

Minutes

BiodiverCity Advisory Committee

December 8, 2015 5-7 PM

Heritage Boardroom, 6th floor, Calgary Public Building

PRESENT: Sam, Geoff, Steven, Chris,
Polly, Alex, Ethan, Megan,
Natasha, Katy, Rob, John

GUESTS:

CC:

REGRET: Jason

AGENDA

Item #	Item minutes	Action
1	Review of Nov. 22 Minutes	
2	Presentation on Biodiversity and Transportation	
3	Review Implementation Framework	
4	Review City of Calgary organization chart	
5	January Agenda discussion -report from informal ecological literacy discussion in November?	
6	2106 Q1 meeting date/locations	

ITEM 1

Nov. 20 minutes approved

ACTION: include round table introductions at start of future meetings

ITEM 2

Transportation and conservation of biodiversity – Ethan

- Presented at National environment council September Transportation Association of Canada Annual Conference in Charlottown
- 4 business units: transportation planning, infrastructure (design and build), roads, transit
- Environmental construction operations plans developed in advance of projects (approved by corporate environment group)
 - o Issue contractor environmental responsibilities package, with sign on every line for potential contractors
 - o Environmental construction operations plan completed before project starts
- City of Calgary is party to South Saskatchewan Regional Plan
 - o Smart growth intention



- o Demonstration of how road planning incorporates flexibility to work around landform features, data considering e.g. wildlife (includes all animals, regardless of size) collisions, wetland compensation
 - o Discussed engagement with Alberta Transformation to adjust wildlife accommodation design for ring road
- Project managers and operational staff regularly take invasive plants training (and other) awareness – put on by Calgary Parks
 - o Transportation engages Parks to inspect infrastructure for invasives
- Invasive plant strategic management plan
 - o Integrated pest management plan (transportation doesn't have same mandate as park to naturalize green spaces to reduce pest management budget – transportation currently uses mowing primarily, also pesticides)
 - o 2 horticulturalists on staff with Transportation
 - o Safety considerations feed into sight lines and need to mow vs naturalized sides of roads; cost effective as well when grasses take well and are amenable to mowing
 - o E.g. John Laurie Blvd used native seed mixes (approved by Parks) as this was more appropriate around Nose Hill.
 - o Need to have salt tolerant grass species for winter treatments
 - o Have worked with Miistakis Institute to do a cost analysis of price to society per strike
- Wetland compensation: in negotiations with the Province on a new agreement – how to effectively compensate in the urban environment?; City framework has been in effect since 2004 to deal with losses through subdivision
 - o City charges compensation value based on land value and understanding of construction costs for recreating wetland. Even \$350000/ha was not a disincentive when costs for compensation were upwards of \$8million.
- Discussed what are opportunities for BAC to provide input into special or general species of focus for Transportation to create design intentions around permeability
 - o These can be value-based rather than technically based decisions; to be guided by Our BiodiverCity strategic plan
 - o What input can BAC provide regarding compensation for more topics than just wetlands: emerging tools such as conservation offsets?

ITEM 3

Review of implementation framework

- Drafted by Steven for review by the committee: how to best define BAC's role in implementing the strategic plan?
 - o Add barrier identification to D?
 - o City could add additional column to identify what is already going on
 - o Ethan: does this group also get informed of decisions council will have to make on biodiversity, and review any and all proposals with policy or price implication and BAC to provide comment to council on the decision
 - Identify risks: timeline, budget, reputational, etc
 - What is the right thing to do to help with public scrutiny



- Need to protect scope and not interfere with council mandated authority
 - Probably still opportunity to provide strategic advice/comment
 - Chris suggested one option for this would be the integrated pest management plan
- o BAC as interpreters and enablers of the strategic plan
- o What does BAC need to provide for its own performance metrics? What is BAC oversight of overall performance metrics?
- o What is the mechanism for reporting performance? Annual reports or other format?
- Geoff: the term of implementation
 - o Because this is operational, is implementation more for Urban Conservation City team or another group to be responsible for implementation?
 - o Would BAC have a work plan or other term then?
 - o How can BAC monitor its' success over e.g. 2/5/10 years?
- Need a working session to look through all initiatives and identify ability and interests to select 1, 2, 5, initiatives that BAC could have direct input on (January?)
- How can BAC help break down silos and identify gaps in frameworks across City teams?
- Can we add a skill matrix to match up interests/abilities to initiatives before breaking initiatives down to additional tasks that City is already planning?
 - o **ACTION:** Steven and Chris to circulate example of skill matrix
- **ACTION:** Chris to present how Legacy Parks selects programs to fund
- Next steps: workshop in January
 - o **ACTION:** City to work on tasks/current events/priorities under each initiative
 - o In parallel, BAC members to identify skills through survey monkey or other avenue

ITEM 4

Presentation on Corporate Org Chart

- http://www.calgary.ca/CA/city-manager/Documents/city_organizational_structure-2015%20March%2012.pdf
 - o City reorganization occurring in February to bring recreation closer to parks to break down silos
- Parks has been environmental steward for City, but this role has been diminishing, which is a good thing as other departments take on environmental focusses as well; Parks still provides corporate delivery of IPM and wetland policy, impact assessments, etc
- **ACTION:** Glenda Cole's team has a lawyer available to give perspective to BAC as desired – interested in participating
- General Managers most often responsible for interacting with Council, as does city Manager



- o BAC also has role to advise elected City leadership (council), as supported by BAC's representatives of administrative City leadership
- **ACTION:** Brian Pincott interested in coming to talk to BAC and give perspective
 - o Previously involved in environmental advisory committee
- **ACTION:** Could be interesting for BAC to walk through city-wide body as an exercise to understand city priorities
 - o <http://www.calgary.ca/CA/fs/Pages/Action-Plan/Default.aspx>
 - o BAC consideration: landfills as natural areas.

ITEM 5

- Ecoliteracy subcommittee
 - o Meighan, John, Alex, Polly met
 - o Brainstormed a lot of ideas to be shared at a future date – waiting to see what is already underway at city and what BAC identifies in work plan
 - o Might be interested in developing a reading group for the team
- **ACTION:** Steven still working on BAC collaboration site
- **ACTION:** Katy to share CPAWS' infographic on survey of Albertans and will pull select City data and share it with BAC
 - o Would be interesting to compare this with the metal model analysis
- **ACTION:** Steven has been developing a list of candidates to present to BAC – will populate when monthly meeting schedule has been established

ITEM 6

In general, agree to second Wednesday of every month Feb-Dec 2016

January 20th 2016 (third Wednesday to accommodate holiday preparations)

Steven to send meeting invites

ADJOURNED: 7:15pm

NEXT MEETING: January 20, 2016 5PM Heritage Boardroom, Public Building

AUTHOR: Laura Nixon