



## **ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, April 9, 2014 - 6:30 pm

**Council Chamber**

### **MINUTES**

#### **VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy  
Brent Bowker  
Alex Csizmadia  
Mia Ciric  
Giuliana Graves  
Gordon Hobbis  
Maria Marcakis  
Robert McGregor  
Karla Olson  
Terryl Plotnikoff  
Vickie Turvey

Chair  
Community Member  
Community Member  
Local Business Representative  
Community Member  
Community Member  
Education Community (Student)  
Education Community (Teacher)  
Local Environmental Association  
Community Member  
Community Member

#### **GUESTS:**

Marlene Fuhrmann  
Percy Leung

Metro Vancouver  
Metro Vancouver

#### **STAFF:**

Jennifer Lukianchuk  
Erika Mashig  
George Otieno  
Claude Ledoux  
Marie-Elaina Aveni

Environmental Coordinator  
Parks & Open Space Planner  
Assistant Project Engineer  
Parks Horticulture Manager  
Committee Clerk

*A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:36pm.*

Round table introductions were made for the newest member of the Committee.

#### **1. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

1.1. There were no additions to the agenda.

#### **2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

2.1. **Adoption of Minutes from the meeting of February 19, 2014**

##### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the minutes of the Environment Advisory Committee held February 19, 2014, be received and adopted with recommended changes.*

**CARRIED**

**All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.**

### 3. PRESENTATIONS

*Procedural Note: Item 5.1 was discussed before Item 3.1*

#### 3.1. **Fats, Oils and Grease in the Sewer** – Marlene Fuhrmann and Percy Leung, Metro Vancouver & George Otieno, Engineering Services (**Attachment 1**)

The Food Sector Grease Interceptor Bylaw has been in place since October 2012 and is in place to protect human health and infrastructure.

Grease in the sewers can cause sewer overflows when the grease solidifies and causes blockages, potentially damaging homes, businesses and the environment. If Grease interceptors are in place and properly maintained, fats, oils and greases are captured before they enter the sewers and cleaner waste goes to the treatment plant.

There are over 6,000 restaurants in the Lower Mainland and Metro Vancouver plans to visit 200 of those; ten of which are in New Westminster.

Metro Vancouver has often found that existing interceptors that are in place are too small or there are not enough fixtures connected to the interceptor. As a result, fats, oil and grease (FOG) end up flowing into the sewers.

Grease bearing fixtures must be connected and must be sized properly. The fixtures must be cleaned out when the total thickness of FOG and solids in the interceptor is equal to 25% or more of the wastewater depth or once every 90 days.

All new restaurants need to include grease interceptors in the plans submitted for a building permit, and they are encouraged to get in touch with Metro Vancouver to determine sizing requirements and which fixtures require connection.

When Metro Vancouver visits a restaurant, they try to educate restaurant owners before they resort to fining them.

As an example, River Market, here in New Westminster takes care of their location and they hire a contractor to maintain and clean the interceptors and the fee is charged back to the tenant.

At this time, residential areas are not regulated by Metro Vancouver; regulation and enforcement is up to the municipalities. There are cities that are now taking steps to require grease interceptors in single-family homes.

New Westminster is currently updating their sewerage & drainage bylaw to require grease interceptors on the building sewer or drain connections in all parking garages and parking lots, automobile service stations, vehicle and equipment washing establishments, multifamily, industrial and commercial sites.

#### 3.2. **LEED features of New Civic Buildings** – Terry Atherton (**Attachment 2**)

A copy of the LEED Canada-CS 2009 Project Scorecard (for the Anvil Centre) was given to members so they could see the potential features of LEED buildings. LEED certified (40-49 points) projects don't cost as much and are easier to achieve than LEED Platinum (80+ points) buildings.

In 2009, City Council adopted a policy to achieve LEED Gold in all its new buildings and is aiming for LEED Gold Certification (66 points) for the Anvil Centre. When working towards any LEED certification it's good to strive for a few more points than the minimum amount for the level as points may be lost in the evaluation process.

Anvil Centre project LEED features include being close to a transportation hub having extensive bicycle storage and change room facilities as well as eight electrical vehicle charging stations in the parkade. There will be design and construction guidelines for tenants to follow when making their improvements, which include suggestions for the tenants to maintain the green theme that the building was built around. Tenants will be encouraged to take part in the organic waste program.

During construction, all construction waste was collected and recycled. Most material was purchased locally and any wood used was certified wood, which is purchased from sustainable companies.

The City is preparing pamphlets and signage that outlines the environmental features of the building.

#### 4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### 4.1. There was no unfinished business.

#### 5. NEW BUSINESS

##### 5.1. Urban Forest Management Strategy Update – Erika Mashig, Parks & Open Space Planner

Erika Mashig introduced herself as the new Parks and Open Space Planner at the City of New Westminster.

An RFP is going to be issued for a city-wide urban forest management strategy. The purpose of the Urban Forest Management Strategy is to provide the City with clear direction for the future best management of trees by the City through the development of a vision, values, benefits, principles, goals, objectives and recommendations for that management. Through its recommendations and implementation, the Urban Forest Management Strategy will serve to set the course for the long-term sustainable management of trees by the City.

We have a lot of trees; we are replacing any that are removed and planting more. A consultant is going to prepare a city-wide canopy cover map overlaid with land use (classes to include, but not limited to park land trees, street trees, public/institutional trees and private land trees) and neighbourhood boundaries.

There will be stakeholder workshops to develop a vision for the urban forest for the City for 2024.

There are targets that exist for a City this size. The consultant will provide recommendations for metrics and indicators of urban forest health and resilience, including both quantitative indicators and qualitative criteria. The consultant will also provide recommendations for targets/benchmarks (using metrics such as stormwater retention, biodiversity, food production and carbon sequestration).

A suggestion was made to not put trees in commercial areas and that some of the new trees planted should be fruit trees.

##### 5.2. 2014 Environmental Poster Contest – Jennifer Lukianchuk

This year's theme is "*Show You Care: Be Energy Aware*" and officially begins today (April 9, 2014) and runs through Earth Day (April 22<sup>nd</sup>) and closes May 2, 2014.

To support the poster contest this year, the City has contracted the BC Sustainable Energy Association to deliver a free “Climate Change Showdown” workshop for the first ten teachers that sign up.

The Climate Change Showdown includes pre and post-program material for more in-depth learning, guided worksheets and storytelling methods to learn about climate change and a checklist that students can take home and track the actions they are taking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Every year Committee members are invited (and encouraged) to join us for the judging process to pick three winners. The process takes no longer than one hour, on a weekday after work; the judging will take place on Monday, May 12, 2014 from 5:00 to 6:00pm. Please mark that date on your calendars and reminders will be sent as the date gets closer.

Winners will then be notified and their awards are presented at a Council Meeting in June.

## 6. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

### 6.1. Environmental Coordinator’s Update

**Master Transportation Plan Open House** – there are two presentations scheduled for tonight at 4:30 and 6:30pm and another Open House is scheduled for tomorrow night (Thursday, April 10, 2014) here at City Hall at the same times.

**Organics Disposal Ban** – Metro Vancouver is preparing to introduce a ban on the disposal of organics with regular garbage – including food waste and food-soiled paper – that will apply to all residents and businesses in the region. This means separating food waste from regular garbage.

The Organics Disposal Ban is an action in the region’s Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan; Metro Vancouver is now consulting on specific details for implementing the disposal ban starting in 2015.

Members are encouraged to have a look through the summary and documents available on Metro Vancouver’s website ([www.metrovancouver.org](http://www.metrovancouver.org)) under “Organic Ban” – Engagement and Consultation, and provide feedback. There is a survey that can be filled out and available until May 30, 2014.

**Multi material BC** - will assume responsibility of recyclables May 19, 2014 and will be launching a mobile application that will help people know where to take recyclable items.

### 6.2. Members’ Reports

**Maria Marcakis** is looking for a location in New Westminster to have a small number (2-3) of food trucks once a week (likely Friday or Saturday nights). The idea is to have the community come together over food, which would be provided by the food trucks. If members have any suggests for locations, please let Maria know.

**Robert McGregor** is looking for volunteers to use their gardens; if you would like more information please contact Robert.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

7.1. There was no correspondence.

**8. NEXT MEETING**

**Date:** Wednesday, June 18, 2014  
**Location:** Committee Room 2  
**Time:** 6:30pm

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.

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**Councillor Jaimie McEvoy**  
**Chair**

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**Marie-Elaina Ayeni**  
**Recording Secretary**