



## **ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EnCAC)**

**Wednesday, May 27, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.**

**Meeting held electronically under Ministerial Order No. M139**

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa	- Chair, City Council Member
Michelle Bono	- Community Member
Karen Crosby	- Community Member
Colleen Gillespie	- Representative, Professional in Environment or Climate Field, Business, Government or Non-Profit
John Lekakis	- Representative, Local Institution (SD40)
Teresa Morton	- Representative, Local Environment Association
Patrick Parkes	- Community Member
John Ragone (Left at 6:30 p.m.)	- Community Member
Bryanna Thiel	- Representative, Professional in Environment or Climate Field, Business, Government or Non-Profit
Serena Vampa	- Representative, Local Business Association

#### **MEMBERS REGRETS:**

Raunaq Singh	- Community Member
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#### **GUESTS:**

Mike Coulthard	- Diamond Head Consulting
Camille Lefrançois	- Diamond Head Consulting
Cassandra Cummings	- Diamond Head Consulting

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Leya Behra	- Manager, Climate Action
Jennifer Lukianchuk	- Senior Environmental Coordinator
Nicole Ludwig	- Assistant City Clerk
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

## **1.0 HOUSEKEEPING**

### **1.1 Online Introductions**

Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk, welcomed Committee members to the meeting and briefly outlined how to use online meeting functions.

## **2.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

No changes were made.

## **3.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

### **3.1 Adoption of the Minutes of March 11, 2020**

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Minutes of the March 11, 2020 Environment and Climate Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED.**

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

Bryanna Thiel queried her designation on the Committee as she applied as a community member but is noted otherwise in the minutes. Staff agreed to provide clarification to Ms. Thiel after the meeting.

In response to Councillor Nakagawa's icebreaker question, "What nice thing or adventure have you experienced since the start of the pandemic?" Committee members shared that their experiences included finding a hummingbird nest, spending more time with their dogs, purchasing and reading books, bicycling to and exploring other municipalities, preparing for the re-start of school as a teacher, adopting a puppy, walks admiring neighbourhood gardens, exploring Colony Farm park, landscaping and working on their gardens, and navigating the simultaneous responsibilities that come with working and being home with children.

**Procedural note:** Item 4.2: Biodiversity Strategy Presentation and Workshop was addressed at this time.

## **4.0 PRESENTATIONS**

### **4.1 Discussion – COVID and its Impacts on Climate Action, and the Green Recovery**

Councillor Nakagawa shared that a lot of people are talking about the parallels between the COVID-19 response and the climate emergency response, noting that one of the City's most challenging and visible responses to a pandemic issue is facilitating social distancing in the public realm, including erecting pylons on some streets in order to provide safe pedestrian traffic through the community. She advised that while these are temporary measures, they are somewhat aligned with the City's goal to reclaim street space.

Further, Councillor Nakagawa stated that immediate response is required to address COVID-19 matters and, as such, the City's climate emergency work has been temporarily paused as these issues are addressed; however, as we enter the recovery stage, the climate emergency can be revisited.

In response to questions, Councillor Nakagawa advised:

- Over the past two months, staff have been working on pandemic-related tasks; however, the City still wants to address the climate emergency this year through the 7 Bold Steps as a number of the climate actions were already in the budget;
- In response to the pandemic, the City has formed a number of task forces, including those that address the needs of the City's vulnerable, at-risk, and senior populations such as food security. Since the City has established relationships with service providers and organizations, a number of food security actions were able to be undertaken immediately to assist these groups, as well work being undertaken to provide long-term food security;
- The City proposed a crisis climate levy; however, that was changed to an emergency fund which included funds not allocated elsewhere; and,
- Regarding tackling the increase in single-use plastic consumption, noting the necessity for rubber gloves and masks during the pandemic, the City is awaiting direction from the Province, therefore it has not yet been addressed by Council.

In response to a question from Leya Behra, Manager, Climate Action, Committee members identified the following priorities for the 7 Bold Steps:

- Accelerate the timeline for Urban Forest Management Strategy tree planting, focussing on less green areas such as the Brow of Hill;
- Address the potential of increased flooding from the Fraser River as a result of changing climate, rising sea levels, and spring freshet, and how that may affect the City's infrastructure, utility corridors, etc., and also avoid development in areas prone to flooding, and instead use the space to create and encourage biodiversity;
- Reallocate road space for pedestrians;

- Reduce the number of cars on the street, including those that pass through the City and make it safer to bike around the community;
- If people continued working from home at least one day a week once the pandemic is over, that would help the City achieve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bold Step: Car Light Community; and,
- The City needs to be educated as to what is scientifically proven to work when it comes to the use of single-use plastics, such as disposable gloves.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Environment & Climate Advisory Committee recommends that Council continue moving forward with the 7 Bold Steps as a priority and seek federal funding for their implementation.*

**CARRIED.**

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

**4.2 Biodiversity Strategy Presentation and Workshop**

Mike Coulthard of Diamond Head Consulting, introduced himself and colleagues, Cassandra Cummings and Camille Lefrançois, and commenced with a presentation and workshop.

Committee members provided the following comments to questions regarding biodiversity:

*What do you like about biodiversity and natural areas?*

- People go to places with high biodiversity such as Queens Park, Glenbrooke Ravine Park, Hume Park, and the Fraser River for walks and recreation;
- Biodiversity maximizes social interactions;
- It is nice to hear the birds in the morning, before the traffic starts; and,
- The trees and planted boulevard areas in the Queens Park area and residential area gardens are all good neighbourhood features.

*What could be done to improve biodiversity and natural areas?*

- Prioritize the restoration of the Brunette-Fraser River corridor;
- Create quiet biodiverse areas away from traffic and understand the effects that noise and smell have on biodiversity;
- Investigate ways to regulate vehicle noise, possibly through fines;
- Consider accessibility to natural areas;
- Vegetation that addresses complementary climate change benefits;
- More movement corridors and fewer lawns;
- Urban orchards and natural food opportunity sources such as native berries, etc.

- Understand the impacts of land use on aquatic biodiversity;
- Address the lack of aquatic spaces in areas such as the west side;
- Including the Fraser River's aquatic biodiversity in the mapping will be important for consideration with climate change, flooding, etc.; and,
- Incentivize biodiversity in multi-family land use.

The consultants' email information was provided to Committee members for further input and Councillor Nakagawa thanked the consultants for attending the meeting.

**Procedural note:** Item 4.1: Discussion – COVID and its Impacts on Climate Action, and the Green Recovery was addressed after Item 4.2, followed by the remainder of agenda items.

## **5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There were no items.

## **6.0 NEW BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Community Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy Presentation and Workshop**

Leya Behra, Climate Manager, shared that she was seeking feedback from the Committee regarding EV infrastructure in the City, including what the City can support and supply both publicly and privately, and the EV strategy's vision and guiding principles. Ms. Behra provided a PowerPoint presentation and facilitated a short workshop addressing the 4<sup>th</sup> Bold Step: Pollution Free Vehicles.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Behra advised:

- The greater market availability of longer range EV vehicles and stronger incentives have increased the public's adoption of the vehicles;
- Use of EV charging stations is determined by location and time of day; and,
- EV charging stations which require payment to park may be used less.

Committee members provided the following comments to questions regarding the community EV strategy:

*What is the City's role in supporting public access to EV charging stations?*

- Supply the infrastructure but allow the private sector to own/operate it;
- Support the early stages of adoption, then support the transition to private;
- Provide additional support for at-home chargers;

- Provide more education and partnerships with funding;
- Allocate a share of privately owned/operated charging station profits to the public;
- Ensure accessibility to privately run stations; and,
- Support the adoption of stations publically so that rates are high enough to attract a private buy in.

*What is the community's need as it relates to public access to EV charging infrastructure?*

No comments were received.

*Where could we potentially install curbside charging? Where are the priority areas?*

- Uptown and Queensborough;
- Recreation centres and public parks; however, it was noted that some Committee members have mixed feelings regarding providing charging stations at these locations as they feel people should be using active modes of transportation to access these amenities; and,
- The Quay and other places that would attract tourism.

Ms. Behra urged Committee members to contact her directly if they had further questions and/or comments regarding the Community EV Strategy.

## **7.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

### **7.1 Environment Coordinator's Update**

Jennifer Lukianchuk, Environment Coordinator, announced the following events:

- A Pop-Up Recycling event will take place on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at the City's Public Works Yard from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 pm. This will be a trial event, with social distancing in place and, if it goes well, may become a monthly occurrence. Additional details can be found on the City's website; and,
- The Glenbrook Ravine Restoration event will also take place on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Ms. Lukianchuk can be contacted for more information.

## **8.0 NEXT MEETING DATE**

Wednesday, July 15, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. – Details to be confirmed

**9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Certified correct,

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ORIGINAL SIGNED  
**COUNCILLOR NADINE NAKAGAWA**  
**CHAIR**

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ORIGINAL SIGNED  
**CARILYN COOK**  
**COMMITTEE CLERK**