



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EAC)

Wednesday, April 25, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.

Committee Room 2, City Hall

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	- Chair
Ingrid Tymm	- Community Member
Joe Hargitt	- Community Member
Leslie Malcolm	- Community Member
Andrew Murray	- Community Member
Raunaq Singh	- Student Representative
Kyle Routledge	- Local Environment Organization Rep

REGRETS:

Patrick Parkes	- Community Member
Natalie Douglas	- Community Member
Ginny Van Pelt	- Community Member

STAFF:

Jennifer Lukianchuk	- Environmental Coordinator Engineering Services
Eugene Wat	- Manager, Infrastructure Planning Engineering Services
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Secretary Engineering Services
Norm Connolly (Left at 8:00 pm)	- Community Energy Manager
Kristian Davis (Arrived at 6:55 pm/left at 8:30 pm)	- Supervisor, Solid Waste & Recycling Engineering Operations

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

1.1 Additions to the Agenda of April 25, 2018

There were no additions to the Agenda.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of February 21, 2018

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the Environment Advisory Committee meeting held on February 21, 2018 be received and adopted.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

No items.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No items.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Community Energy Projects – Norm Connolly

Urban Solar Gardens

Norm Connolly, Community Energy Manager, reminded members that the Urban Solar Garden project, which was launched through Energy Save New West, is a community supported, large-scale rooftop solar array which moves the City towards a modern and diversified electric utility. It was determined that rooftops are a better option over the ground as there are a lot of usable, flat rooftops in New Westminster whereas ground areas are largely comprised of park space and parking lots. The 30 day subscription period allowed all utility-paying residents to purchase solar panels, since not everyone has the wherewithal to incorporate solar panels on their homes. The panels sold out in three weeks and there is currently a waiting list for a second array. Also, as some developers showed an interest in

taking part in the project, we may consider including them in a future, larger subscription.

In response to questions from Committee members, Norm provided the following responses:

- There would be a 15 to 18 year payback based on current electricity prices, and the City may help facilitate a retail market if subscribers do not their home for the extent that they would see payback or, possibly, offer to buy back the panels;
- A report will be going to Council in the near future with a preferred site for the panels to be installed. As the roof of City Hall will probably need to be replaced in the next four years or so, it is not an option for panel installation;
- The City recommends that power be taken off of a site and installing a digital revenue meter to measure how much power the rays are generating. A meter could be installed right on the grid and displayed on a daily basis for subscribers to view;
- There will be ways of telling if a panel is not working properly or in disrepair;
- The City is looking to do two rebates per year for subscribers (a kilowatt hours rebate);
- The energy budget of approximately five medium-sized homes could be covered by the energy generated by 150 solar panels;
- While some people see this initiative as moving from one green energy to another, others are excited that it is an energy that will be generated locally and kept it in the neighbourhood; and,
- With respect to emergency resiliency, solar power can help. Facilities would still require battery storage; however, if you scale down what would be used at a facility during an emergency, it is doable.

Electric Vehicles

Norm reminded members that a while ago a group from BCIT's Smart Microgrid Program, who specialize in renewable energy, approached the City to participate in a curbside electric vehicle charging station pilot program. In September of 2017 the project was initiated with chargers retrofitted to LED curbside lights at five locations in the City. All stations reflect the current parking conditions (two-hour parking zones, etc., will remain as such), and during this soft implementation phase we will be able to assess turnover, etc. The streets have been stenciled to identify stations; however, we are waiting for the Canadian Standards Association regulations to be updated and for WorkSafe BC's recognition of this initiative so that other municipalities can do this as well.

Members were advised that staff are working alongside a planning consultant to bring in bylaw regulations that would require new construction to ensure that their visitor parking spaces are 100% capable of implementing a charging station; once this is done there will be less of a demand for public charging stations.

Norm informed the group that currently there are no charges for these stations; although, it may happen in the future. Right now, energy cannot be re-sold once it's already been paid for; however, there is a request to update the language to include a kilowatt hour charge for these stations in the future.

UBC Sustainability Project

Norm introduced the UBC Sustainability Project (Project) to members by informing everyone that the Project provides UBC graduate students with applied sustainability work opportunities that help advance a partner organization's sustainability goals. The Project allows the students to finish their first year and then choose to work with a local government on projects that match their interests. Soon the City will have two students starting, one of which will be creating a circular economy in New Westminster, which is an initiative supported by Metro Van to reduce waste and waste products from facilities. This will start off with a full day workshop which will include 40 to 60 businesses identifying opportunities to drive and support the initiative. The workshop could generate hundreds of ideas, some of which may help uncover how we can become more sustainable, generate jobs, and be innovative. The workshop is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, June 6th at the Anvil Centre.

5.2 Solid Waste Update – Kristian Davis

Kristian Davis, Supervisor, Solid Waste & Recycling, commenced with his solid waste update and informed members that over the course of 2017, the following recycling and organics were diverted from landfills:

- Curbside: recycling – 1,714 tonnes/yard & food scraps – 3,927 tonnes;
- Multifamily: recycling – 1,358 tonnes/food scraps – 893 tonnes;
- Recycling depot: recycling – 311 tonnes/yard trimmings – 1,951 tonnes.

He noted that once the food scrap program was introduced, waste reduced by about 40%. He stated that the biggest challenges to recycling includes contamination, with plastic bags being the single biggest contributor to contamination. When someone puts their recyclables into a plastic bag, it

gets treated as garbage since the bags are not opened at the recycling depot. Also, there is a myth that clothing and shoes can be recycled.

Kristian advised that Recycle BC, which is a non-profit third party that handles the Province's residential packaging and paper product recycling, would like to see all recycling drop offs be in a supervised depot, not on the street or any other place where drop offs cannot be monitored.

The following information was also shared with the Committee:

- Municipalities that collect glass for recycling charge a fee for the service even though residents have already paid a recycling fee at the point of purchase (of the glass). The additional charge is used to defray costs for additional containers for coverage, damage done to vehicles by the glass or, possibly, supplying the appropriate vehicles for the glass pick up;
- Cereal boxes stuffed with other materials are considered to be an 'unsortable' recyclable; and,
- New bins will have large "No Plastic Bags" decals on them as plastic bags are one of the biggest problems.

In response to questions from Committee members, Kristian provided the following responses:

- Most of the City's efforts regarding contamination are focussed on plastic and glass by way of education and encouragement of people to do better. It is important for everyone in the household to know how to recycle properly. Staff visit elementary schools to teach kids how to recycle correctly, however, it is a household initiative;
- With respect to bin placement, Kristian passed around decals which indicate where residents should place bins for pick up. The group also viewed photos, taken by a Committee member, of improper bin placements along some students' walking route to Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary School. The photos showed the bins blocking pedestrian crossings as well as a curb letdown.
- Members were advised that staff will act on any complaints with respect to garbage cart issues, including by leaving bylaw infraction notices for the non-compliant residents as well as educating residents on appropriate bin placement, what can be placed in carts, etc.;
- Staff recognize that illegal dumping occurs and they assist owners in making their property less inviting for illegal dumping. There are certain measures a property owner can take to reduce illegal dumping such as keeping hedges trimmed so they do not provide hiding spots, installing security cameras, etc.;

- A lot of single-use plastic, such as straws and takeout containers, are not recyclable; however, it does depend on the plastic used to make them. If they are made from a paper material, they may be compostable. The City of Vancouver is actively researching single-use plastic and working on putting together a guideline for businesses in their community. It is expected that whatever direction the City of Vancouver takes with respect to single-use plastics, most other cities will follow suit;
- Soft plastic that is not recycled and put in a resident's garbage is incinerated at the Burnaby Waste Energy Facility;
- City departments work together to share recycling education and communication. We are, however, restrained by the budget in terms of staffing levels; and,
- Kristian stated that, in the future, a program that he would like to see the City procure would enable the sanitation trucks to "read" ID tags on the carts bins which would link the identification of the cart to the residential address and the utility billing software. With this program, if there is a problem with contamination at the curb, the driver could note this on their tablet, possibly take a photo of the issue, and generate a notice to the supervisor who in turn may opt to send a letter to the resident notifying them of the problem. He stated that a number of municipalities are already using this type of platform.

Members were encouraged to email Kristian with any further questions or comments on the recycling program.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Environment Coordinator's Update – Jennifer Lukianchuk

Jennifer Lukianchuk, Environmental Coordinator, provided the following updates:

- The Environment Strategy, which is currently in draft form, is expected to go to Council on May 28th with a recommendation to bring the draft strategy to an open house event sometime in June. It is anticipated that the final draft will be presented to Council early in the Fall;
- With respect to an update on two of the 2018 City Environmental Grant recipients, members were informed that the New Westminster Environmental Partners will be hosting a Glenbrook Ravine Invasive Species Removal on Saturday, April 28th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and Voices of Nature connected with Connaught Heights Elementary School students who will be singing songs about nature and will be performing 'Rock the Salish Sea' at the Anvil Centre on Thursday, April 26th at 6:30 pm;
- Drinking Water Conservation:

- Stage 1 Lawn Watering Regulations begin on May 1st and are in effect until October 15th. The regulations, as set out by Metro Vancouver, will limit residents to watering two days per week between 4:00 am to 9:00 am with the days allowed being dependent on whether the residence address is even or odd numbered. There will be enforcement of watering restriction non-compliance; and,
- Rain Barrel Sales:
 - There are 5 rain barrels available for purchase at the cost of \$75 at the Engineering Operation Works Yard. More can be ordered if needed. Other sales of barrels will be taking place at events in the tri-cities which will be open to everyone. The events will take place on Saturday, May 5th at Coquitlam's Austin Avenue City Work Yard from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and in Vancouver at Van Dusen Gardens on Sunday, May 6th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Rain barrels will be sold at these events for \$52 (they may look a bit different than the City barrels and/or be smaller). There will also be backyard composters available for purchase as well at the events.

On behalf of Mark Allison, Manager, Strategic Initiatives & Sustainability, who was unable to attend the meeting, Jennifer announced that Kinder Morgan is suspending non-essential work on their Trans Mountain Expansion Project. City staff has enquired as to what the implications of this decision will be with respect to the pipeline construction staging in the Braid industrial area; the City has not yet received a response. The City also expressed concern to the National Energy Board last fall about the pipeline alignment next to the Brunette River and the lack of environmental compensation in the riparian zone. Staff asked for direction on how to submit a position on these issues; however, the National Energy Board has not responded. In January, hearings were held in Burnaby on the specific pipeline routes but only directly affected municipalities and property owners were invited and allowed to appear – the general public was not allowed to attend.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

No items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, June 27, 2018
Wednesday, September 26, 2018

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Certified correct,

Original Signed

JAIMIE MCEVOY
CHAIR

Original Signed

CARILYN COOK
COMMITTEE SECRETARY