

**LEDUC ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 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: Jenna Chernuka – City Representative

ALSO PRESENT: Kerra Chomlak – City Representative
Keri Nelson – Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

I. CALL TO ORDER

Wendy Yule called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA
14/2022**

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: It was Moved by Ryan to approve the February 8, 2022 Agenda.

- With additions to New Business
 - Youth and Community Volunteers.

MOTION CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES
15/2022**

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: It was Moved by Lars to accept the meeting minutes of February 8, 2022 as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

**SAFETY
MOMENT**

IV. SAFETY MOMENT

- Know the local emergency number where you are travelling.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Advise others of where you will be travelling.
- Keep your valuables in a safe place.
- Be wary of public Wi-Fi.
- Keep hotel room doors locked.
- 2nd year in a row that Toronto is named the bed bug capital. Look for signs and make sure you launder all your belongings you took with you including backpacks.

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V. REPORTS

A. Chair's Report

- On February 14th, Wendy gave our LEAB update to Council and it was well received by Council members. Thanks again to Sheila, Shelby and Jenna for helping to prepare the report. And thanks to Sheila, Jenna and Kerra for attending the meeting and providing moral support.
- There was only one item that council raised for our board and that was to provide an opportunity for youth involvement. It was noted that there was a youth representative on the board in the past and we should look into how best to collaborate.
- Wendy has been viewing the Gardening for Wildlife webinar put on by the Canadian Wildlife Federation (which Keri sent us a link to last month) so will give a quick overview at the next meeting. When it comes to bee hotels, small hotels are better than 1 big hotel around your yard.

REPORTS

B. Council's Report

- Citizens of Distinctions is ongoing.
- E-Scooters came up for 2nd and 3rd reading. ETA for roll out of the pilot program is the Spring/Summer.
- Summer hiring has begun for the City of Leduc, multiple summer staff required.
- New Community Gardens located in Deer Valley is now open
- Great feedback so far from the Strategic Planning meetings. Council reported; the stake holder meeting was held and the public survey went out. Mention around some LEAB initiatives such as reviewing Telford Master Plan and the GHG initiative. One overall theme council is seeing within the surveys is that the Environment is very important to the City of Leduc residents.
- Land use planning brought forward - construction is starting in the Crystal Creek commercial area. Changes are coming to Blackstone and Robinson in regards to their development for residential land use.
- Facility tour was held at Commonwealth Recreation Center as well as the soccer dome. Also looking at going to Clark Field for a tour; the hope would be to include an artificial turf area inside the new recreation facility that will be built over by Crystal Creek. Advantages of having the artificial turf is that it can accommodate multiple sports on one field such as football, baseball, rugby, soccer and ball hockey.
- Board member asked will wetlands be taken away over at Crystal Creek. Administration clarified that wetlands are provincially mandated in regards to what a developer has to replace. As of right now there are no policies around City of Leduc and wetland placement.

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C. Administration's Report

- Business Expo is quickly approaching (held on April 9th and 10th). LEAB needs to decide what they would like to promote/highlight at their booth. Might be beneficial to promote the Pollinator garden challenge – resources will require updating.
- During the February 14th Council meeting, suggestion was brought forward that LEAB work to collaborate with the City's Youth Council. Perhaps the Youth Council could attend some of LEAB's events or create complimentary events of their own? Amanda Johnson with FCSS has since reached out recommending that LEAB present at one of the Youth Council's board meetings (2nd Thursday of every month) to share more about current initiatives and events and go from there.
- Several committee members terms will be expiring December 2022; Administration recommends LEAB's promotion at the Volunteer fair. The event is currently slated for June 12th and is to be held outdoors.
- With health and safety top of mind, Peter Puffin will be cancelled for 2022. It is just too soon to commit to promoting any type of indoor gathering.

**APPROVAL OF
REPORTS
16/2022**

VI. APPROVAL OF REPORTS

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

MOTION CARRIED

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Coal Policy – Update

Request to change the name to Watersheds and Coal Policy

- The AB Government announced on March 4/2022 that it is renewing and expanding coal mining restrictions in the Rocky Mountains following strong public input and 2 reports written by the Coal Policy Panel following extensive consultation.
- Energy Minister Savage announced she will maintain a ministerial order that already blocks all coal exploration and development in the Rocky Mountains' most sensitive lands. The order has been extended to cover a much wider swath of the province's summits and foothills.
- Coal development will now be blocked until land-use plans are complete. Land-use plans require public consultation and legislative approval. These plans need to be science based and need to safeguard water, forests, grasslands and biodiversity.
- To review; over a period of 9 months the 5-member panel appointed by the provincial government held a consultation process of 67 sessions with more than 70 groups in Alberta. They also received 176 written submissions. A previous survey had about 25,000 respondents and showed Albertans have major concerns about open

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**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

pit coal mining in our Eastern slopes, the source of most of our drinking water.

- Some parts of the province have land use plans in place when it comes to County's; when we don't have a land use plan in place then it doesn't take long for it to be at risk. Administration said we do not have a land use plan in place, one was done for Wood Buffalo region and nothing new has been announced yet. Land use planning on a regional level is one way to address these issues.

B. Single Use Plastics – Update

- No update.

C. Spraying fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides in Leduc – Update

Request to change the Sub Committee name to Pollinators and Pesticides

- Sub Committee met on February 23, 2022
 - Planning is working to pull a comprehensive list of applicators with business licenses in Leduc and will provide an update around what is required to apply for this type of business license. The RFP is currently being drafted and will be reviewed with Communications before being posted.
 - Administration mentioned that 15K budget perhaps would work however; if LEAB wants to start holding workshops that would get a bit more expensive. Stakeholder engagement is important for LEAB to be involved with.
 - Sub Committee was wondering if the group can proceed with the Pollinator Challenge. Administration noted that the challenge sounds reasonable. Administration had one suggestion to work with Communities in Bloom (CIB) for group nominations for Pollinator yards. CIB is meeting March 9, 2022 at 7 PM to discuss this process; a member of LEAB should attend; Sheila will attend on LEAB's behalf. CIB is looking for overlap as the 2 initiatives are very similar so CIB hoping to partner with LEAB on the challenge. LEAB board stated they would be interested in working with CIB to push their joint initiatives forward using what resources they both have.
- **ACTION:** Administration to book Sub Committee meeting
- **ACTION:** Administration to send out Pitch - In week email to board

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D. Green House Gas Plan/CEIP – Update

- Currently listed on the City of Leduc website is an information session for contractors to join and learn about the program until the end of March
 - A residential information session should happen shortly after.
 - Hopeful CEIP will be implemented this spring/summer.

E. Dark Skies/Telford Berms and Buffers – Update

Request to change the Sub Committee name to “Light Efficiency Community” instead of Dark Skies

- Sub Committee met March 2nd
 - Reviewed material from Rod.
- Recommendation was made to circulate Rods material amongst the board. Once the board has had a look at the documents the board would need to discuss what is the best path to moving forward
 - Potential motion would be required.
 - Board discussed how the best way to bring Rod’s recommendation forward for the City of Leduc; would an update to council in regards to a new bylaw or policy be the most effective way? LEAB board discussed the potential to make a recommendation for council to consider.
- In regards to Berms and Buffers Administration reported that it will be difficult to know what direction the City of Leduc will be moving forward with at this time. Once the flight path consultation has been reviewed and the City of Leduc has had consultation then at that point LEAB could bring forward their recommendations for Telford Berms & Buffers. There are too many unknowns at this time.

ACTION: Administration to send out Rod’s material to all board members

ACTION: Board member to summarize Dark Skies initiatives over the last few years

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Volunteer Discussion

- Board member brought forward that Elana Hansen has a list of volunteers available for Environmental projects, Council would like a youth member involved with LEAB. Should the board look at the list of volunteers or follow up with youth council if anyone is interested in joining LEAB.
 - Administration’s recommendation would be to have the youth council come to a LEAB meeting or have a member from LEAB go to the youth council to integrate Environmental and youth together.

**NEW
BUSINESS**

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- Options include inviting youth members to some subcommittee meetings or creating a position for a youth member on LEAB. Creating a position on the board would require bylaw changes.
- LEAB could also go to the Youth Council board meeting to talk to them about any up and coming Environmental events and if any of them are interested in participating LEAB would welcome that.
- Youth council meets the 2nd Thursday of every month perhaps a LEAB member could go to the meeting to talk to what LEAB does. Wendy and Brittany will attend on April 14 to share LEAB's initiatives

IX. OPEN DISCUSSION

**OPEN
DISCUSSION**

- Environmental plan is coming up on 10 years old, there will be a future meeting to talk more about what LEABs role will be. Kerra requires LEAB's input to evaluate the success of the previous plans.
 - By September LEAB will have the opportunity to weigh in on the environmental plan, its evaluation. and future priorities.
- *Add Environmental plan to future topics*

X. FUTURE TOPICS

FUTURE TOPICS

A. ICI, Multi-Unit and Industrial Pilot

- Concluding the pilot project.
- Administration is recommending a bylaw come to council next year to require diversion in the multifamily sector this would be the starting point. Engagement process will happen this year and then will go to council next year with a bylaw. Once that portion is finalized the next section will be the business sector; this sector will be very challenging however administration is up for the challenge to promote the project.

B. Urban tree removal and replacement policy/bylaw

- Administration spoke to the initiative of developing a policy for COL in regards to tree replacement. If a tree is cut down for construction, COL requests the developer to replant the trees at a 1 for 1 ratio. Currently there is not a policy or bylaw in place to support this within COL.
- Discussion for the future; see if there is merit to move ahead and push a policy or bylaw to Council.
 - Perhaps mandating tree replacement or requiring the developer or resident to pay into a reserve if they are taking down big trees could be considered.

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- **ACTION:** Administration to investigate what other communities have in place; look into Calgary's tree protection policy.
- **ACTION:** Administration to look into what Edmonton does for 1 to 1 tree replacement policy.
- **ACTION:** Administration to talk to Public Services about the noxious weeds around the lake and the board is aware there are areas of steep terrain and slopes that are not ideal for volunteers. Are there any areas Parks would recommend that the volunteers can be involved with non-toxic weed removal? LEAB could meet on site with Public Services to give a tutorial of how to safely and effectively take out the weeds and then LEAB could show the volunteers when they decided to plan a weed pulling day.

ADJOURNMENT

17/2022

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: it was Moved by Ryan to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

XII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on April 12, 2022 at the Telford Street Board Room, Civic Center



Chair



Recording Secretary