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**ATTENDING**

Councillor David Mangle, Mayor Jeff Cantwell, Chief Administrative Officer Erin Beaudin, Sustainability Coordinator Acadia University Jodie Noiles, Bill Zimmerman, Janet Eaton, Grace Hamilton-Burge, and Recording Secretary James Collicutt

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS**

Director Community Development Chrystal Fuller and Hayden McKee-Godry

**ALSO ATTENDING**

Councillor Hugh Simpson and Manager of Economic Development Ericka Wicks

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair, Councillor Mangle, called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm

**1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 14, 2016**

The minutes were approved as drafted.

**3. COMMITTEE INPUT INTO STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION**

- Presented by Erin Beaudin, CAO: Council's Strategic Plan (Late Fall 2016) and how this Committee will fit into their strategic planning exercise to take place December 13-14
- Committee's role is to
  - a. inform Council of environmental sustainability issues or principles they should be aware of that could be incorporated into the strategic plan; and
  - b. discuss with Staff and report back on Council's 4-year operating plan.
- Staff working on how best to effectively introduce draft documents to the Committee for feedback – occurring in the Fall.
- Capital budget goes to Council in November - provides project charters to go along with the projects in that year's budget. Would like to come back to the Committee and discuss the major projects to help provide feedback.
- **Priorities of the Committee** – come back in Oct to engage in more meaningful meeting for Consideration by Council:

Committee inquired as to how the "[Natural Step](#)" as a Planning Framework, the Fairtrade designation and the new Cittaslow designation fit into the strategic plan?

Staff responded by saying that these designations have been fairly silent within the strategic plan in the past. The value of this Committee is to inform the new Council of these designations and how to incorporate these designations into their strategic plan.

The Committee noted that overlaying the numerous different approaches (The Natural Step, Cittaslow, etc.) would be an interesting way to realize the differences between them.



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**Discussion regarding Committee Priorities:**

- Consider overlaying the difference approaches ([The Natural Step](#) (TNS), Cittaslow, etc.) to analyze and realize the differences between them.
- Consider the two frameworks for sustainability, both corporately and community based focuses – look at Halifax’s [‘Solar City Model’](#).
- Create an asset management plan for corporate delivery – corporate policy. Retrofit all corporately owned buildings.
- Sustainable Neighbourhoods - help residents retrofit their older homes with grant monies to increase efficiency (PACE – Property Assessed Clean Energy, LICs – Local Improvement Charges).
- Use assets we know we have access to (ie. [Efficiency NS](#)).
- Connect with the Acadia students in the Facebook group “*People Who Give a \*\*\*\**” to include them in some conversations/projects of the Committee.
- Re-certify as a Fairtrade Town, with help from Acadia whose food contract is ending this year.
- Explore alternatives for winter sidewalks - too much salt on sidewalks in winter.
- Revisit [The Natural Step](#) and make a decision as to whether it’s still a useful tool moving forward (training in The Natural Step possibility in the Fall). Edith Callahan could also provide some training here.
- Re-examine the combination of Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP).
- [Partners for Climate Protection](#) program – on milestone 1 for both corporate and community categories – town has actually completed milestone 2 but the Town’s progress has yet to be updated.
- Community education needs to be a priority and the committee members as ambassadors within the community. Staff may be able to provide a framework for community interactions as a committee.
- Understand more about the economic priorities of the past.
- Look at local, sustainable economic development in terms of a future in which global commodity trade is not commonplace.
- Explore alternative energy initiatives for residents and the Town in terms of capital purchases and town building upgrades.
- Establish a link between the community and the committee so that information/ideas can flow in both directions.
- Look at reviving some of the projects from the past that have fallen to the wayside.
- On an ongoing basis, Staff to provide the Committee with information on upcoming major developments so that they could provide some suggestions/information to developers in the initial stages.

**ACTION:** Suggestion widget on webpage for Environmental Sustainability Committee for members of the public to provide ideas for sustainable projects to the Committee for review

Staff responded positively to the priorities put forward by the Committee and suggested that Staff will return to the Committee in September to help inform the agenda based on some of what has been put

forward, to sort out the path forward. For the October meeting Staff would also like the Committee to indicate what kind of information the Committee would like the new Council to have going into the Strategic Planning Exercise.

#### 4. REVIEW OF FRAMEWORK TOOL

- Staff explained the usefulness of this tool (as a possible interim tool) and the rationale for the exercise in learning how the Committee could best address future reviews.
- Initial Committee reaction was to consider the language around this tool (ie: “assessment tool” as opposed to “framework”) that conveys that it’s a tool used to examine priority issues and would like to discuss the tool first rather than go through the mock case study as the primary focus of the discussion. Committee feels as though having a framework is important but that there will be a “toolbox” that will be used to address the varied issues/priorities addressed by the Committee. Comments on the tool:
  - Eliminate some of the duplication and subcategories of topic consideration to overarching themes.
  - Create a general model for a tool that the committee can use quickly and effectively that doesn’t bog the discussion down or cause inaction from the Committee.
  - Staff agree that there is some redundancy in this tool and that the Committee will have to utilize multiple tools to affect decisions but realize Staff’s need to further training in given frameworks such as The Natural Step before they can be utilized effectively and this framework can be used effectively until Staff reach that level of expertise.
  - Similarities with The Natural Step and in addition to that the Committee feels as though it paints ideas for consideration in a slightly negative light – what don’t we want rather than what do we want. For the Committee’s work to be successful they need to be able to change the conversation.
  - Aspects of the assessment that could be more sensitive (ie. big impact vs small impact) by adding two scales for consideration level of risk and significance of impact. Also where should the burden of proof lie?
  - Rate projects on a scale using a probability matrix, such as from extremely positive – neutral – extremely negative, to create a range of responses that offers a finer grain of response.
  - Staff interpretation is that there is positive support for incorporating The Natural Step into the new MPS
  - The Committee sees the MPS as serving the ICSP but there is no legislated requirement to periodically update the ICSP.

#### 5. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- N/A as discussion happened earlier and throughout the meeting



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**6. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE**

- Sep 7 – 12:00 to 1:30
- Oct 5 – 12:00 to 1:30

Committee agreed that they would like to see a “Call to Recycle” box for Town Hall. Possible to request one for the Public Works building as well, and to suggest that the market, post office and library also get boxes.

The meeting adjourned at 4:07 pm

**Approved at the September 7, 2016 Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting**

**As recorded by James Collicutt, AA Community Development**