



MINUTES OF THE

FISCAL and ENVIRONMENTAL SELECT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 6, 2010 at 7:30 pm
Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road

PRESENT: Kenn Faris, Chair
Warren Lee, Vice-Chair
Karen Burns
Vicky Husband (minute taker)
Bob McMinn
Aniko Varga

ABSENT: Patricia Cummins
Elaine Limbrick
Greg Nuk

COUNCIL LIAISON: Councillor Marcie McLean

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOVED BY: BOB MCMINN
SECONDED: ANIKO VARGA

THAT the agenda be approved as amended: ADD under New Business 2) CRD Proposal for Recycling Kitchen Food Waste.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

a) Fiscal & Environmental Select Committee – May 5, 2010

MOVED BY: BOB MCMINN
SECONDED: ANIKO VARGA

THAT the minutes of the Fiscal & Environmental Select Committee, May 5, 2010 be approved.

CARRIED

3. UPDATE FROM LIAISON

Update from Staff Liaison

Great report from Chris Coates and many thanks from all members of the committee.

1. Received approval of an extension to the March 31, 2011 deadline for the Towns for Tomorrow Grant for the Community Hall to March 31 2013. Council has approved CCTF consultation recommendations including an open house on October 23, 2010..
2. Concluded the Regional Growth Strategy Process by adopting an amended regional context statement reflecting the arbitrated decision on the UCB.
3. Established base targets for GHG reduction in the OCP
4. Approved FESC recommendations for the 2010 Grants in aid. A swell as a late grant of \$200.00 to the Greater Victoria Film Commission
5. Have approved the engagement of a consultant, the Whistler Centre for Sustainability for an integrated Community Sustainability Plan along with an application for funding 50% of this \$52,000 project to FCM. This will take the Sustainability Task Force recommendations out to the community for consultation and policy decision recommendations.
6. Have approved a suite of recommendations from staff around regulation for parking and park use at Eagles Lake Park. including drafting a Park Management Bylaw in consultation with the Highlands Park and Recreation Association.
7. Reviewed the Sign Notification Policy and have improved internal procedures to ensure posting of notice signs will occur simultaneously with web site access to application information.
8. Created a development Application Status sheet for the web site. This will contain all Zoning, Subdivision, Development Variance and Development Permit applications with access to details and status updates.
9. Council authorized proceeding with Road works:
 - Major patching on the southern 1.2 kilometres of Millstream Road
 - Replacement of the Millstream Lake Road Bridge
 - Proceeding to neighborhood meetings for turn arounds on Fork Lake and Stag Roads.

10. Council denied an application from the Land Conservancy to establish a conservation zone on the Second Lake Property and use the down zoning as a partial amenity for another zoning application near Highlands Estates.
11. Council referred the re-zoning of Section 74 near Highlands Estates back to the applicant to reconsider the amenity package as well as the density resulting from the denial of the Second Lake Application

Update from Councillor Marcie Mclean:

Councillor McLean thanked Chris Coates for his report.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5. NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Council Referral

RE: REQUEST FOR TAX EXEMPTION - TLC (1970-04)

Council Recommendation: That Council refer the request to the Fiscal and Environmental Select Committee for a recommendation on the tax exemption request from The Land Conservancy

Chris Coates gave some more background to his report.

This is a major policy issue for the Highlands and cannot be dealt with quickly.

Grants in Aid was discussed as another route to solve this issue. However our whole budget for Grants in Aid is only \$10,000 and the pattern has been to support smaller volunteer groups.

A broad discussion took place.

Kenn Faris delegated the chair to Vice Chair Warren Lee at 8:55 pm. We still had a quorum with 5 members present.

Warren Lee as Acting Chair, oversaw the continuing discussion.

Conclusion

MOVED BY: KARNE BURNS
SECONDED ANIKO VARGA

That the Fiscal and Environmental Select Committee recommend to Council;

That the request from The Land Conservancy regarding tax exemption be denied.

CARRIED

Rationale

While the Committee supports the aims of TLC and their role in conservation and fully supports the conservation of the Second Lake property, the committee is reluctant to recommend the setting of this precedent without a greater understanding of the implications. This is a large policy issue for the community and requires extensive public consultation. It was noted that there are a large number of conservation properties in the community and also covenanted properties.

The committee supports a respectful denial of this application.

2) CRD Proposal for Recycling Kitchen Food Waste

Acting Chair Warren Lee brought up the issue of the proposed recycling of food scraps and was concerned about the potential financial impact on the Highlands community.

There has been some broader CRD/municipal discussion about having the opportunity to add food scraps to be recycled which would be picked up as well. There was some discussion about a blanket cost of \$58 per household across the CRD.

A made in Highlands solution could be a better approach. It appears that there would be an opt in or opt out for each municipality.

Chris Coates said that he has been invited to a meeting over this issue and is watching it carefully.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY: BOB MCMINN
SECONDED: WARREN LEE

THAT FESC meeting adjourn at 9:30 pm.

CARRIED

Warren Lee, Vice-Chair

Vicky Husband, Recording Secretary