



COMMITTEE REPORT

To: **Mayor and Councillors**

Subject **Environmental Task Group Report**

From: Councillor Rosemary Wallace
Chair, Environmental Task Group

File #: 5210.00
Doc #:

Date: November 15, 2019

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT mandate item four from the Environmental Task Group Terms of Reference be amended from:

“Promote landscape boulevards and environmental features on boulevards by residents, food production, bees/butterfly gardens” to

“Promote landscape and environmental features on boulevards by residents, businesses and developers, ie. food “security”, bee/butterfly gardens”

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2. THAT the Environmental Task Group recommends Council receive a presentation from Green Teams Canada.

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3. THAT the Task Group recommends that Council give funding to Green Teams of Canada to hold up to 3 events in 2020 at a cost of \$2,000 per event.

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4. THAT the Environmental Task Group recommend that City Council extend the term of the Task Group to December 31, 2020 in order to allow the group to fulfill their mandate.
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SUMMARY:

This report covers recommendations from the Environmental Task Group meeting held on October 10 and November 14, 2019. The following is background information in support of the recommendations.

Recommendation 1 - Mandate amendment.

The Environmental Task Group's mandate is noted below:

2.0 Mandate:

The mandate of the group includes, but not limited to, prioritize, evaluate and develop a business case for the implementation of various environmental initiatives and programs such as:

- ✓ Install rain barrels for watering plants
- ✓ Promote business solid waste and recycling education program and incentives
- ✓ Create a bylaw to ban plastic bags
- ✓ Promote landscape boulevards and environmental features on boulevards by residents, food production, bees/butterfly gardens
- ✓ Promote landscape, garden and environmental ideas for multi-family home owners
- ✓ Use goats for weed control
- ✓ Install 'real' grass on boulevard
- ✓ Provide netting at storm outfalls to catch garbage
- ✓ Work with LEPS and gardening shops to educate residents on controlling invasive species
- ✓ Create an Urban Forest
- ✓ Dealing with dog waste

The group may undertake multiple initiatives. However, the group shall undertake only one initiative at a time if staff resources are required.

The task group discussed it's mandate and recommends changing item 4 (underlined above) to broaden the scope to include business and developers in addition to residents and to reference food security rather than food production.

Recommendation 2 & 3 - Green Teams of Canada

The task group received a presentation from the Green Teams of Canada (GTC) at it's July 11th meeting. Due to lack of quorum the recommendation was delayed until the

October 11th meeting. The task group was very impressed with Green Teams of Canada's ability to coordinate large groups of volunteers to undertake environmental initiatives such as community cleanups and invasive species removals. The City has used them in the past on occasions when funding is available. The following is an excerpt from the July 11th meeting notes and the October 10th meeting minutes.

July 11 Notes

Green Teams of Canada
By Lyda Salatian

Lyda started Green Teams of Canada in 2013 and has a degree in psychology.

GT Current concerns:	Benefits of the Volunteer Experience:
People are sedentary	Exercise
Social Isolation	Sense of belonging & empowerment
Lack of environmental awareness	Educate responsible Environmental behaviour
Enhance bio-diversity	Connect to nature

Green Team (GT) is currently the largest environmental volunteer group in BC. GT works with 'Community Engagement Experts' for assistance in brainstorming and assessing what the needs/demands of the community are? GT offers a variety of initiatives:

- Remove invasive species
- Pick up garbage
- Planting
- Teach how to grow food locally
- Train environmental leaders
- Introduce volunteers to environmental groups and organizations

There are currently 3 Green Teams:

1. Charity Green Team
2. Lower mainland Green Team
3. Vancouver Island Green Team

Teams will range in number of volunteers, as to the needs for the specific site. Many of the volunteers are young but anyone can volunteer by signing up online. Volunteers learn to be more engaged in the environment and often change how they purchase food and products after their GT experience.

Lyda has run approximately 300 events and always had enough people show up to help. Some events have a waitlist because so many people volunteer. 50 to 100 pictures and a write up are posted within 24 hours after each event. GT give rewards that are environmentally friendly to volunteers, as a thank you for participating.

There was a discussion about LEPS who have 4 youth workers and 1 coordinator on staff. Their time is maximized with the number of initiatives they tackle. Lyda and Green Team have so many more volunteers than LEPS, which makes a great resource for help in the community.

Green Teams of Canada are seeking a future annual service partnership from the City of Langley, whereby they are given funds annually to run up to 3 or 4 initiatives per year. The cost per event is \$2,000 and the funds are used for recruitment, outreach, organizing events and volunteer gifts/rewards. Lyda will provide the Task Group a cost breakdown for an event.

Benefits to the City are as follows:

- Increases capacity to achieve Environmental and Community Action Plans
- Frees staff up to complete other vital work
- Strengthens and promotes existing community engagement programs(s) and groups
- Increases media exposure of City of Langley green spaces and work
- Shows City of Langley values partnership

October 10th Meeting Minutes

- a) Review Green Teams cost breakdown for an event and discuss possibility of supporting this initiative and taking to Council for allocation of funds.

The Green Teams of Canada (GTC) is a community engagement charity that started with a call to action in 2011. Young Canadians were invited to participate in hands-on environmental action projects like removing invasive plants, planting native species and clearing shorelines in green spaces.

The task group discussed the variety of initiatives the Green Team has already undertaken in the City of Langley, including assisting in the rebuilding of Hunter Park, removing invasive species and planting native plants at Brydon Lagoon.

Motion:

THAT the Environmental Task Group recommends Council receive a presentation from Green Teams Canada.

CARRIED

Motion:

THAT the Task Group recommends that Council give funding to Green Teams of Canada to hold up to 3 events in 2020 at a cost of \$2,000 per event.

CARRIED

Recommendation 4 – Extension of Terms of Reference:

November 14th Meeting Minutes

The group has identified several projects and initiatives they would like to pursue and present to City Council, and are therefore requesting an extension of the group to December 31, 2020.

Motion:

THAT the Environmental Task Group recommend that City Council consider extending the term of the Task Group to December 31, 2020 in order to allow the group to fulfill their mandate.

CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,



Councillor Rosemary Wallace
Chair

Attachment:

1. Green Teams of Canada – Event Cost Breakdown