



ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 18, 2014 - **6:30** pm

Committee Room 2

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brent Bowker	Community Member
Mia Ciric	Local Business Representative
Gordon Hobbis	Community Member
Robert McGregor	Education Community (Teacher)
Karla Olson	Local Environmental Association
Terryl Plotnikoff	Community Member
Vickie Turvey	Community Member

ABSENT:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	Chair
Alex Csizmadia	Community Member
Giuliana Graves	Community Member
Maria Marcakis	Education Community (Student)

GUESTS:

Anika Johal	River Market
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STAFF:

Jennifer Lukianchuk	Environmental Coordinator
Eugene Wat	Manager, Infrastructure Planning
Claude Ledoux	Parks Horticulture Manager
Mark Allison	Manager, Strategic Initiatives & Sustainability
Norm Connelly	Community Energy Manager
Ryan Coleman	Program Coordinator - Energy Save NW
Marie-Elaina Ayeni	Committee Clerk

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm.

Procedural Note: *The Chair and Acting Chair were not available; after a brief discussion and call for an Acting-Chair, it was decided that Terryl Plotnikoff would be appointed as Acting-chair for this meeting.*

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 April 9, 2014

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT *the minutes of the Environment Advisory Committee held January 15, 2014, be received and adopted with recommended changes.*

CARRIED

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

Under Item 5.1 – Urban Forest Management Strategy Update, it was requested that the following be added:

The issues of food security and food sustainability were raised by a member, including the recent presentation to council on Monday April 7 2014 regarding the Southwest BC Bio-Regional Food System Project.

To encourage the city to take a leadership role with these environmental issues, a suggestion was made to include the planting of edible fruit trees in the Urban Forest management strategy.

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1. Energy Save New West/Business Outreach & River Market Features – Norm Connolly/Mia Ciric

Energy Save New West just finished its pilot year, and an overview of results is included in the attached presentation (see Attachment 1).

Some milestones include local resident Nicole Prior being one of the first New Westminster residents to sign up for a residential energy efficiency assessment during the launch of the low-rise residential project in July 2013. The business energy efficiency component of Energy Save New West was launched in October 2013. Business owner Netalia Petcu, Zoom Hair Studio, was motivated to register in the program not only to save energy and money, but to also do what she can for her community. The Community Energy Challenge was launched in November 2013, and is a prize draw that is eligible for homeowners that make one or more energy improvements to their home, based on recommendations from their energy efficiency assessment. Brennan & Anita Anstey approached the City to register in Energy Save New West and have an energy assessment done on their 1950s home. Since they are completing two or more energy upgrades to their home, they will qualify to be entered into the grand prize draw for a \$3,500 Energy Star appliance package in Spring 2015.

Internal collaboration has been received with all departments of the City for this initiative, and partnerships have also been formed with external organizations like Metro Vancouver and VanCity. Both FortisBC and BC Hydro have provided partial funding for Energy Save New West in its pilot year.

A pilot energy efficiency program for multi-residential rental buildings is also underway, with four local governments (including New Westminster) and funding contributions by FortisBC and BC Hydro. The program offers landlords a free walk-through energy assessment of their building portfolios, and a report summarizing energy upgrade opportunities. The focus is on three-storey walk-ups and larger rental apartment buildings.

At this time, Mia Ciric, General Manager of the River Market took the floor to speak about the River Market and the actions they are taking.

The River Market is home to 72 businesses, 13 of which are food oriented.

In 2011, The River Market implemented mandatory composting for business in the food industry and in 2013 this has been extended to the public.

When it came time to replace the HVAC system, they purchased a water-to-water and water-to-air system. They have reduced their GHG emissions by 22.6% between 2011 and 2013. At the same time, they have reduced their solid waste and increased their recycling and organic waste.

Finally, an air-curtain will be installed on all garage doors that will prevent outside air from entering the premises.

The River Market has also enrolled in the Climate Smart program, an initiative that is co-sponsored by Climate Smart and the City of New Westminster.

3.2. Sapperton District Energy Update and Results from Air Quality Study – Norm Connolly

The proposed Sapperton District Energy System supports the City's policy objectives in terms of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from buildings. Renewable energy-based district heating systems represent a long-term investment in sustainable infrastructure and enable us to be less reliant on fossil fuels. (see attachment 2)

A key anchor for the Sapperton District Energy (SDE) is Royal Columbian Hospital (RCH). City staff are working with Fraser Health Authority on the first phase of RCH expansion, which includes a new mental health unit and a new energy plant for the hospital.

There are two renewable heating options that are being considered for this system, and both are viable: Wood Chip Heating and Sewage Heat Recovery.

What is this renewable energy replacing? Natural Gas; 100% of the heating for RCH is currently from natural gas. For private residential-commercial developments, the district energy system would replace most of the conventional energy used to heat these buildings, which is a mix of natural gas and electricity.

Metro Van has developed a policy on sewage heat recovery which supports the use of sewage heat in district heating applications, as long as the sewage is not chilled too much before it reaches the treatment plant (Annacis Island).

Over time, this DE system will be extended to include industrial clients.

The Committee was asked "How would you put this information to the community, so that they don't confuse this with waste to energy?"

One suggestion was to help them to understand that these facilities can't just use any type of fuel. They're built for specific purposes and applications. In the case of wood chip combustion, the boilers run on clean, dry chipped waste wood or wood pellets. In the case of sewage heat recovery, there is no combustion. Heat is recovered by capturing the heat that is released when cooling the sewage flow by a few degrees (basically the same process as used by a refrigerator). The energy released by the chilling process is then used to heat hot water for distribution to buildings.

The next Open House will be June 19, 2014, and the Committee is encouraged to contact Norm Connolly, Mark Allison or Rod Carl in Electrical..

3.3. Master Transportation Plan – Eugene Wat

Procedural note: Mia Ciric left the meeting at 7:54pm

A Draft Final Report went to the Committee of the Whole meeting on June 16, 2014. The draft report is being edited with change recommendations from Council and will eventually be available on the website.

The Master Transportation Plan (MTP) Committee was formed in 2012 and has engaged the public periodically over the last two years. Through the process four major targets were identified. Increase sustainable transportation without increasing volume coming into the City, creating a walkable City by enhancing the pedestrian network and providing comfortable cycling facilities to complete the cycling network.

Procedural note: Mia Ciric returned to the meeting at 8:01pm

The idea is to create a transit oriented community by providing attractive and convenient transit, promote region-wide transit improvements and update the City's road network. The City is currently in the process of updating the street classification network. The focus is not to increase road capacity, but to align the street classification with the current traffic volumes and functionality.

The City has made a request to TransLink that a number of truck routes be removed from the network for goods movement and would like to discourage the use of the Pattullo Bridge as a free bridge alternative. The request will be reviewed by TransLink Board in July 2014.

In the MTP, one of the long term solution for east west truck movement through the City is a tunnel that would go underground at Braid and Brunette Streets and come out at the west end of the City, closer to Queensborough Bridge. This would be a goods movement tunnel, not a general use tunnel.

The draft plan has been approved in principle and will be taken to public and stakeholder consultations next week; (June 24 & 26, 2014). The MTP will go to Council for final approval in September 2014.

Queensborough to Quayside (Q to Q) pedestrian bridge is being designed. One of the options is to put it alongside the existing rail bridge, which would cause the pedestrian bridge to be inaccessible when there is a train crossing and marine traffic. Another option is to install a draw-bridge, which has a higher clearance for marine traffic; thus allowing the bridge to be open most of the time.

A question was raised about using a ferry service; Metro Vancouver has done an exhaustive study and found that it was seasonal and very cost prohibitive. TransLink has also done a study on regional ferry service and found that there wasn't enough ridership.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1. There was no unfinished business.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1. Appointment of Environment Grant Sub-Committee and Chair – Jennifer Lukianchuk

The purpose of the sub-committee is to make funding recommendations to Council for the Environmental Grant Program. Applications are usually received in September and reviewed in November, by the Sub-Committee and then brought back to the Committee who then discusses and approves the recommendations. Details were provided to the committee about the role and a call was put out seeking three volunteers.

Brent Bowker, Terryl Plotnikoff and Vickie Turvey, volunteered to be on the Sub-committee, with Vickie Turvey being appointed as the Chair.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environment Sub-Committee be comprised of Brent Bowker, Terryl Plotnikoff and Vickie Turvey.

CARRIED

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

5.2. Sapperton Air Quality Monitoring Station – Jennifer Lukianchuk

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

5.3. Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion (TMX) – Mark Allison

The environmental review process has changed: what used to take up to five years must now be completed within 16 months.

This TMX process was initiated last fall and now you need to be directly impacted by the project in order to make an application as an Intervener. The City of Burnaby has extensive information on their website, and they are offering assistance with information requests as an Intervener or Commenter. Please visit their website for more information.

<http://www.burnaby.ca/Proposed-Kinder-Morgan-Trans-Mountain-Expansion-Project.html>

The City of New Westminster is an Intervener. Kinder Morgan would now like the pipeline to follow the Metro Vancouver utility corridor that runs along the Brunette River between New Westminster, Coquitlam and Burnaby.

With the new process, you don't get to cross-examine the proponent, but you can send them two information requests and they get to respond as they wish.

The Committee is encouraged to provide additional questions for the National Energy Board (NEB) that will be included in the second request for information that needs to be submitted by September 2014. There was also a request for a committee member to be present at the Kinder Morgan Trans-Mountain Pipeline expansion proposal coordination meeting that is taking place on Monday, June 23, 2014 at 10:30am.

Brent Bowker expressed his interest in attending.

5.4. Delta's Independent Interagency Review Committee re: Coal Facility – Mark Allison

The decision to approve the Coal Transfer Facility is still pending. Port Metro Vancouver is the regulator body and has the authority to do their own environmental assessment. To date, they have been running an environmental assessment and have refused to do a separate health impact assessment.

The Corporation of Delta has formed a review panel and they have met. The Panel has written to the Port asking for the assessment to be done and the Port has indicated that they are not required to do this. The Port has also indicated that they believe that they are not subject to Metro Vancouver Air Quality regulations.

This Committee can also get involved in this issue with their represented groups. Feedback should be directed to the Port. A Council report is going forward on Monday, June 23, 2014 requesting that Council ask that the Port Metro Vancouver review process be transparent and independent.

The group Voters Taking Action on Climate Change (www.vtacc.org) has been active on this issue and has an extensive database.

6. REPORTS AND INFORMATION**6.1. Environmental Coordinator's Update**

There was no environmental update.

6.2. Members' Reports

- NWEF is sponsoring a table for UNIBUG at RiverFest on Saturday, September 27, 2014, 11:00am to 5:00pm.
- A request was made for more information on the Tree Bylaw and if it is being included in the Urban Forest Management Strategy that Erika Mashig, Parks & Open Space Planner, presented at the last meeting.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- 7.1. There was no correspondence.

8. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2014
Location: Committee Room 2
Time: 6:30pm

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:54pm.

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Chair

Marie-Elaina Ayeni
Recording Secretary