

District of Metchosin

Minutes

Environmental Advisory Select Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber

Metchosin Municipal Hall

Present: Bill Cave, Garry Fletcher (Chair), Councillor Steve Gray, Anna Hall, Merrilee Hoen, Andy MacKinnon (recorder), Ric Perron, Erin Van de Water

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Agenda, Additions and Approval

Moved and Seconded by Steve and Merrilee that the Committee approve the agenda with these changes: add 9e) Natural Assets Initiative

Carried

2. Presentations

Ernie Chang, Metchosin Natural History Clubhouse Proposal

One room in Old Metchosin School could be a natural history clubhouse. Much natural history expertise in Metchosin. No Board, no management. Ernie could coordinate. Ernie would like MEASC to support this initiative. Council discussed this last night. They're still trying to sort out rooms among competing interests for space (incl. for the preschool) as part of the visioning process.

3. Public Participation

Brent Donaldson. Material removed from Metchosin's ditches has to be tested, and potentially treated as potential toxic waste and hauled to Nanaimo. Also, ditches always get wider, and we lose road shoulders, and have reduced opportunities for roadside trails. Brent feels that we need to do a better job with ditching in Metchosin with the introduction of bioswales where appropriate.

Steve says that Council members were interested in a trial in a few areas. It could be part of Metchosin's next Road Management Plan.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Steve and Ric that the Committee approve the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Select Committee meeting held on November 28, 2023.

Carried

5. Review of Minutes

a) Council and Standing Committee Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Andy and Erin that the Committee receive the Council and Standing Committee Minutes for information.

Carried

b) Advisory Committee Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Garry and Bill that the Committee receive the Advisory Committee Minutes for information.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

Councillor Gray provided updates on Business Arising from MEASC's November 2023 Minutes.

a) Climate Action Plan

Councillor Gray presented the draft Climate Plan Evaluation Framework to Environment Committee. Council received the draft framework with interest and thanks. Steve will now work with the Planner to consider next steps. Big thanks to Merrilee for her excellent work on this.

MEASC had recommended that Metchosin's Environment Committee invite the ReImagine West Shore Community group to address them. ReImagine West Shore will address Environment Committee on February 12.

b) BC Government 30% Protected Land by 2030 Commitment

Councillor Gray provided some background materials to Mayor and Council on the Draft BC Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework for their consideration in providing individual input to the Province.

c) Tanker traffic in the Strait of Juan de Fuca

Garry is preparing another op-ed submission.

d) Predator Strategies, Lessons Learned from other Communities

MEASC recommended to Environment Committee that they invite Nitya Harris and Peter Pauwels to make a presentation to them. Nitya Harris and Peter Pauwels have been invited to address the February 25 Environment Committee on Predator Strategies.

7. Reports: None

8. Correspondence: None.

9. Other Business

a) Proposed natural history room in the old school

Moved and Seconded by Bill and Anna that MEASC supports establishment of a natural history room at the Old School.

Carried

b) Mapping of potential sensitive areas in Metchosin

Garry brought out the old environmental inventory maps and tables, from approximately 30 years ago.

Moved and Seconded by Erin and Andy that Andy, Garry and Anna will meet with Jacqueline Clare to capture the useful information on these maps. Andy will take the lead on this.

Carried

c) DRAFT B.C. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Framework

- Email from Councillor Gray to biodiversity.ecosystemhealth@gov.bc.ca
- DRAFT B.C. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework: Submission Guide
- DRAFT B.C. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework

Moved and Seconded by Merrilee and Ric that MEASC members send their input re: the Framework ASAP, to meet the deadline.

Carried

d) Dark Sky Draft Proposal

- How Blue is Your Night
- International Dark Sky Community Program Guidelines
- Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Dark-Sky Site Application Requirement

Ted White is putting together a proposal to certify Metchosin as a Dark Skies community, headed by Healthy Communities Advisory Committee. (See attached material.) He would like a MEASC representative on the Committee, also Bill Weir.

Moved and Seconded by Steve and Andy that Steve bring up with our CAO that we're not currently compliant with our existing municipal policy re: Dark Skies.

Carried

Moved and Seconded by Garry and Bill that Anna Hall work with Ted and group (including Healthy Communities Advisory Committee) in crafting a Dark Sky proposal.

Carried

e) Natural Assets Initiative

Moved and Seconded by Erin and Andy that MEASC invite a representative from NAI to make a presentation to MEASC.

Carried

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

Moved and Seconded by Bill and Ric that the Committee adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Carried

The next MEASC meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.