteries, which do not use embalming chemicals or cement grave liners. Kerra Chomlak understands that the City of Leduc is considering green burials in the new future cemetery.

Council's Report

- Council officially passed budget on December 3. The 2.89% tax increase is quite reasonable considering inflation is 2.6%. This works out to be a \$28 - \$46 increase per year per household. This increase allows the City to maintain high service levels, expand the RCMP facility and add an additional RCMP officer, enhance transit services to Edmonton and the EIA, introduce a youth wellness initiative and a program to provide free access to the LRC for seniors. A waste diversion pilot project was also approved by Council, which allows for 2 staff members to monitor waste sorting stations at 3-5 select large City sponsored events in 2019.
- The new RCMP facility will be designed to be solar ready and the roof of the Sobey's arena at the LRC will be designed to accommodate a future solar panel array.
- Council supported the business case for a Climate Change and Waste Reduction Specialist; however, unfortunately due to many competing budget priorities this position had to be deferred. This is a high priority for Council in future years. LEAB will highlight the

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importance of this position in their presentation to Council on January 14, 2019.

- Council received the results from the animal bylaw survey, which asked for the public's feedback on allowing hens and bees. Councillor Lars Hansen suggested to Council that the City should start a pilot project for hens and bees. Council asked administration to work with LEAB in support of a pilot project. Cameron Chisholm, Manager of RCMP Administration and Enforcement Services, will be attending a LEAB meeting in early 2019 to discuss the results of the animal bylaw survey in further detail. LEAB can then meet afterwards to discuss the steps and timelines involved with starting a pilot program. It was noted that the City of Red Deer and City of Lethbridge have both started pilot projects for hens and bees, which can be evaluated. LEAB feels that the timing would be appropriate considering the recent success of the pollinator garden challenge and the promotion of bees in the community.
- Community Gardens will be going forward to Council in 2019. LEAB has assisted with developing a process for residents to apply for a neighbourhood garden, which will be managed by the Community Development department. There is a distinction between community gardens (Telford garden) and neighbourhood gardens (Southfork garden). Administration is proposing a second community garden on the west side of Leduc, similar to the Telford community garden, as there is public demand to warrant another community garden. It was noted that community gardens are more cost effective in comparison to neighbourhood gardens.

Administration's Report

- The City is still currently upgrading the Leduc Eco Station. Kerra Chomlak is working on signage for the site to educate residents on what materials are accepted. The building at the Eco Station will be equipped with solar panels to be net zero and the interior will be equipped with eco-friendly, recycled building materials.
- The Leduc landfill is applying to have the biocover approved by Alberta Environment. There is a workshop scheduled in Leduc on February 5, 2019 on the greenhouse gas offset process, specifically in regards to landfill biocovers. Honourable Shaye Anderson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Honourable Shannon Phillips, Minister of Environment and Parks and the Minister of the Climate Change Office will be in attendance. Kerra Chomlak noted that the east cell of the landfill is expected to be capped at the end of 2019. The wet waste is currently being bailed until such a time that waste to energy technology is available.
Action: Kerra Chomlak will forward the February 5 biocover workshop details to LEAB.
- LEAB was asked to provide comments and feedback on the LEAB Council report and PowerPoint presentation. The report is due on Monday, December 17 so LEAB members were asked to provide their feedback by Thursday, December 13. The report outlines several LEAB recommendations, such as pursuing the ICI & MF waste diversion in 2019, short-term action items from the greenhouse gas plan and Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program, as

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well as addressing single use plastics. The report indicates that LEAB will return to Council once further information regarding PACE is released. There is also direction from Council for LEAB to work with administration on a hen and bee pilot project in 2019.

**APPROVAL OF
REPORTS
44/2018**

V. APPROVAL OF REPORTS

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

MOTION CARRIED

**INFORMATION
ITEM**

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

- The B.C. Utilities Commission is currently working to redefine the definition of a utility. Under the current definition providers may not charge user fees for electric vehicle charging stations, as it is not included within the definition of a utility. There was a recommendation made to revise the definition of a utility within the Act, which will allow providers to charge for power from electric vehicle stations. This will now proceed to the BC government for approval. Alberta will likely follow suit in the near future. It was recommended that this is captured during the GHG plan discussions, as there was a recommendation for the City to provide electric vehicle charging stations.
- A LEAB member spoke on an interesting item that a resident brought forward to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC). A resident submitted a request to install a solar panel array that would generate much more power than he would use. The resident mentioned that he intended to purchase an electric vehicle that would utilize this extra power, however, his request was denied because he had not made a deposit on a vehicle and could therefore not prove that he intended to purchase an electric vehicle. This now set precedent for similar cases.
- The City of Leduc is about to lose our "claim to fame" as the largest solar panel array in Western Canada, as the City of Airdrie is about to install an even larger solar panel array.
- A LEAB member attended a zero waste event with Bea Johnson. She is an environmentalist and a minimalist who managed to fit her family's annual waste within a mason jar. She suggests following the 5 R's: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rot. Essentially, the less waste you bring into your household, the less you have to get rid of.
- A LEAB member was listening to a podcast about natural burials. The podcast noted that environmentalists are still not aware how long it takes for a body to decompose when injected with embalming fluids. This information further supports the movement of green burials.
- B.C. has released its "Clean B.C." plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The plan includes aggressive environmental targets such as requiring that all new car sales will need to be zero-emission by 2040 and that new buildings will have to be net zero-energy ready by

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2023. Norway also has ambitious targets of requiring all new car sales to be electric by 2024.

Action: Kerra Chomlak will look into what solar energy would be required to charge an electric vehicle, as there is concern that the Alberta grid does not currently have enough capacity for a large quantity of electric vehicles.

- Kerra Chomlak noted that landfills are required to monitor their sites for 30+ years after they have closed. It is important that governments consider the long term environmental effects of various initiatives, rather than only consider the short term 20- 25 year time horizon.
- The NASA Global Climate Change website (www.climate.nasa.gov/) is an excellent scientific resource. The website includes the actual measurements of ice cover on the arctic ocean, changes in global temperatures over the years, ocean height measurements, etc. This is important scientific data that provides evidence and credibility that climate change is a legitimate problem.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Light Pollution Abatement – brief sub-committee update

- There was a news release about the new transit bus stop LED lighting. This was funded in part by the provincial and federal governments through GreenTRIP funding. These solar powered lights are dark sky friendly and are on 5 minute timers, which are activated by transit riders by pushing a button.
- Councillor Glen Finstad noted that the outdoor lights by the Aileen Faller outdoor arena are on at all times and should be shut off at night time.

Action: Kerra Chomlak will inquire about these lights.

B. Green House Gas (GHG) plan – brief sub-committee update

- The GHG public open house is scheduled for Wednesday, January 23 in the Oil Kings Boardroom at the LRC from 2 – 9 pm. LEAB members are invited to attend the open house.
- The intention is to gather feedback from the public on the proposed GHG action plan items.
- Kerra Chomlak will invite all the stakeholders who participated in the GHG workshops. She will also email stakeholders the information boards so they can provide comments even if they are unable to attend the open house.

**NEW
BUSINESS**

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Festival of Trees December – update

- Doug Hube and Jaimee Dupont Morozoff helped with the set up for the Festival of Trees. Jennifer Roach and Doug Hube helped take the trees down after the event. LEAB members were thanked for volunteering their time to assist with set up and take down.

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- Kerra Chomlak distributed pictures of the bird count and dark sky themed LEAB trees; both trees looked fantastic! Doug noted that both trees appeared to have full voting boxes which was encouraging! Katie Oliver saw kids taking some of the astronomy information cards from the box under the dark sky tree.
- It was suggested that the bird tree could be converted into a bee themed tree (and perhaps hen) to promote the pollinator garden challenge and the potential bee and hen pilot project.
- LEAB asked that this item be brought forward during the budget discussion in 2019 so LEAB can set aside funding for additional tree decorations.

B. Single use plastics

- LEAB intends to discuss this further in 2019. Jennifer Roach and Katie Oliver offered to conduct some research and bring some key conclusions forward to LEAB.
- Jennifer Roach did some initial research of what other communities have in place. Bans seem to be the best way to remove single use plastics quickly. However, it is recommended that a ban is implemented gradually, as bans can lead to other undesirable alternatives. For example, there are heavy duty plastic bags that are being made and sold, but the public is using them as single use plastic bags.
- In Kenya and Rwanda there are black markets for plastic bags. Australia is currently working on a plastic bag ban as well; however, it was noted that most people are already using reusable cloth bags.

**OPEN
DISCUSSION**

IX. OPEN DISCUSSION

- Doug Hube first began attending LEAB meetings in 2015 as a public observer. He then officially joined LEAB in January 2016 and he is now finishing his 3-year term on LEAB.
- Doug Hube has helped with many environmental initiatives beyond LEAB initiatives. Doug has helped to write letters, influence policy and make presentations to businesses to educate on light pollution. A few of Doug's noteworthy accomplishments and contributions include:
 - Presentation on light efficiency at the Chamber of Commerce business luncheon.
 - Meeting with the city Engineering and Public Services directors to discuss city outdoor lighting to ensure it is dark sky compliant.
 - Influenced the lighting that was selected for the FORTIS retrofitting light standard project.
 - Going forward, all new communities in Leduc will be dark sky compliant.
- On behalf of LEAB, Katie Oliver thanked Doug Hube for his many contributions and asked that he continue to attend LEAB meetings as a public observer, and continue to pass

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ADJOURNMENT

45/2018

along emails relating to astronomy and other interesting information.

- Doug Hube thanked LEAB and noted that he thoroughly enjoyed his experience on the Board. The Board has many talented, subject matter experts who are driven, dedicated and engaged. LEAB members have achieved excellent results in their many initiatives, which includes advocating and educating the community.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: it was Moved by Jennifer Roach to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED



Chairperson



Recording Secretary

