



ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 25, 2015 - 6:30 pm
Committee Room - 2

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Patrick Johnstone	Co-Chair, Council Member
Karla Olson	Community Member
Hilary Miller	Community Member
Kathleen Somerville	Committee Member
Reginald Zotzman	Community Member
Amanda Semenoff	Community Member
Wilmer Lau	Local Business Representative
Andrew Murray	Member of New Westminster Environmental Partners
Rick Carswell	Member of New Westminster Environmental Partners

ABSENT:

VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

Alex Csizmadia	Community Member
Peter Rautenbach	Post-Secondary Student
Giuliana Graves	Community Member
Todd Beernink	Community Member
Robert McGregor	Education Sector Representative

STAFF:

Jennifer Lukianchuk	Environmental Coordinator
Eugene Wat	Manager, Infrastructure Planning
Claude	Parks Horticulture Manager
Sandy Kalra	Committee Clerk

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm.

1. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1. Adoption of Minutes from the meeting of September 23rd, 2015

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Environment Advisory Committee held September 23rd, 2015 be received and adopted after the suggested below changes:

Under Section 3.1 Karla informed that it's UNIBUG who has been working with Douglas College to install bee boxes at City facilities and not NWEF.

Under Section 6.1 (Blue Dot Campaign update) Karla stated that it was not her suggestion to install water meters in the City but had brought forth ideas of reducing water usage from a discussion she had with Andrew Murray. She also suggested not putting in Garburators in new homes and developments in order to reduce the water usage and to avoid organics going down the drains.

CARRIED

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

2.2. Adoption of Minutes from the meeting of November 25, 2015

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Environment Advisory Committee held November 25, 2015 be received and adopted.

CARRIED

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1. Water Metering in New Westminster – Andrew Murray (Community member) & Rick Carswell (Community member) Attachment - 1

Andrew Murray introduced himself and informed members that they have been working on taking a proposal to New Westminster Council regarding installation of water meters in existing Single Family homes. Hard copies of presentation slides were distributed pertaining to information regarding water conservation proposal. He informed members that currently all multi-family homes, commercial businesses and Industry in New Westminster are metered but all single family homes are being charged a flat rate. Since we had the driest summer in history we really need to conserve water as this is likely going to be the norm and is a good time for the City to revisit the issue of water meters.

Rick went over some of the best practices that have been adopted by other cities in the lower mainland that have proven to be most cost efficient. Richmond, for example offers free water saving devices such as shower heads and water leak audits as an incentive. All studies indicate that water consumption reduced significantly after installing water meters across the region. Andrew would also like to see high level of enforcement regarding water restrictions in the coming years.

General discussion ensued and some of the things discussed are listed below:

Reg commented that he fully supports the concept of water meters however the motion proposed by them does not address 8400 single family homes. He feels a new person moving to New Westminster will feel stigmatized after getting a water meter and possibility of a duality that it can create.

Wilmar wanted to know if installation of digital water meters will require city staff to go around four times a year to read the meters and suggested to check into installing smart meters.

Karla stated that this initiative can be easily tied to City's Energy Save program which has been very successful. She also supported water metering and getting a monthly bill to make costs and consumption more visible.

Councillor Johnstone stated he has always been a supporter of water metering especially if it reduces water usage by 35% reduction which is quite significant.

Andrew stated they would like the Committee members to endorse the idea of installing water meters in all new single family homes and the voluntary implementation of water metering program.

After this discussion period the Committee decided to recommend this program to the Council.

First Motion:

Moved and Seconded

THAT in light of water shortage conditions in 2015 and expectations such conditions will continue in ensuing years, City of New Westminster's Council and staff consider water conservation program such as Water Save New West that includes voluntary implementation of water meters in all single family homes including major renovations.

It was moved and seconded to amend the above motion by adding "City to explore Universal metering as well"

The amendment to the above motion was adopted.

Second Motion:

THAT City should step up its summer enforcement on water conservation when water restrictions are in place.

CARRIED

Councillor McEvoy wanted to follow up with Andrew and Rick regarding taking this presentation to Council. He also wanted to bring it to Council's attention the lack of water fountains in modern cities.

Procedural Note: Andrew and Rick left the meeting at 7:17pm

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1. New Westminster Ecological Inventory (Brunette River Section) – Jennifer Lukianchuk (Attachment – 2)

Jennifer continued to discuss the final section regarding Brunette River corridor of the presentation from the last meeting in September as we did not get a chance to go over it. Members were advised to review this document and provide feedback regarding the recommendations listed for this area. She wanted to know if City is on track and what kind of policy statement they would like to see.

General discussion ensued after her presentation and some of the things discussed afterwards were:

A member suggested that staff should ensure that the words “ground water” be included in the name of the Storm Management Plan to make it clear to others, who may not be familiar with such plans, that managing storm water isn’t just shunting it away but also encouraging it to be absorbed in the earth for future use by plants and trees during times of low precipitation and drought.

Councillor Johnstone informed that integrated storm water management plans are regulatory documents that cities are required to make as part of regional management of storm water plan.

Amanda mentioned that we do not have enough predators in the river corridor as there are huge dead whole salmon all over the banks. They spawned but no one is there to eat them. She also brought attention to all the homeless encampments in the Hume Park. Claude stated that City has been working with police and By-Law officers to tackle this issue and encouraged members to contact them as soon as they see one.

Reg suggested following three guiding principles regarding all ecological areas in the City:

- Identify ecological areas in the city - protect existing, strengthen and examine potential expansion
- Educating public
- Work towards interconnecting all ecological areas.

Councillor Johnstone stated that we should not only identify but also look at ways to better connect the ecological areas in the City. Jennifer informed that we will keep all these ideas and points in mind when updating OCP and will readdress them in future meetings.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the committee endorse the ecological Inventory principles presented to them as the first step in City’s Official Community Plan process.

CARRIED

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

5. NEW BUSINESS

**5.1. 2016 Environmental Grant Program (EGP) – Chair EGP Sub-Committee (Amanda Semenoff)
Attachment - 3**

The Environment Grant Sub-Committee Chair – Amanda Semenoff gave an overview of all the grant applications received and presented their recommendations to the Committee. Based on the allocations provided by the Sub-Committee for Applications 1-4, the committee made the following recommendation:

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the funding recommendations made by the Environmental Grant Program Sub-committee be accepted by the Committee and forwarded to Council for approval.

CARRIED

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

A member wanted to know if applicants are informed as to why they did not get the amount that they had asked for. It will be great to have a Grant Seminar to go over the process especially with high school students as should encourage students to take advantage of these grant monies. Jennifer informed that City did have a public info session at the Anvil centre. Members agreed that we need to spread the word and bring more awareness regarding City grants.

Amanda informed members that City had \$20,000 worth of grant budget to allocate but approximately \$8,000 were given out. Jennifer noted that Fraser River Discovery Centre who often receive the bulk of Environmental Grant funds did not apply this year as it was decided by Council that they should submit as part of the Partnership Grant for 2016.

5.2. Proposed Erosion & Sediment Control Bylaw – Jennifer Lukianhuk (Attachment - 4)

Jennifer presented a presentation related to new Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) Bylaw that she is planning to take to Council in December 2015. She highlighted some of the reasons why the City developed a Bylaw, outlined details of the Bylaw requirements including discharge limits and enforcement. The main reason for creating this Bylaw is to provide a clear requirement of what is needed to effectively implement, monitor and enforce ESC for all construction sites (i.e. single family and multi-family subdivision sites). Some developers are implementing adequate ESC measures in New Westminster but not all are fully engaged and committed to this practice. The bylaw would create a level playing field for all developers. The bylaw will also help to create consistency with other municipalities in the region as many have bylaws already in place to protect watercourses and drainage systems from sediment.

Councillor Johnstone wanted to know how 75 milligrams per litre requirement relates to Federal standards. Jennifer mentioned that this quantity has been a DFO standard. Councillor Johnstone suggested we should make it clear for developers that water quality must meet the established Federal standards and guidelines to protect aquatic life. Jennifer mentioned that the senior government standards are outlined in Schedule B of the Bylaw.

Reg wanted to know if someone ends up discharging into a public park that is not connected to a drainage system will fall under this Bylaw. Eugene stated that there is a requirement in the Soil deposit Bylaw that you are required to make a sediment control plan before it goes into a neighbouring yard or

a downstream and that it has to be addressed before it leaves the site. City's Bylaw department deals with illegal dumping onto City property. Permit is required only if they are placing more than six inches of material onto their property.

6. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1. Environmental Coordinator's Update – Jennifer Lukianchuk

Jennifer gave a quick update regarding a Demolition Recycling Regulation Bylaw which recently went to Council and was adopted. Staff decided to go with a phased approach starting in 2016. A pilot was done for Single Family home demolitions last year and the regulation has been expanded to also include ICI complete demolitions starting January 2016. We will continue to monitor and see how developers are conforming to these regulations and will report back in late 2016.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

8. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, January 20th, 2016
Location: Committee # 2
Time: 6:30pm

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Chair

Sandy Kalra
Recording Secretary