

## **FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE DISRUPTION COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY, June 1, 2017**

**4:30 p.m. in the City Hall Committee Room**

Present: John Mayba, Sam Brownlee, Rosalind Chapman, Gary Swann, Chris Alemany, Sandra Gentleman

Regrets: Guy Langlois, Branden Chase

Guest: Sheena Falconer, Alberni Aquarium and Stewardship Centre

Motion to approve the agenda by John Mayba, Chris Alemany seconded. Passed.

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting by Chris Alemany, John Mayba seconded. Passed.

**NOTE:** The Committee will be on summer hiatus for July, Next meeting will be August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Presentation by Sheena Falconer, Alberni Aquarium and Stewardship Centre and its ongoing work. Sheena is the Executive Director of the charitable, non-profit side of the larger enterprise which also encompasses West Coast Aquatics. It has been operating since 2002 and focuses on four pillars: Habitat restoration, species enhancement, protection and education.

Habitat restoration: Work has included Kitsuksis Creek diversion; Rogers Creek, Taylor River, Urban Shores and Somass Estuary and River habitat restoration. During Rogers Creek Phase 1, they worked with the City to create a settlement pond for runoff. The project was a great success. Phase 2 is focused on the Rogers Creek Trail. The Taylor project is entering its third year. The land has been reclaimed and enhanced by Sockeye and Coho fry enhancement ponds. The River is now thick with salmon and the bears, elk and birds have moved back into the area. The big project is the Somass Estuary. A professional study has made 33 recommendations on what should be done in this area for both fish enhancement and flood mitigation. They have requested \$15M in federal fisheries funds to implement the recommendations over a time frame of several years. Funds have also been acquired/requested from other sources to assist with implementation costs.

Species enhancement: They have created a netpen for Chinook fry after they have been released from the hatchery. The rate of survival has been greatly increased by providing this interim environment for 2-3 weeks so that fry can acclimatize to the wild.

Protection: They are in process of gathering data on water quality in various places; this has not been done before and will create a benchmark for the future. They have also developed a

“Green Fish” decal to recognize eco responsible businesses in the valley. As well, there has been a lot of effort put into identifying and acquiring critical habitat.

Education: The Streamkeepers program at the high school is in danger due to federal funding cuts.

Gary Swann suggested that the Committee make a recommendation to the City for the formation of a high level, multi-government watershed committee. Further discussion at August meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:08 PM.

Adjourned: 6:10pm.

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Rosalind Chapman, Chair

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Davina Hartwell, City Clerk