



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EAC)

Wednesday, June 27, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.

Committee Room 2, City Hall

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	- Chair
Natalie Douglas	- Community Member
Joe Hargitt	- Community Member
Wilmer Lau	- Local Business Representative
Leslie Malcolm	- Community Member
Andrew Murray	- Community Member
Patrick Parkes	- Community Member
Kyle Routledge	- Local Environment Organization Representative
Ingrid Tymm	- Community Member

REGRETS:

Raunaq Singh	- Student Representative
Ginny Van Pelt	- Community Member

GUESTS:

Heather Bears	- Zoetica Environmental Consulting Services (Item 3.1)
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STAFF:

Jennifer Lukianchuk	- Environmental Coordinator, Engineering Services
Eugene Wat	- Manager, Infrastructure Planning, Engineering Services
Janet Zazubek	- Planning Analyst, Engineering Services
Carol Lee	- Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Procedural Note: Item 2 was considered prior to Item 1.

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of April 25, 2017

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the Environment Advisory Committee meeting held on April 25, 2018 be received and adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

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

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

1.1 Adoption of the June 27, 2018 Agenda

The Agenda of the Environment Advisory Committee meeting held on June 27, 2018 was adopted with the addition of Item 5.1 – Appointment of Environmental Grant Sub-Committee and renumbering of subsequent items accordingly.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Pattullo Bridge Environmental Assessment Process – Heather Bears

Eugene Wat, Manager, Infrastructure Planning, Engineering Services, reported that the Provincial Government has assumed responsibility for the delivery of the Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project (Project) with targeted completion by 2023. The City is participating in the BC Environmental Assessment Office (BC EAO) review process and there will be an opportunity for public input in the future.

Heather Bears, Zoetica Environmental Consulting Services, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Pattullo Bridge environmental assessment (EA) process. The following information was provided:

- Key features of the Pattullo Bridge replacement
- Timeline of the EA process
- EA topics (valued components) considered by the City
- Assessment areas approved by the BC EAO

- Key conclusions of the EA regarding construction and operating effects on:
 - Hydrology and morphology
 - Fish and fish habitat
 - Vegetation
 - Wildlife
 - Soil and groundwater
 - Noise and vibration
 - Air quality
 - Lighting and shade
- Request for input on:
 - Projects that the City can bring forward as ideas for the Fish Offsetting Plan
 - Concerns about local river scour/areas that could receive enhance protection
 - Wildlife history requisites to consider, in addition to the EA focus on impacts to breeding
 - Other potential issues/information sources not considered.

In response to questions from the Committee, Dr. Bears, Mr. Wat and Jennifer Lukianchuk, Environmental Coordinator, Engineering Services, provided the following information:

- Offsetting projects are not required to be in the exact location of the Project however, there is a general principle of providing “like for like”
- Offsetting projects must return conditions to the baseline established during the EA process
- Sedimentation and flows were improved as part of the Port Mann Bridge project:
- The Glenbrook Ravine is not a fish habitat and would therefore not likely be considered as an eligible project for the Fisheries Compensation
- Public Works Canada does not have any plans to replace the existing railway bridge:
- Potential that the reference concept will be substantially different from the detailed design submitted by the design-build proponent
- Erosion and scouring will be considered in determining the location of the piers of the Pattullo Bridge replacement
- Difficulty of including aesthetics and architectural design requirements in the design-build procurement documents.

The Committee noted the following:

- Suggestion to invite the Douglas College Environmental Program and Sapperton Fish and Game to participate in the EA process
- Need to look at areas for improvement, rather than simply mitigate harm
- Opportunity to learn from the lessons of the Port Mann Bridge project
- Suggestion that the enhancement of wildlife habitat on the islands located in the Fraser River be considered as an offsetting project
- Suggestion that the EA report for Pier Park be reviewed for applicability to the Project.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Appointment of Environmental Grant Sub-Committee

Jennifer Lukianchuk, Environmental Coordinator, Engineering Services, provided an overview of the role and responsibility of the Environmental Grant Sub-Committee (Sub-Committee) and the time commitments required of the three members.

In response to a question from the Committee, Ms. Lukianchuk advised that members of the Sub-Committee would be required to recuse themselves during discussions where they have a conflict of interest.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environment Advisory Committee appoint Joe Hargitt, Leslie Malcolm and Ingrid Tymm to the Environmental Grant Sub-Committee.

CARRIED.

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

5.2 Air Quality Monitoring – Patrick Parkes

Patrick Parkes, EAC Member, expressed concern regarding the absence of detailed air monitoring information for New Westminster. He commented that the information should be valuable to community members when determining neighbourhoods in which to live and to developers in determining where to construct new housing projects. Mr. Parkes suggested that an air quality monitoring expert be invited to provide a presentation to the EAC.

Jennifer Lukianchuk, Environmental Coordinator, Engineering Services, provided the following information:

- Metro Vancouver is responsible for air quality monitoring and monitoring stations throughout the region. Interactive information is provided for each monitoring station (on Metro Van website).
- The Metro Vancouver mobile station has been deployed to specific locations, upon request
- Personalized air quality testing machines are being tested this summer by Metro Vancouver for their effectiveness as per “Caring for the Air 2018” report.

Ms. Lukianchuk was requested to send the link to the Metro Vancouver reports titled “Caring for the Air 2018” report and the “2009-10 New Westminster Air Quality Monitoring Study, November 2011” to EAC members.

The Committee noted the following:

- Metro Vancouver is producing a video on how it measures air quality
- Air quality is typically poor at construction sites due to the emissions from diesel-fuelled vehicles.

5.3 Community Gardens – Patrick Parkes

Patrick Parkes, EAC Member, requested information regarding:

- Plans to expand community gardens in the City
- Whether it is a requirement to build a structure on all vacant lots in the City
- Opportunities for urban farming in New Westminster.

In response to questions from the Committee, Janet Zazubek, Planning Analyst, Engineering Services, and Eugene Wat, Manager, Infrastructure Planning, Engineering Services, provided the following information:

- Opportunities for the placement of community gardens on City-owned lands and on strata properties
- A food security strategy and action plan is being developed
- A presentation on the food security action plan will be included on the agenda of the next EAC meeting.

The Committee noted the following:

- Suggestion to build community gardens near the dog park at Poplar Landing and at Foreshore Park
- Community gardens can be constructed on lots where developers are awaiting the issuance of development and building permits
- Community gardens do not provide food security.

5.4 Environmental Strategy and Action Plan Update – Jennifer Lukianchuk

Jennifer Lukianchuk, Environmental Coordinator, Engineering Services, reported on the feedback on the draft Environmental Strategy and Action Plan (Plan) received at the May 28, 2018 Council meeting and at the June 20, 2018 Open House:

- May 28, 2018 Council meeting:
 - As a community, we have the opportunity to advocate to other municipalities
 - Add a public advocacy portion to the draft Plan
 - Ensure that there are measureable and reportable indicators developed for the Plan
- June 20, 2018 Open House:
 - Develop recycling plans for shared commercial buildings (i.e., with multi-family)
 - Manage waste at major events
 - Increase the priority of banning single use plastic items
- Additional comments received from EAC members by July 4, 2018 can be incorporated into the final document that will be submitted to Council in the fall 2018.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Lukianchuk advised that the implementation and metric (i.e., indicators) development for the Plan would commence following Council's approval in the fall 2018.

Part of the EAC's work moving forward should be to monitor actions of the Plan and amend the Plan, as applicable, to maintain its currency and relevance.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environment Advisory Committee recommend that Council approve the draft Environmental Strategy and Action Plan.

CARRIED.

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

Ms. Lukianchuk provided the following information:

- A resident has suggested that the City ban the sale of lead shots
- Lead is a toxic material and there are viable alternatives available
- Environment and Climate Change Canada is undertaking consultation on the use of non-lead alternatives in ammunition and fishing gear to cease the harm to human and wildlife health resulting from lead entering the environment from this source.

Ms. Lukianchuk questioned the EAC's interest in incorporating the issue of banning lead ammunition in the Plan and under which section this could be captured.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Lukianchuk and Councillor Jamie McEvoy provided the following information:

- The City has the authority to ban the sale of certain items
- Metro Vancouver has an interest in banning the sale of lead ammunition in the region
- Advisory committees do not have the authority to establish City policy.

The Committee noted the following:

- Request that there be investigation into the authority of the City to ban outdoor cats, the single largest threat to birds
- The City can demonstrate leadership by banning the sale of lead ammunition, independent of action being taken by Metro Vancouver
- Concern that the ban will negatively impact small businesses in the City:
 - A phased approach will mitigate the impact on small businesses.

Main Motion

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environmental Strategy and Action Plan include a ban on the sale of lead ammunition and other deleterious substances that can have a negative impact on the environment.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the motion be amended to include next steps with respect to a ban on the sale of lead ammunition and other deleterious substances.

CARRIED.

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

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environmental Strategy and Action Plan include a ban on the sale of lead ammunition and other deleterious substances that can have a negative impact on the environment and include next steps.

DEFEATED.

(Wilmer Lau and Patrick Parke voted in support)

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the City examine the issue of contaminants and pollutants entering the environment in the context of the Environmental Strategy and Action Plan, and consider the development of bylaws to address the issue.

CARRIED.

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

The Chair requested that Committee members provide advance notice of requests for environment-related issues to be added to future EAC agendas.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Environment Coordinator's Update – Jennifer Lukianchuk

Jennifer Lukianchuk, Environmental Coordinator, Engineering Services, advised that there were no further updates.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, September 26, 2018
Thursday, November 22, 2018

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Certified correct,

Original Signed _____
JAIMIE MCEVOY
CHAIR

Original Signed _____
CAROL LEE
RECORDING SECRETARY