

8. Vancouver Bird-Friendly Strategy

At its meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 2013, Vancouver City Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment meeting on Wednesday, May 29, 2013, in order to hear from speakers.

MOVER: Councillor Andrea Reimer

SECONDER: Councillor Raymond Louie

WHEREAS

1. Metro Vancouver, including Vancouver, supports 407 identified bird species, most of which are migratory;
2. Birds, through their dependence on many habitats along their migrations, often feel the effects of changing habitats before many other species, making them key indicators for the environmental health and thus the health of residents;
3. Canada's science-based 'Important Bird Areas Program', an initiative to identify, conserve and monitor a network of sites that provide essential habitat for Canada's bird population, has identified the Fraser River Delta adjacent to Vancouver as BC's most significant important bird area, supporting millions of birds annually;
4. Birding tourism accounted for \$35.7 billion in expenditures in the United States in 2009, the most recent year for which information is available. Although no comparable study exists in Canada, estimates of birding participation rates in western Canada for the same year are much higher than in the United States (30% versus 21%);
5. The Greenest City Action Plan recognizes that natural spaces need to be protected and well managed, and that the City should contribute to, and influence, the development of Metro Vancouver's Regional Biodiversity Strategy, which includes guidelines to create or re-establish wildlife corridors;
6. Since 2010 the City has partnered with the Vancouver Park Board, Nature Canada, Bird Studies Canada and other community partners to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day and provide a week of public education programming about birds and bird habitat;
7. Toronto, Calgary, Chicago and several other North American cities have successfully established bird-friendly strategies, that include public education, habitat creation and protection, building guidelines, and tourism strategies;
8. The Vancouver Park Board will be debating a motion at their next meeting to expand their efforts to protect and expand bird habitat, and public education programs on birds.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT staff report back on best practices for monitoring and protecting bird

populations in an urban environment, including building and landscape guidelines.

- B. THAT birding tourism be included as part of the Vancouver Tourism Master Plan being developed with Tourism Vancouver.
- C. THAT staff work with the City's World Migratory Bird Day partners to expand public education efforts for 2014.

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