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**Present:**

Councillor M. Bose, Vice-Chair  
D. Jack  
M. Lamont  
K. Purton  
S. Sajda  
D. Smith

**Absent:**

Mayor Locke, Chairperson

**Staff Present:**

S. Nichols, Deputy City Clerk  
Y. Yohannes, Manager, Utilities

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Councillor Bose assumed the role of the Chair.

**A. ADOPTIONS****1. Adoption of the Agenda**

It was

Moved by K. Purton

Seconded by M. Lamont

That the agenda of the Environment and Climate Change Committee meeting of January 10, 2024, be adopted as amended by correcting incorrect references to 2023 throughout, and by amending C. 2. "2024 Committee Meeting Schedule" to amend the request of the Committee to receive the schedule instead of adopting.

Carried

**2. Adoption of the Minutes****(a) November 15, 2023 Environment and Climate Change Committee**

It was

Moved by S. Sajda

Seconded by M. Lamont

That the minutes of the Environment and Climate Change Committee meeting of November 15, 2023, be adopted and forwarded to Council with the October 26, 2023, Bear Creek Improvement Project Sub-Committee minutes attached.

Carried

**B. DELEGATIONS****1. Micro Electric Mobility**

Ali Kazemkhani, Chief Executive Officer, ENVO Drive Systems

Mr. Kazemkhani provided a PowerPoint presentation advising that the company's mission is to address technological gaps in e-mobility by offering innovative, modular, and versatile, yet affordable solutions. The company, based in Burnaby,

BC, champion sustainable practices, advocate for clean transportation and actively propels global environmental initiatives.

The delegation presented the various products currently in circulation and introduced future products. The delegation suggested that their technology would potentially be a good fit for the City's fleet as they have a range of products that can be used by staff in parks and bylaw enforcement.

The delegation advised that they wanted to introduce their technology to the Committee and are looking for a potential pilot project with City staff to test the technology and provide product feedback. It was suggested that the delegation make a presentation to the Metro Vancouver Climate Action Committee.

In response to questions from the Committee, the following information was provided:

- The technology could replace gas or fossil fuel fleet vehicles as they age out;
- The e-vehicles presented can be customized;
- Currently the e-vehicles are not permitted to use bike lanes but Toronto, ON just amended their legislation to allow this use;
- The current infrastructure in Surrey makes the Veemo and UPT Platform vehicles such as the eATV ideal for fleet use;

Staff were requested to connect the delegation with fleet staff for a demonstration and discuss a potential pilot of the vehicles.

## **C. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Work Plan 2024**

The Committee discussed their challenges and frustrations with the 2023 Committee Workplan. The Committee requested that staff, appropriate to the subject matter, attend committee meetings, and that there be regular follow-up from staff.

Staff acknowledged the concerns and requested that the Committee provide items for the upcoming year so that the work plan can be presented for discussion.

It was suggested that delegations to the Committee be limited for 20 minutes, 10 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for questions, and that discussion be focused.

The following items were discussed for the 2024 Workplan:

1. Climate Change Action Strategy (CCAS);
2. Parks Protection Bylaw review;
3. Understanding of DCC fund allocation for BCS and Parkland acquisition;
4. New Housing Legislation and the impact on environment and climate change;

5. New program to address what is not covered by Surrey's Natural Areas Partnership (SNAP) and Salmon Habitat Restoration Program (SHaRP), such as backyard biodiversity and homeowner education program.

The Committee discussed reviewing current bylaws and drafting new bylaws.

Challenges with staff availability and follow-up was discussed.

The Committee inquired about the delegation that was approved at the December 18, 2023 Regular Council Public Hearing meeting. Andrew Banks, BC Nature - Project Manager, Municipal Protected Areas Project and Kephra Beckett, BC Nature Conservation Coordinator, BC Nature will be scheduled for an upcoming meeting based on their availability.

## **2. 2024 Committee Meeting Schedule**

The Committee reviewed the proposed 2024 meeting schedule. As with previous meeting schedules, meetings are proposed to be held in person on the second Wednesday of each month at 5:00pm., except February 2024 where the meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2024. No meetings are scheduled for March, August, and December.

The Committee requested an additional meeting in March and it was suggested that members of ECCC can meet individually at any time without staff resources, and such a meeting would not be an official meeting of the ECCC.

The Committee expressed challenges with the meeting being scheduled for only 2 hours. The Committee was reminded that meetings are scheduled for 2 hours given the cost of staff overtime to attend the meetings. It was recommended that discussion be concise and focused, and that members come prepared for discussion on items on the agenda.

It was	Moved by S. Sajda
	Seconded by M. Lamont
	That the 2024 Meeting Schedule for the
Environment and Climate Change Committee be received.	<u>Carried</u>

## **D. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **1. Roundtable**

A roundtable discussion ensued as follows:

- The Committee would like a review and staff comments on tree and biodiversity loss due to development. The David Suzuki Foundation Municipal Climate Solution program assists municipalities in estimating the value of ecosystem services.

- It was suggested that the City explore setting funds aside to fund green infrastructure. It was noted that there are funding opportunities through the TD Bank TD Friends of the Environment Foundation.
- Food security and water conservation were discussed. It was suggested that the City provide rain barrels to residents as an addition to garbage and green waste services provided. Options for addressing food security, such as residents planting gardens and buying local were discussed. The Committee discussed the amount of agricultural land is being actively farmed in the City and the opportunity to encourage land owners to grow food crops to sustain food supply. The Committee discussed Hepple Farms and South Campbell lands.
- It was noted that the 2024 workplan discussion was good. The Committee discussed the timeline for adoption step codes and requested follow-up from staff.
- The Committee were advised of a soil virus affecting blueberry crops. The need for farming a variety of crops, and crop rotation was discussed.
- It was suggested that the ECCC meet with other Council Committees to discuss climate adaptation, and potentially meet with environment committees from other municipalities.

#### E. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environment and Climate Change Committee is scheduled for 5:00pm on February 21, 2024.

#### F. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by M. Bose

Seconded by K. Purton

That the Environment and Climate Change

Committee meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The Environment and Climate Change Committee meeting adjourned at 7:31pm.

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Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

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Councillor Mike Bose, Vice-Chair