

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee - Minutes

Present:

Councillor Pettigrew, Chair
B. Campbell, Vice-Chair
J. Werring
K. Purton
L. Walker
M. Lamont
M. Sharma
N. Hogan
P. Mann
S. Rush
S. VanKeulen

Regrets:

J. Dhami

Staff Present:

J. Owen, Acting Sustainability Manager
N. Aven, Parks Manager
N. Chan, Manager, Trees and Landscapes
R. Landucci, Forestry Manager
P. Zevit, Biodiversity Conservation Planner
S. Godwin, Environment Manager
C. Eagles, Administrative Assistant

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

It was Moved by B. Campbell
Seconded by N. Hogan
That the Environmental Sustainability
Advisory Committee adopt the January 29, 2020 agenda, as amended by adding:

1. H.4 Subcommittee Working Group; and
2. G.3 AFPAC Update.

Carried

2. Adoption of the Minutes

It was Moved by Councillor Pettigrew
Seconded by B. Campbell
That the Environmental Sustainability
Advisory Committee adopt the minutes of November 27, 2019, as amended:

Replace Item C2 with:

The Committee would like to target a number of trees to be planted and ensure it is a benefit to the City.

Replace Item H3 with:

..that TransLink met with the Green Timbers Heritage Society Advisory Committee. The Green Timbers Urban Forest Advisory Committee is waiting for a meeting with Translink and would like TransLink to..

Carried

M. Lamont and S. VanKeulen arrived to the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

M. Sharma arrived to the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

B. DELEGATIONS**1. Air Quality Management Plan: Planning for a Carbon Neutral Region by 2050**

John Lindner, Air Quality Planner and Derek Jennejohn, Lead Senior Engineer, Air Quality and Climate Change, Metro Vancouver

The delegation provided a presentation on a new Clean Air Plan and climate strategy for the region and their plans for a Carbon Neutral Region by 2050.

- The Climate 2050 Strategic Framework is the first component of Metro Vancouver's 30-year strategy to guide climate action across the organization and region. Climate 2050 builds on work which is already underway within the region and considers both near and long term actions over the next 30 years. Metro Vancouver needs to be a carbon neutral region by 2050.
- Both Climate 2050 and the Clean Air Plan are organized around 10 issue areas covering both greenhouse gas emissions and climate change adaptation. Initial engagement will focus on three major sources of emissions in the region: Transportation, buildings, and industry. The goals identified from the top three major sources of emissions included: Mobility pricing (Transportation), move beyond best available control technology (Industry), and to reduce emissions from existing buildings with emission performance requirements (Buildings).
- The most current inventory shows that the carbon footprint for the region was about 15 million tonnes of GHG emissions in 2015. Transportation is the largest source of emissions, which includes cars and trucks, heavy duty vehicles, aircraft, rail locomotives and marine vessels. Buildings and industry are the next largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Fine particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, and volatile organic compounds are the three air contaminants with the largest direct impact on public health in our region, along with the largest sources of each air contaminant.

Feedback on the Clean Air Plan can be provided to Metro Vancouver by April 30, 2020 to cleanairplan@metrovancover.org or climate2050@metrovancover.org. For more information, please visit www.metrovancover.org and search "Clean Air Plan".

2. Climate Change Challenge: SPARK Foundation

Rochelle Prasad and John Thomas, Spark Foundation

The two top finalists of the SPARK foundation provided presentations on Climate Change, namely "Common people bring change" and on Farmers Markets.

Presenter 1: Kavya N. and Aaliyah - Common people bring change

Presenter 2: Kavya G. – Farmers Markets

The Committee commended the children for their presentations and initiatives to alleviate climate change. The Committee suggested the delegation provide the second presentation to the AFPAC Committee.

It was

Moved by S. VanKeulen

Seconded by N. Hogan

That the Environmental Sustainability

Advisory Committee request that staff investigate the idea to host a plant tower in the atrium, as presented by the Spark Foundation.

Carried

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Tree Protection Bylaw Update

Nadia Chan, Manager, Trees and Landscapes

Staff provided a Power-Point presentation on the Tree Protection bylaw, 2006 No. 16100 and highlighted the following information:

- Tree Protection bylaw, 2006 No. 16100 regulates and prohibits the cutting, removal and damage of trees, the setting of fees and issuance of permits, the requirement for replacement trees and of security for their provision and maintenance. Permits are issued for trees to ensure public safety is maintained and are required to be posted on site. Staff work with applicants to retain trees during development when appropriate.
- Staff detailed the expected timeline for the bylaw update process and noted the bylaw update is expected to go to Council in Spring 2020. Recent survey results concluded that the current Bylaw meets public satisfaction for protected tree sizes, number of replacement trees and tree protection securities. The survey showed that the public believe penalties should be increased. Staff are looking into a non-refundable application fee for tree cutting permit applications. From the Open Community Survey and the CitySpeaks Panel Survey, there were over 1,336 survey responses between October 1 and November 1, 2019.
- Staff noted that the City does not approve a tree cutting permit for cosmetic purposes. It was suggested to provide incentives to retain trees to encourage residents to green their lots. It was expressed that there is no recognition for residents that are providing ecological benefits to the community.

Concerns were expressed on the lack of information of ecological services and natural capital that trees provide and how that can be quantified on paper or in the tree bylaw. It was suggested to include the estimated value of the tree that may be calculated using the Tree Benefit Calculator as highlighted in treebenefits.com. The Chair would like to see the ecological services and natural capital valuations incorporated into the bylaw and further public consultation on the draft bylaw.

J. Werring left the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

This section has no items to consider.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

This section has no items to consider.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

This section has no items to consider.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Letter from Resident re: Electric Vehicle Response

2. Health Canada re: effects of Cellular radiation

3. Agricultural Food Policy Advisory Committee (AFPAC) Update

At the January 14, 2020 AFPAC meeting, the Assistant Fire Chief presented on Emergency Preparedness.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Workplan

Item H.1 was deferred to the next meeting.

2. City Wide Tree Accounting

Item H.2 was deferred to the next meeting.

3. Verbal Updates

- On Saturday, February 1, 2020 World Wetlands Day will be held at Surrey Nature Centre at Green Timbers from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.
- Upcoming Birding Walks can be found on the City's website under Park Events.

4. Subcommittee Working Group

- Major Initiatives: The Chair provided the Committee with a list of major initiatives and asked if any members would like to form subcommittees to address the initiatives.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee will be held on February 26, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in 2E Community Room B.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Pettigrew

Seconded by B. Campbell

That the Environmental Sustainability

Advisory Committee adjourn.

Carried

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

Councillor Steven Pettigrew, Chair