

ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday May 11, 2016 - 6:30 pm
Committee Room - 2

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Patrick Johnstone	Co-Chair, Council Member
Wilmer Lau	Local Business Representative
Karla Olson	Community Member
Todd Beernink	Community Member
Laura Cornish	Community Member
Reginald Zotzman	Community Member
Amanda Semenoff	Community Member
Nadine Nakagawa	Community Member
Raunaq Singh	Community Member

VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

Claude Ledoux	Parks Horticulture Manager
Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	Co-Chair, Council Member
Peter Rautenbach	Post-Secondary Student
Kathleen Somerville	Local Environment Organization Representative

STAFF:

Jennifer Lukianchuk	Environmental Coordinator
Eugene Wat	Manager, Infrastructure Planning
Sandy Kalra	Recording Secretary
Norm Connolly	Community Energy Manager
Ryan Coleman	Program Co-ordinator, Energy Save NW

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm

1. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1. Adoption of Minutes from the meeting of March 9, 2016

MOVED and SECONDED

*THAT the amended minutes of the Environment Advisory Committee held **March 9, 2016** be received and adopted.*

CARRIED

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1. Energy Save New Westminster – Norm Connolly/Ryan Coleman (Attachment-1)

Mr Norm Connolly, Community Energy Manager introduced Ryan Coleman, Program Co-ordinator of Energy Save New Westminster, before commencing their presentation. Mr. Connolly pointed out some of the program elements that got added to this program since last year and informed members that the comprehensive nature of this program is really unique to BC. It's a very comprehensive program and is a huge complement to the city. This program is a combination of energy assessments as well as admin support for energy rebates and incentives. City has been proactive in providing resource support and free energy assessments, energy star rebates to New Westminster residents along with helping them find contractors and builders.

General discussion ensued and following comments were noted:

A member wanted to know if this program is open to residents who have participated in the past federal programs before such as Eco Energy. Staff stated that there are some limitations to this program and they might require another pre-assessment to update their baseline but they do have the ability to re-enter into this program. At this stage, this program is designed for ground oriented houses including single family and multi-residential buildings.

Staff is augmenting this program by topping up incentives, free energy measures and Energy star appliance rebate with the help of BC Hydro and Fortis BC.

Mr. Coleman asked members to suggest ways to bring awareness among New Westminster residents and encourage participation from them.

Member wanted to know if it's possible to get walking tour of older houses that get upgraded and suggested doubling them up with other events in the city such as Resident Association Meetings and other walking tours that the City offers to go see some of the older houses in the City.

Member suggested having an information booth during Sapperton Days - a very popular neighbourhood festival as lot of houses in this area can use energy assessments and upgrades.

Members suggested targeting neighbourhoods such as Massey Heights, Queens Park, and Moody Park etc. that has lot of single family old houses in New Westminster.

Rateourhome.ca website is being developed to find energy walk score of a new house to increase awareness among homebuyers. Metro Vancouver is leading an initiative to develop consumer awareness program about Home Energy Labelling and Energy Assessments and EnerGuide. The rating will be in gigajoules that people will be able to understand and resonate with.

Staff informed that Home Energy Auditor as well as the builder will be responsible for implementing the EnerGuide Rating of a new house.

Member informed that there is a direct link between energy upgrades and noise levels as she noticed a huge difference in noise levels at her house after installing new windows and replacing insulation in her house.

Member suggested finding ways to combine water savings with energy savings. Residents of strata units should be encouraged to use cold water for washing clothes.

Staff is planning to come back with information about Super Ultra Low Energy homes and encouraged members to attend full day Introduction to Passive House course on Friday, July 17th being held at the Anvil Centre. This course is designed to target local home builders, designers and architects to aware and educate them about rating system and show them what a certified Passive House super performing buildings is like as its really coming to BC in a big way. All new buildings in Vancouver have to be either LEED Gold or Passive House according to new policy measures adapted City's Planning Department .

Procedural Note: Norm and Ryan left the meeting at 7:34 pm

Procedural Note: Eugene joined the meeting at 7:41 pm

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 Environmental Coordinator gave a brief summary of the Environment Grant Program. Details were provided to the committee about the role and a call was put out seeking three volunteers. Wilmer Lau, Amanda Semenoff and Karla Olson's names were drawn and Karla Olson was chosen to chair this new sub-committee.

5.2. **Environmental Strategy – Draft Visions & Process Update – Jennifer Lukianchuk (Attachment-2)**

Ms. Lukianchuk reviewed the work to date regarding the development of a shorter vision for the Environmental Strategy and presented a draft statement as well as a more detailed version that included trailing statements (see attached presentation). Ms. Lukianchuk asked the committee whether or not they supported the vision and these trailing statements and what modifications they would like to see (if any).

Discussion ensued and the committee provided the following suggestions:

- The heading should include the word "Community" and to add "Engage our citizens in the process" in the first statement.
- Staff confirmed that the word "We" in these statements refers to the City as an Organization and as a Community. This vision is meant for everyone who lives, plays in this city and encompasses the whole community of New Westminster. Another suggestion was to start all statements with "We, the community of New Westminster".
- To add the word "all" after the word "engage" in the third statement to encompass all residents and demographics, both rich and poor, and to make it more inclusive and encourage diversity.

- The first statement should start with “We” in order to match the rest of the trailing statements.

Food security could be included in one these statements especially since City has signed the Blue Dot Declaration. Residents of New Westminster should be encouraged to have individual responsibility and aspirational goals to make this world a better place to live in for others.

To consider adding endangered species that are unique to New Westminster such as Nooksack Dace, Salmon, cedar tree etc. to this environmental policy.

To use the word highly Urbanized Community instead of the word “Urban Matrix” in the third statement as not many people know what that means.

Ms. Lukianchuk mentioned to members that the City’s Planning Department is leading the Official Community Plan process and will provide draft goals and policies including environmental goals and policies to the committees in the fall. Members will be given the opportunity to provide their comments and suggestions before it gets finalized. This process will help inform the goals that will be developed for the Environmental Strategy.

5.3. Highlights of the new Erosion & Sediment Control Bylaw – Jennifer Lukianchuk (Attachment-3)

Ms. Lukianchuk gave an update on new Erosion and Sediment Bylaw that got adopted by Council in March 2016. This regulation will help protect watercourses and drainage system from sediment at all construction sites in New Westminster. Her presentation showed some of the tools that the city has developed to encourage better awareness and compliance to this Bylaw.

A picture-based brochure was distributed to the members which the City has created for builders and is now included as part of their Development Permit process.

General discussion ensued and following comments were noted:

Staff were questioned whether can report infractions related to water restrictions and dirty water (related to ESC) and send pictures using Click Fix especially over the weekend. Staff informed that Click Fix items are monitored by staff on a regular basis and get allocated to the appropriate department.

Member wanted to know if water restrictions are monitored over the weekend especially during summer. Staff informed that City has stepped up their enforcement this year and By Law officers will be monitoring the neighbourhoods to make sure residents are complying with water restrictions set by Metro Vancouver.

6. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1. Environmental Coordinator’s Update – Jennifer Lukianchuk

Ms. Lukianchuk informed that the theme of Environmental Poster Contest this year is **Water Conservation: Watch Your Flow H₂O**. Judging for this contest will take place on Wednesday, May 18th, 2016 at around 5 pm at the City Hall and members were encouraged to come and judge the posters.

Ms. Lukianchuk reminded members that Metro Vancouver Water Restrictions have gone into effect as of May 15 this year and distributed handouts outlining information regarding these restrictions in their various stages.

Members were informed by staff that the City has rain barrels in stock if anyone is interested in ordering one. It was suggested that City should find ways to encourage residents to do backyard composting.

Members would like to discuss Food Security at the next EAC meeting and a suggestion was made to change this committee's food options to include vegetarian, local food items and consider going meat free one day of the week e.g Meatless Mondays.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1. There was no correspondence.

8. NEXT MEETING

Date: September 14, 2016

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm

Councillor Patrick Johnstone
Co-Chair

Sandy Kalra
Recording Secretary