



The Corporation of Delta
Human Resources and Corporate Planning

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Council

From: Sean McGill, Director of Human Resources and Corporate Planning

Date: January 23, 2015

Subject: David Suzuki Foundation's Blue Dot Tour

CC: George V. Harvie, Chief Administrative Officer

At the January 12, 2015 Regular Meeting of Delta Council, the attached correspondence relating to the David Suzuki Foundation's Blue Dot Tour was received and Council requested further information back by way of a pink memo.

As discussed by Council, many of Delta's existing policies are consistent with the Blue Dot Tour Municipal Declaration. Also relevant is Delta's participation in regional programs that address issues such as air and drinking water quality. These policies and directives include Delta's Official Community Plan, Green Growth Index, Climate Change Initiative, Agricultural Plan, and Community Energy and Emissions Plan. Mayor Jackson along with the Mayor of Montreal were among the first Canadian signatories to the international Mexico City Pact which includes regular reporting through the Carbons registry on community climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. Annual reports are also required to be submitted to the Province as part of the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program. Staff proposes that previous and future annual reports be forwarded to the David Suzuki Foundation for information.

The Municipal Declaration notes that the municipality will specify objectives, targets and timelines and actions the municipality will take within its jurisdiction to fulfill residents' right to a healthy environment, including a number of listed priority actions. These actions are to be reviewed every five years. Delta has existing objectives, targets and timelines which are reviewed at varying frequencies.

Staff supports the intent of this declaration, however note that the formal adoption of the document may add duplication of work and reporting requirements. Staff feel the additional reporting and evaluation commitments will require extra staff time without a measurable benefit to



the local community and environmental outcomes. This Declaration would add yet another layer to an already complex framework of initiatives and potentially leading to conflicting priorities and expectations within the community.

Unless otherwise directed by Council, staff will continue with current objectives, timelines, initiatives and reporting with respect to Delta's environmental initiatives. Staff will also forward the appropriate annual reports to the David Suzuki Foundation for their information and welcome any feedback the Foundation may have.

Please contact me at 604-946-3218 if you have any questions.

Sean McGill, Director of Human Resources and Corporate Planning

Attachment

Mayor Council

From: Mayor Lois Jackson
Sent: Monday, December 22, 2014 8:34 AM
To: Mayor & Council
Subject: FW: Delta you've been challenged

Agenda FILE # 06000-20

14 DEC 22 AM 09:02

From: Richmond BlueDot [mailto:richmondbluedot@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 18, 2014 4:58 PM
To: Mayor Lois Jackson; Sylvia Bishop; Robert Campbell; Jeannie Kanakos; Bruce McDonald; Ian Paton; Heather King
Cc: bmcnulty@richmond.ca; Harold Steves; aloo@richmond.ca; cday@richmond.ca; lmcphail@richmond.ca
Subject: Delta you've been challenged

Hello Mayor and Council for Delta.

On Wednesday Dec 17, 2014 Richmond councillor Bill McNulty challenged you to follow in Vancouver and Richmond's footsteps by adopting the declaration for the Right to a Healthy Environment for all citizens in your community. Attached is the video of the challenge.

Please let me know who to forward the declaration for your review.

http://voutu.be/4euZIsUUZ_E

Carolyn

Richmond Blue Dot Team Lead

This message is provided in confidence and should not be forwarded to any external third party without authorization. If you have received this message in error, please notify the original sender immediately by telephone or by return email and delete this message along with any attachments.

The Blue Dot Tour is a project led by the David Suzuki Foundation and sponsors. The Blue Dot approach seeks to inspire and mobilize the Canadian public to "call upon their local communities to pass municipal declarations respecting people's right to live in a healthy environment." The David Suzuki Foundation's ultimate goal is to amend the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to include access to a clean environment, fresh air, water and food. The City of Richmond has challenged its local government neighbours, The Corporation of Delta and the City of Surrey to adopt the Blue Dot's "The Right To A Healthy Environment" model declaration (please see attached). In other communities there has been a range of responses to this call for action. The City of Richmond adopted the declaration provided by Blue Dot, while the City of Vancouver has combined the principles of the declaration into their existing Healthy City Strategy. Direction from Council is sought on whether to refer this request to staff for review, including preparation of a report and recommendation back to Council or to receive this correspondence as information.

TYPE: Regular Agenda
DEPT: CP+D cc/A+E
A.T. #: 124112
Comments: Regular Council Mtg of Jan 12/15

Delta Municipal Declaration The Right To A Healthy Environment

Whereas the CITY OF Delta understands that people are part of the environment, and that a healthy environment is inextricably linked to the well-being of our community;

The CITY OF DELTA finds and declares that:

1. All people have the right to live in a healthy environment, including:

The right to breathe clean air

The right to drink clean water.

The right to consume safe food.

The right to access nature

The right to know about pollutants and contaminants released into the local environment.

The right to participate in decision-making that will affect the environment

2. The CITY OF DELTA has the responsibility, within its jurisdiction, to respect, protect, fulfill and promote these rights.
3. The CITY OF DELTA shall apply the precautionary principle: where threats of serious or irreversible damage to human health or the environment exist, the CITY OF DELTA shall take cost effective measures to prevent the degradation of the environment and protect the health of its citizens. Lack of full scientific certainty shall not be viewed as sufficient reason for the MUNICIPALITY to postpone such measures
4. The CITY OF DELTA shall apply full cost accounting: when evaluating reasonably foreseeable costs of proposed actions and alternatives, the CITY OF DELTA will consider costs to human health and the environment.
5. By 2015, the CITY OF DELTA shall specify objectives, targets and timelines and actions the MUNICIPALITY will take, within its jurisdiction, to fulfill residents' right to a healthy environment, including priority actions to:
 - a. Ensure equitable distribution of environmental benefits and burdens within the City of Delta, preventing the development of pollution "hot spots";
 - b. Ensure infrastructure and development projects protect the environment, including air quality;

- c. Address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and implementing adaptation measures;
- d. Responsibly increase density;
- e. Prioritize walking, cycling and public transit as preferred modes of transportation;
- f. Ensure adequate infrastructure for the provision of safe and accessible drinking water;
- g. Promote the availability of safe foods;
- h. Reduce solid waste and promote recycling and composting;
- i. Establish and maintain accessible green spaces in all residential neighbourhoods.

The CITY OF DELTA shall review the objectives, targets, timelines and actions every five (5) years, and evaluate progress towards fulfilling this declaration.

The CITY OF DELTA shall consult with residents as part of this process.