

**LEDUC ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020
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REGULAR MINUTES Minutes of the **LEDUC ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD** Regular Meeting held Tuesday, November 10, 2020 via GoToMeeting, Leduc, AB.

PRESENT: Councillor Lars Hansen
Sheila Ruddy
Benjamin McDonald
Jennifer Roach
Wendy Yule
April Ziegler
Brittany Onysyk
Thorren Koopmans

WITH REGRETS: Lynne Chalmers

ALSO PRESENT: Kerra Chomlak – City Representative
Shannon Bremner – Recording Secretary
Juanita Marinus – Leduc Resident
Rod E. Mc Connell, President, Alberta Dark Sky Association
Douglas Hube, Alberta Dark Sky Association

CALL TO ORDER

I. CALL TO ORDER

Sheila Ruddy called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

39/2020

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: It was **Moved** by Jennifer Roach to approve the November 10, 2020 agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

40/2020

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: It was **Moved** by Brittany Onysyk to accept the regular meeting minutes of October 13, 2020 as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

SAFETY MOMENT

IV. SAFETY MOMENT

- No safety moment was provided in consideration of time limitations.

REPORTS

V. REPORTS

A. Chairman's Report

- No update.

B. Council's Report

- Council is currently going through the 2021 budget. Highlights of the 2021 budget were provided.
 - Council plans to approve a 0% tax increase.

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- Council intends to approve funding a Heritage Coordinator position to embrace and preserve Leduc's historical and cultural landmarks such as the grain elevator, Dr. Woods House Museum, West Antique Society, etc. This position would be responsible to work with these local organizations and promote Leduc's history.
- Council plans to move forward with the West End Community Garden site. This will be phased in as a pilot project with a minimum of 30 plots to begin with. It was noted that there is always a wait list for the Telford Community Garden site, so the new site is expected to be well utilized by residents.
- The Arbour Day budget has been doubled to \$20,000 to allow for an expanded event in 2021, which may be hosted over 2 days.
- The Hens and Bees pilot program and the ICI & MF waste reduction strategy are both moving forward in 2021.
- Alberta Recycling has introduced a two-year pilot program for an expanded electronic recycling program, which the Leduc Eco Station has already adopted. Residential electronic items such as hair dryers, irons, toasters, electronic toys and musical instruments, etc. are now accepted. Sheila is actively involved in analyzing the data for this expanded electronics program, so she is happy to provide information or answer any questions LEAB members may have. It was noted that it will be interesting to see how processors keep up with the expanded program.
- Councillor Hansen met with John Stephen, the new President of the Leduc Wildlife Conservation Society (LWCS). The LWCS have some great ideas for collaboration with LEAB and are interested in attending a future LEAB meeting to discuss collaborations further. This could potentially be organized for an upcoming meeting.

C. Administration's Report

- Thorren and April will be completing their LEAB terms in December 2020. A total of nine applications were received for these two vacant LEAB positions. Councillor Hansen, Sheila and Kerra will be holding interviews the afternoon of Friday, November 13.
- There has been a lot of interest in the LEAB Board in recent years, which is great to see! Kerra plans to engage LEAB applicants in other initiatives, even if they are not selected to be on the Board.

**APPROVAL OF
REPORTS
41/2020**

VI. APPROVAL OF REPORTS

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

MOTION CARRIED

**INFORMATION
ITEM**

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

- No information items were discussed.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Single Use Plastics – Update

- This will remain on the agenda to receive additional information that may be released in regards to the Federal Ban.

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- No further information has been received at this time.
- B. Spraying fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides in Leduc – Sub-group update.
 - Jennifer was nominated as the Chair of this sub-committee, and members include Sheila, April, Wendy, and Juanita.
 - The sub-committee held a meeting last week with Valerie Dacyk, a representative and subject matter expert from the City of Edmonton.
 - Valerie went over the “Good Growing Neighbors” program which is an educational program for the Capital Region. This program includes a planning and monitoring group to bring attention to pesticide spraying activities.
 - The City of Edmonton is introducing a ban on cosmetic spraying for public lands, with exception of high profile areas such as sports fields. Valerie explained that there is a time and a place for spraying, so the goal is not to completely prohibit it.
 - The City of Edmonton currently has a pesticide exemption program that residents can apply for, which limits City spraying within 30 metres proximity to an applicant’s home. Residents can opt to receive a phone call from the City to advise them of spraying taking place in their area.
 - The City of Edmonton also provides an online map that indicates the locations where spraying on public property is occurring, as well as spraying data.
 - Private companies are only required to provide pesticide application information to their direct customer, but not to the general public. As such, residents would need to obtain pesticide information from their neighbors who are using the service.
 - Residents are encouraged to contact the Alberta Environment complaint line if they have concerns, such as applicators spraying in unsuitable conditions.
 - The sub-committee intends to hold another meeting within the next few weeks to debrief from Valerie’s presentation and to discuss recommendations for LEAB to consider.

Action: *Kerra will look into how the City of Leduc is currently managing public spraying and whether we may be able to adopt a similar program of introducing an online map to notify residents of public spraying, or to introduce a pesticide exemption program.*

- C. Green House Gas Plan
 - Ben was previously nominated as Chair of this sub-committee, and members include Lars, Wendy and Brittany.
 - The sub-committee met a few weeks ago to discuss the draft CEIP bylaw. Feedback from LEAB members is welcome.
 - The draft bylaw will be brought forward to Council on January 11, 2021 for first reading and on February 1, 2021 for second and third reading.
 - Once the bylaw is approved, the City can apply for the grant funding which will cover administrative and operating costs for 4 years, making the program cost neutral. Following the 4 year pilot program, the City will need to evaluate the program to confirm that the administrative fee will cover the administrative costs of the program.

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**NEW
BUSINESS**

- Residents are welcome to apply for multiple improvements, which are treated as one project as long as it falls within the guidelines and limits permitted in the bylaw.
- Unfortunately, commercial businesses are not eligible to participate in the first stage of this pilot program. There was a question in regards to whether multi-family residential would be eligible to participate, such as apartments.

Action: *Kerra will confirm whether multi-family residential units are eligible.*

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Light Efficient Community presentation by Rod E. Mc Connell, President, Alberta Dark Sky Association
- This was the first item of business.
 - Rod provided a brief presentation, in follow up to the documents that he previously provided that were circulated to LEAB in advance of the meeting.
 - Rod began this initiative in November 2009 with a goal of developing free educational materials that would be accessible to anyone in the world. Materials and resources are available on the Light Efficient Communities website (www.light-efficientcommunities.com). The website features videos for module learning, presentations, resources and sample policies that can be repurposed.
 - Rod explained what is involved with becoming a light efficient community (LEC) and defined a LEC as a community “that uses lighting intelligently and responsibly. It uses the most effective, efficient artificial lighting available to minimize energy waste, glare, light trespass and light pollution.” Further information is available on the website. The “Evaluate your community document” outlines what should be encompassed within a light efficient community.
 - LEAB has been discussing light pollution for several years, which was first brought forward by Doug Hube when he was a member of the LEAB Board. LEAB hosted an educational campaign on light pollution and promoted the dark sky initiative. This involved educational presentations to Council and local businesses by Doug Hube and the creation of several City webpages dedicated to dark sky education. LEAB has also included a dark sky themed tree at the Festival of Trees event for the past several years to promote public education.

Action: *Rod Mc Connell was asked to review the City webpages relating to dark sky education to provide his suggestions and recommendations.*

- LEAB discussed what the next steps would be to advance this initiative further. Rod suggested that the next step is to develop a policy that is enforceable. Ideally, if resources allowed, someone would be appointed to manage the process of becoming a light efficient community (LEC), who would be responsible to draft a policy, integrate LEC information within our municipal website and be the dedicated contact person for residents to easily communicate with.

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- Rod also mentioned the 10:6 light reduction plan, where community lighting is turned off at 10 pm and turned on at 6 am. Lights can still be on motion sensors during this period, to only provide light when required. This small change could result in reducing light pollution by 30% and residents are often not aware that this change was made.
- It was suggested that a first step would be to contact local businesses who have intrusive lighting and ask for their consideration in reducing light pollution by providing education and recommendations for a solution.

Action: *Doug Hube will email Kerra a list of the top 5 businesses of concern, so the City can reach out to these businesses with information for their consideration.*

- A LEAB member inquired about the end of life for LED bulbs and whether it is good for the environment. It was clarified that there are good and bad types of LED lighting. It is important to select the right type of LED, as some produce high heat which result in a blue light that can cause glare and reduce serotonin levels. The low heat LED bulbs are a better option and do not produce the blue light.
- Rod asked that LEAB members view the “Demons in the Light” film and respond to the survey so he can gather feedback on the film. LEAB members are welcome to contact Rod directly with any feedback or inquiries.

Action: *Shirley will circulate the “Demons in the Light” video link and the survey.*

- This item will be left on the LEAB agenda under unfinished business for further discussion.

Doug Hube and Rod Mc Connell left the meeting at 7:52 pm.

B. Citizen of Distinction Award

- Applications must be submitted by February. LEAB members are encouraged to bring forward nominations.
- There were a few environmental award nominations put forward last year that LEAB inquired about.

Action: *Kerra will look into whether the selected winners received their awards in 2020 and will report back at the December meeting.*

**OPEN
DISCUSSION**

C. Festival of Trees

- LEAB will not be submitting a tree this year, as the event has been changed to only include trees that will be sold in auction. There are no display trees accepted this year.

X. OPEN DISCUSSION

- December LEAB Meeting
 - LEAB discussed the December meeting arrangements, as the Board traditionally holds a celebratory dinner meeting together.
 - It was suggested that a blended in person/virtual meeting could be held. If there is enough interest, those comfortable attending in person could still have a dinner, served by individual plate.

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Action: Shirley will distribute a few options with a cost/benefit analysis for LEAB consideration. For example, the option of holding the meeting at a City Boardroom and bring in individually prepared meals for those comfortable attending in person.

- LEAB Budget
 - LEAB would like to review the current budget so they can utilize any remaining funds for 2020, such as purchasing promotional items or pollinator challenge prizes for 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

4/2/2020

Action: Shirley will circulate the current budget for LEAB to review.

Juanita Marinus left the meeting at 8:50 pm.

NEXT MEETING

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: it was **Moved** by Sheila Ruddy to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

XII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on December 8, 2020

Chairperson



Recording Secretary