



## **ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, March 11th, 2015 - **6:30 pm**

**Committee Room 2**

### **MINUTES**

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillor Patrick Johnstone  
Karla Olson  
Peter Rautenbach  
Alex Csizmadia  
Hilary Miller  
Giuliana Graves  
Kathleen Somerville  
Todd Beernink

Co-Chair, Council Member  
Local Environmental Association  
Post-Secondary Student  
Community Member  
Community Member  
Community Member  
Committee Member  
Committee Member

**ABSENT:**

**VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:**

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy  
Reginald Zotzman  
Robert McGregor

Chair, Council Member  
Community Member  
Education Sector Representative

**STAFF:**

Jennifer Lukianchuk  
Eugene Wat  
Ryan Coleman  
Sandy Kalra

Environmental Coordinator  
Manager, Infrastructure Planning  
Program Coordinator – Energy Save NW  
Committee Clerk

*A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm.*

**1. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

**1.1. Committee Oaths & Orientation** – Legislative Services, Lauren Blake

An overview of the Terms of Reference, Rules of Conduct and City’s Social Media Policy (documents were included with the Agenda Package) was presented to Committee members.

If a motion or recommendation has a tie vote the motion/recommendation is defeated. A representative of an organization can request that a motion or recommendation be tabled so it can be discussed with the organization and at the next meeting the motion/recommendation can be brought back on table to be voted on by the Committee.

If there is no quorum when the meeting is called to order, the minutes will be taken as notes and any motions/recommendations will have to be brought forward and voted on at the following meeting. No action can be taken without a quorum. If it appears that no quorum will

be at the meeting, the meeting could be cancelled. Committee members need to RSVP whether or not they'll be attending. There are no abstentions; if you are in the room, you are counted as voting in favour if you don't vote against. If there is a tied vote it is counted as defeated. Motions need to be seconded; however the seconder does not have to vote in favour of the motion.

Members were encouraged to let the Chair know if circumstances change and they are no longer able to fulfill their duties.

If any of the Committee members have any questions they were encouraged to contact Lauren Blake at [Lblake@newwestcity.ca](mailto:Lblake@newwestcity.ca) or 604-515-3813.

Following the orientation Committee members were sworn in. Ms. Blake left the meeting at 6:46 at which time members introduced themselves.

## 2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

### 2.1. Adoption of Minutes from the meeting of October 1, 2014

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the amended minutes of the Environment Advisory Committee held October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 be received and adopted.*

**CARRIED**

### 2.2. Adoption of Minutes from the meeting of January 14, 2015

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the minutes of the Environment Advisory Committee held October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 be received and adopted.*

**CARRIED**

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

## 3. PRESENTATIONS

*Procedural note:* Alex Csizmadia joined the meeting at 6:36pm

### 3.1. High Performance New Home Program/Energy Save New West – Ryan Coleman

#### **(See Attachment-1)**

Mr. Coleman informed that Energy Save New Westminster is really about Green House Gas emission targets and implementing energy initiatives & projects reflected in the OCP. It is designed and managed and mobilized by City of New Westminster and is a program that focuses on energy efficiency improvements in residential and commercial buildings in New Westminster. It also includes energy assessments, consultation on energy retrofits and access to latest rebates and incentives for the home owners through utilities. It addresses the diversity of building types, ownership structures and maximizes participation in the program. Ryan stated New

Westminster should be proud of this program as there is nothing as comprehensive as this initiative in BC.

Two programs that are in the market right now are Rental Multi Residential Building and Small Business program. This program had encouraging results regarding the Low-Rise Strata program as we have built a really strong identity and had positive participation numbers within the community: 340 participants completed 211 energy assessments and identified over 45 energy upgrade projects. We are averaging about six measures per home so that means upgrades to their attic insulation, crawl space, windows, furnace, air ceiling etc.

Community energy challenge was launched last year and residents were offered a rebate program as an added incentive to participate in this program and could also enter into a draw for Energy Star Appliance package. In addition to this we have got great learning around energy coaching to try to bridge some existing gaps and barriers in these things. One of the ways we do this is by bringing in Energy coach who is an expert in building science and housing to help residents do assessment of their house. The coach guides people in decision making process and also is a trusted source of information.

In 2015 there will be a Home Energy Rebate offer with incentives and rewards for participants from BC Hydro and Fortis. We had 40 participants from New Westminster who participated in upgrading their appliances to Energy Star. We have mapped a development of local trade allied network which is essentially local contractors providing energy functionality upgrades in the home. Another thing we are exploring is how people can pay for these upgrades using New Westminster Utilities.

We are also doing a case study on a local project that's happening in Brow of the Hill area on a high performance home which will implement passive house principles and is also under Heritage Revitalization agreement with the City. We will be doing energy coaching and profiling this project online through its entire process of design and construction phases as we would like people to be able to come out, touch and feel this project.

A public learning event is being planned at the Anvil centre in May to educate and raise awareness about High Performance Homes program. It will also help to build local knowledge base, engage with builders to build capacity and demand regarding construction of these homes in New Westminster.

Some of the questions asked afterwards were:

- If any rebates exist for homes with solar water heating and panels?
  - Ryan said no such rebates exist at this time but he is looking into them.
- What is the criteria regarding energy assessments. Does everyone who applies goes through the assessment? Is that done through City or a Contractor?
  - Ryan informed that people who registered and later changed their mind still keep getting monthly communication and updates about the program. Sometimes they come back after a year to say that this is suitable time for them to go ahead with the upgrades.
- Is there a way of acknowledging their participation especially for businesses?
  - Ryan said it will be a good idea to show them on the map and can be very motivating.

- Will the new high school be an energy efficient building that will inspire kids?
  - Jennifer explained that all the institutions in the Province have to be LEED Gold. She is not sure if it's registered as LEED Gold or not though but it's a requirement for the province.
- Does the school fall under city's GHG reduction strategy?
  - Jennifer confirmed that they do fall under our Community greenhouse plan.
- Councillor Johnstone wanted to know if the school falls under City's requirement for Carbon accounting.
  - Jennifer informed that they would be part of community wide planning that Norm is working on.

**Procedural note:** Guiliana left the meeting at 7:34 pm and Ryan Coleman left the meeting at 7:36 pm

### **3.2. Metro Vancouver Food Scraps Recycling Resources – Stephanie Woo/Jennifer Lukianchuk**

(See Attachment-2)

Stephanie Woo with Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste Planning showed a presentation on Organic Disposal Ban. She spoke of their organization's initiatives and shared resources specifically targeting apartment and condos. She showed a video prepared by Metro Vancouver regarding food waste and how to separate Organics or Kitchen scraps from regular garbage. This video is available in six languages on their website.

The new rules for food scraps are now in effect and Metro Vancouver is giving waste haulers and customers time to adjust to these new rules. Although the ban has been in effect since Jan 2015, there is six month grace period where they will be working with the haulers to identify organics in their garbage. After six month enforcement will be phased in to make sure there is compliance.

In the first year Restaurants and Grocers will be the one who will be impacted most but lots of Multi-Family buildings have shown interest and requested resources. Handouts were given out by Jennifer to all committee members regarding this campaign. Stephanie informed that at this time they are trying to engage and educate residents of apartment buildings and would like consistency in signage and color. Stickers and posters for the bins and Green bin guide were made available for the members. All of these resources are available on their website - [Metrovancouver.org/foodscraps](http://Metrovancouver.org/foodscraps).

Karla suggested it will be really helpful if building managers could amend the Residential Tenancy Agreement asking renters to follow the rules of the municipality regarding recycling and disposing off their garbage. She also commented that a visual diagram would be helpful.

Jennifer advised that a new flyer will be on Metro Vancouver website soon regarding New West Recycling guidelines and that the city just updated its Solid Waste Regulation Bylaw that includes food scraps.

Discussion ensued around how will haulers know which home is dumping organics in their garbage when they have to visit many sites and how charges will be passed on.

## **4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**4.1. No Unfinished Business****5. NEW BUSINESS****5.1. Environmental topics for future EAC Meetings – Jennifer Lukianchuk**

(Attachment-3)

Jennifer presented upcoming Environmental initiatives (*see attachment 3*). The table outlined milestones and the quarter each of these topics are proposed to be discussed. Jennifer reviewed each topic and showed how committee members can get involved. For instance every year, City implements an Environmental Poster contest for grade 5 & 6 classes of New Westminster schools. Submissions are received in May and the committee is then invited to participate in judging these submissions. The judging session this year will be held on May 20th.

Jennifer this year gave some background information regarding the City's Environmental Grant Program. A sub-committee of three individuals is selected from EAC who review grant applications received by the city in fall. The Grant sub-committee then brings funding recommendations to EAC. In May the Chair of EAC will help select members for the Sub-Committee including a Chair.

Patrick advised this committee has the power to send recommendations to Council which usually are referred back to staff and staff is expected to come back with a referral and solution to that problem.

Todd talked about Right to Help Environment Initiative started by Eco Justice and David Suzuki Foundation. David Boyd –former Chair of Eco-Justice wrote a book called “The Right to a Healthy Environment” which is basically protecting the rights of citizens of the entire country to have fresh air, clean water and clean land free of pollution. Eventually in the constitution there will be a charter amendment but first it needs to be done at municipal level. Todd wanted New Westminster to partake in this and wanted to know what level of support he will need to present it before the council. Jennifer suggested bringing a presentation to the Environment Committee at a future meeting. Patrick confirmed that a good way to move this forward is to have a presentation made on this and then forwarded to Council. More information about this program can be found on [Bluedot.ca](http://Bluedot.ca)

Peter mentioned that there used to be a Renewable Energy rebate program for individual households and wanted to know how the past system worked and if something similar is planned for future. He wanted staff to create a presentation on how it worked before and possibilities about future and show it at a future meeting.

Hilary wanted to know if there is a possibility of having cross-municipality task force to clean the Fraser River as there is lot of illegal dumping happening there by people trying to avoid paying fees to dump their household stuff. Hilary has been volunteering with a small organization named Fraser River Keeper that organizes Fraser River clean ups several times a year.

**6. REPORTS AND INFORMATION****6.1. Environmental coordinator's Update – Jennifer Lukianchuk**

Jennifer provided an update on the City’s current rain barrel program and water conservation initiatives and mentioned that in the past the rain barrel subsidy program was quite popular but more recently the City has sold only one or two of them. Members were asked whether they think that the City should continue to implement the program and its promotions. There appeared to be general agreement to continue the program. One member suggested that the City should definitely update its pamphlets and advertise online on City Page and in News Leader.

- We will be offering 10 free workshops for the teachers to help support the Environmental Poster contest. It will run over Earth Day and will end on May 1st. Jennifer wanted members to assist with judging on May 20<sup>th</sup>.
- A former member named Ann Nielsen who volunteers for a group called Colony Farm Park Association sent Jennifer a report regarding Great Blue Heron population in Colony Park from 2002-2014. She passed around the report asking if anyone would like to volunteer for this program that starts in October.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

7.1. There was no correspondence.

**8. NEXT MEETING**

**Date:** Wednesday, May 13th, 2015  
**Location:** Committee # 2  
**Time:** 6:30pm

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

---

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

---

**Sandy Kalra**  
**Recording Secretary**