Minutes for June 8

In Attendance: Steven, Chris, Meighan, Rob, Polly, John, Natasha, Geoff, Laura, Sam, Jamie (Office of Sustainability), Carol Stefan (Ecosystem Services)
Regrets: Alex, Jason, Ethan, Katie

What: BiodiverCity Advisory Committee

When: 08 June 2016
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Where: Heritage Boardroom, 6th floor
Calgary Public Building
205 - 8th Ave SE

Contact: Alex Kent (Chair)
416-528-0986
akentecology@gmail.com

Steven Snell (Admin rep)
403-268-3527
steven.snell@calgary.ca

	Item	Who	Duration	Action
1	**Carry over agenda items** • Approve previous minutes – approved • Meighan sent updates to Alex; assumed these were incorporated • Open floor for committee member announcements • Goats will be arriving soon •	Laura	10 mins	(Information)
2	**Ecosystem services presentation** • 30 minute Presentation • 15 minute Q & A • Carol recently joined Chris' team as a Parks Ecologist o Carol will be working on capital projects ▪ Discussion on capital projects; it was explained that the capital projects group is separate from the Parks' regulatory group to ensure that the City as a capital project proponent and development proponent is treated equally	Carol Stefan	45 mins	(Information)

under municipal, provincial and federal regulatory requirements.
        - There isn't a monetary 'floor' for capital project criteria; it is more about the state of the asset.
- Background is biodiversity specialist
- Previous thinking was biodiversity for biodiversity's sake
    - Important to include the people; ecosystem services is a really effective tool for communicating biodiversity value
    - Biodiversity itself isn't an ecosystem service; these are benefits people derive from nature; biodiversity is the foundation of it all
- Millennium Ecosystem Assessment identified the link between people and nature and defined some of the benefits we receive: provisioning, regulating, supporting and cultural
- Ecosystem services is imbedded in impact assessments for international banking, IPIECA (international oil and gas association), government and corporate policies, etc
    - In Alberta: imbedded in the climate change policy, the ecosystem services and biodiversity network, the wetland policy,
    - In Calgary: Biodiversity Strategy, Municipal Development Plan
- Biodiversity strictly for the environment is accepted by many people…until there is a trade-off to be made; then the services are helpful to make the connection to understand the 'what's in it for me'.
- World Resources Institute has a document for decision makers on how to integrate use of ecosystem series approach (2008)
- Valuation and market based instruments can also be tools
    - E.g. carbon pricing, wetland policy
- Related to the BAC:

    - Developing volunteer initiatives:: helps make personal connection, especially with the kids
    - A: monitor the city's natural areas and water bodies = regulating, C:managing appropriate access = Cultural, e = provisioning/supporting, F = Regulating
    - Recognizing the financial / / cost; recognising biodiversity and health of natural systems….
    - Developing a database helps quantify the ecosystem services; Developing infrastructure that mimics = regulating/supporting; manage open space = regulating/supportive
- Discussion:
    - Value of ecosystem services in relation to using dollar value figures for conveying impact to Council
    - MGA modernization (revision): environmental reserve will stay; conservation reserve will be a new tool to protect environmentally significant features – this would be compensable to the development industry (i.e. the city would have to pay the development company current market rate for the land)
        - Being able to talk to Council about the value of the services received from a parcel of land would give comfort to price of such purchases
        - See mgareview.alberta.ca – there is a survey that everyone can give feedback through: see 'Get Involved'
    - Perhaps BAC advice to Council could be to consider more robust use of ecosystem services into decision making to support biodiversity conservation
    - Discussion on how adding costing can be prohibitive to a project
        - Response that doing conceptual mapping of

potential services can be a good start without full engagement and then seeking to test concepts with target audiences.
        - In an engineering based environment; environmental services can be helpful in driving social solutions rather than technical solutions to issues
    - Office of Sustainability has done research in this area and has a tool about social return on investment
        - Jamie would be able to share more on this
    - http://www.teebweb.org/ – flavour is developing countries and rural areas
    - Discussion on how biodiversity can be protected in the services conversation; for example, non-native species can protect against erosion, but there is a benefit to native species on their own…
        - So far, conversations about the importance of native grasslands has been difficult to gain traction
        - E.g. ,how to support the biodiversity value of sage grouse when they give a cultural but not necessarily a service value in the face of companies concerned that sage grouse protection is reducing profit
        - This is where raising literacy comes in

3	**Update on the committee appointment process** • Information from the Clerk's office • No update on the committee appointment process – some complications • Committee composition: • June 3-30 is re-application period	Steven	15 mins	(Information)

	• Requirements are increased now; there are more online information to fill out • A new policy was approved by Council recently that directs committee composition • The Committee will now review applicants to create shortlist o City Clerk's Office will now require shortlist by August 26th • Reminder that the committee may review its terms of reference • Reminder that the committee and subcommittees are open to the public •			
4	**Durban Commitment Memo** • Update on status of signing commitment • Durban commitment – request that this would be signed at opening of Mayor's Enviro festival, but that didn't happen…still working on timing for this.	Chris/ Steven	10 mins	(Information)

6	**Updates from subcommittees and work plan update**
	• Information from subcommittee reps
	Literacy committee met with the education strategist who is keen to work with BAC
	• Reminder that zoo would be a good partner to work with
	• Will try to have the education strategist to continue to attend the literacy committee
	• Could arrange to have zoo come work with BAC on conservation locally
	• Brainstormed messaging for impact to biodiversity
	• Website again identified as important for communication
	  o Steven has been working with web team to get a page that has active content; geolocations, maps, etc
	  o Website was originally created when biodiversity strategy was being written to have a presence
	  o Now trying to scope out what could be on there for visuals and communication.
	  o When parameters are figured out,
			35 mins	(information/ decision)

    - it will be brought to the committee for work on details.
    - Look up StoryMaps (ArcGIS product): ability to talk about issues using spatial information
    - Aim would be to have a lot of georeferencing: weeds, road kills, tree locations, etc…
- Recognized that the Literacy Committee is important to exist as a bridge
    - Still need clarification on the subcommittee's ability to influence is
    - This will likely be clearer when we are able to link into the budget cycle
- BAC as a stakeholder group that is also able to provide strategic input on the overall program to be built

Conservation subcommittee

- NAMP is still a ways out from revisions being referred to the committee
- IMP also seems to be a ways out in terms of having input requested.
- Timing for policy and engagement is coming but has not yet arrived
    - E.g., review older plan, provide comments and provide input on what other municipalities are doing; this could help the BAC develop informed opinions before reviewing the new drafts
- Conservation subcommittee will then start the review of IPM and NAMP
- Long term management plans to be built for every park is going to be discussed next week with a few of the Parks' ecologists…once that thinking is a little more developed, it will come to the BAC for advice on how to build it
    - This could even be a good option for a workshop setting
- Steven will continue to send documents out for commenting
    - Opportunity use SLACK for

commenting on a document

Request Steven and Chris for direction on outcomes expected of subcommittee

- Update on the business unit survey
- This is with Katie; feedback has been provided
- Next steps: Steven to use participant list from the biodiversity strategy plan,
- Need follow up from Ethan on if he met with the ISO group
- Suggestion that all project managers could include considerations of biodiversity
- Suggestion to include corporate project management – Office of Sustainability could help identify cross-City stakeholders
- Plan to set up subcommittee meetings with zoo, bioblitz, website team
- Thought to establish list of all groups in city that have linkage to biodiversity
    - Eg. Paskapoo Slopes group, AWA, ….
    - Maybe in the future have a workshop or meeting with these groups to explain BAC and get their input….maybe spring 2017
- Update on developing metrics for biodiversity analysis
    - Not covered
- Update on status of HCR, and Connectivity Model
    - HCR is still waiting on aquatic tool; that is waiting on the province doing their wetland assessment tool
- Open floor discussion
- Operations group currently working on multi-year project to develop park specific management plans for all parks
    - Next meeting is on June 16th
    - BAC could become involved via a workshop in the summer…this would include metrics and biodiversity analysis – reminder that we have no August meeting

	o Issues will be priority setting ▪ E.g. caraganna removal; this needs to be focussed so spends are explained on a risk and relationship perspective…prioritization for connectivity, reclamation, etc. ▪ Need to find a way to make this prioritization more formal rather than internal knowledge…BAC could provide input on this. • Request to hear more about the expropriation reclamation and public art projects in Bowmont Park •			
7	**July agenda proposals** • Confirm subcommittee next meetings • Suggested items • July presenter? • ACTION: Laura to update work plan with new version to show changes • ACTION: Add to agenda Call this number to be let into the meeting room: 403-268-6700 •	Alex	10 mins	(Information)