



ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 13, 2013 - **6:30 pm**

Committee Room 2

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Brent Bowker
Alex Csizmadia
Babak Khalili
Marco Murillo
Karla Olson
Terryl Plotnikoff
Vickie Turvey

Chair
Community Member
Community Member
Education Community (Student)
Community Member
Local Environmental Association
Community Member
Community Member

VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

Steven Bishop
Mia Ciric
Ann Nielsen

Education Community (Teacher)
Local Business Representative
Community Member

GUESTS:

STAFF:

Jennifer Lukianchuk
Eugene Wat
Claude Ledoux
Mark Allison
Norm Connelly
Ryan Coleman
Marie-Elaina Ayeni

Environmental Coordinator
Manager, Infrastructure Planning
Parks Horticulture Manager
Senior Planner
Community Energy Manager
Program Coordinator - Energy Save NW
Recording Secretary

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm.

1. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

1.1.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1. Adoption of Minutes from the meeting of September 25, 2013

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Environment Advisory Committee held September 25, 2013, be received and adopted.

CARRIED

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

3. PRESENTATIONS**3.1. Sapperton District Energy Study – Norm Connolly and Mark Allison (*Attachment 1*)**

Procedural Note: *Terryl Plotnikoff joined the meeting at 6:34pm*

District Energy is derived from clean, renewable energy systems. It's stable and reliable and provides customers with a low cost conventional energy. This protects customers from unforeseen spikes in cost of energy.

Procedural Note: *Claude Ledoux joined the meeting at 6:38pm*

There are four components to the District Energy System – renewable energy centre, peak heating boilers (topping up the heat for the coldest days of the year), Distribution Piping, and Heat Exchangers.

The City is considering this because City policy supports the development of clean, low-emission renewable energy systems. In addition, it will reduce annual GHG emissions and reliance on fossil fuels.

Procedural Note: *Babak Khalili arrived at 6:40pm*

The first location under consideration is Sapperton, which would include Royal Columbia Hospital (RCH) and Sapperton Green, with the potential of including the Brewery District as well as existing buildings along East Columbia over time.

This area is being considered because RCH will be undergoing a major redevelopment that will be done in three phases and completed over 10 years; Fraser Health is obligated to go carbon neutral. Also, there is a large mixed-use development close to Braid and Sapperton SkyTrain Stations coming up and Metro Vancouver upgrading Sapperton Sewage Pump Station.

This is not the same as waste-to-energy (WTE); as WTE consists of large plants that produce heat and/or electricity from combusting household and commercial 'garbage' (waste materials that are not recycled, composted or reused).

For the Sapperton district energy system, two sources of energy are being considered: (a) hi-efficiency boilers that use clean biomass/wood chips as fuel; and, (b) recovery of energy using heat pumps from MV's sanitary sewer main in Sapperton. Examples of wood chip district heating systems include: UBC Nexterra Bioenergy Research Facility, Seattle Steam Heat in downtown Seattle, WA and Enderby, BC. For sewage heat recovery, the Neighbourhood Energy Utility at Southeast False Creek in Vancouver is a great example of a similar sized system. Both solutions, wood chip heating and recovery of energy using heat pumps, are carbon neutral and use local and/or regional sources of energy.

Further discussion ensued after the presentation; for more details on the presentation, please see *Attachment 1*.

3.2. Energy Save New West Program – Ryan Coleman and Norm Connolly (*Attachment 2*)

The program was launched in July 2013; targeting energy in existing buildings beginning with single-family homes and will turn to commercial and industrial buildings.

The policy behind the action is to increase energy efficiency of older buildings, promote the most energy efficient new buildings and encourage the use of renewable, local energy sources in buildings.

There will be four programs launched over the next year; first to low-rise homes, then to local businesses, multi-family residents and finally to new construction. The first 100 households received their home energy assessments at no cost (though the total covered was 130). In total, 135 homes are registered and are at various stages of the process.

The program is being promoted through our CityPage, the City's website, FB and twitter, through handouts and on the digital billboards.

Digital videos have been created to show people what the process is and what the homeowners thought of the process.

Discussion ensued after the presentation; for more details on the presentation, please see *Attachment 2*.

3.3. Shoreline Clean-up – Karla Olson (*Attachment 3*)

Shoreline clean-up was started by NWEF in 2011 and a list of what has been collected since then was presented. At the same time, they also engaged in an invasive species plant pull, which concentrated on species such as English Ivy and blackberry.

During the shoreline clean up in 2012, the public was educated about dumping yard waste into natural areas because that is how invasive species get introduced.

Other invasive species that were collected during the 2013 event included bamboo and English Holly.

Discussion ensued after the presentation; for more details on the presentation, please see *Attachment 3*.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1. Fraser Surrey Docks Coal Facility Update – Mark Allison

Port Metro Vancouver owns the land and people make application to make use of their land. Port Metro Vancouver felt that there was not sufficient information on health impacts and air quality.

White Rock, Surrey, New Westminster and Delta have come out saying that they will not support the Coal Facility until assessments are done.

A health assessment has been promised for the City to review at which time they will be conferring with the other municipalities and going back to Council with a report.

The Committee will be updated once the documents have been reviewed.

Discussion ensued.

5.2. Metro Reducing Exposure to Traffic Emissions Study – Mark Allison

A report has been created and while it is not yet public it has gone to some internal committees.

Maps have been produced that show various concentrations of emissions, which scared people away from the areas that they are trying to get people to move to so they can change their transportation habits.

Municipalities should take the lead to assess areas that have high traffic and potentially high emissions. To that end, the City has created some committees to come up with best practises, which should be developed over the next six months to a year.

Pattullo Bridge is being looked at as one of the first places that will be looked at for air quality.

People, such as MAMU, felt there was a need to monitor emissions better. They had a motor home located in front of City Hall and they tried to monitor Front Street, but their vents kept clogging. Metro Van is still planning to put a permanent station within the City.

Discussion ensued.

5.3. Environment Advisory Committee Meeting Addition for 2013 – Jennifer Lukianchuk

The deadline for the Environmental grant application process wasn't until November 1st this year and the grant sub-committee has not yet had the opportunity to review the applications and provide their recommendations to the Environment Advisory Committee (EAC). In preparation for the presentation by the Sub-committee to the EAC a couple of dates were proposed to the Committee; December 4th and 11th. In order to make a recommendation to Council quorum is needed.

An email will be sent to the committee with proposed dates.

6. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1. Environmental Coordinator's Update

Brunette River Rehabilitation - The missing link in the Brunette Fraser Greenway between Cumberland and Spruce streets in New Westminster has been completed by Metro Vancouver that will allow public access to this area of the Brunette River and a continuous route along the Brunette Fraser Greenway.

Five hundred and fifty linear meters of greenway has been added to the Sapperton section of the Brunette Fraser Greenway. The project was identified as a priority in the Ecological Health Action Plan and has reclaimed this stretch of river for public use and wildlife habitat.

The work included cleaning up the river and improving habitat with the removal and recycling of 18 loads of concrete, 4 tonnes of scrap metal, 2 tonnes of plastic and other garbage, invasive plant species such as Broom and Himalayan Blackberry and the recycling of 7 tonnes of wood waste.

Asphalt and garbage was removed to make room for over 1100 native trees and shrubs to provide food and shelter for wildlife.

This work has provided enough food for a hungry beaver; a beaver is currently taking advantage of the upgrades in the area. They have a beaver fence up, but it is not enough to deter this eager beaver.

Restoration work has also been done in Hume Park by Metro Vancouver, Evergreen and the City.

6.2. Members' Reports

Queensborough now has a return it depot that takes electronics.

Co-rally took place regarding Surrey Docks, which had good symbolism in New Westminster. As Councillor McEvoy was speaking a large cloud of dust appeared from the facility.

The committee was reminded to get their applications in.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1. There was no correspondence.

8. NEXT MEETING

After this meeting it was decided that the next meeting would be scheduled as follows:

Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Location: Council Chamber

Time: 6:30pm

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Chair

Marie-Elaina Ayeni
Recording Secretary