

## **ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Wednesday September 23, 2015 - 6:30 pm  
Meeting room # 1 (East Room)

### **MINUTES**

#### **VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	Co-Chair, Council Member
Karla Olson	Community Member
Todd Beernink	Community Member
Hilary Miller	Community Member
Giuliana Graves	Community Member
Robert McGregor	Education Sector Representative
Kathleen Somerville	Committee Member
Reginald Zotzman	Community Member
Amanda Semenoff	Community Member

#### **ABSENT:**

#### **VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:**

Alex Csizmadia	Community Member
Councillor Patrick Johnstone	Co-Chair, Council Member
Peter Rautenbach	Post-Secondary Student
Wilmer Lau	Local Business Representative

#### **STAFF:**

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

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

#### **1. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

#### **2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

##### **2.1. Adoption of Minutes from the meeting of May 13th, 2015**

##### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the minutes of the Environment Advisory Committee held May 13, 2015 be received and adopted.*

**CARRIED**

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

### **3. PRESENTATIONS**

#### **3.1. New Westminster Ecological Inventory – Jennifer Lukianchuk**

Jennifer gave an overview of Ecological Inventory report conducted by Diamondhead/Rain Coast Applied Ecology in 2014. It will immensely help to inform the current OCP as it builds on study that was done by Rain Coast Applied Ecology in 2010 for Queensborough. All areas in New Westminster were mapped - both public and private properties. Queensborough was already mapped in the previous study but consultants still took it into consideration when they looked at mapped aquatic areas. Jennifer informed members that the consultant actually went on site and did “ground truthing.”

Four distinct natural areas were identified in the City: Fraser River foreshore and islands; Brunette River corridor; Glenbrook Ravine and Large Treed Parks.

A set of Recommendations were provided for each important natural areas that will help the city meet its goals in protecting them which can be considered for inclusion during the update of City’s OCP. Members were encouraged to provide feedback.

General discussion ensued and some of the questions asked were:

- Robert wanted to know if these identified areas of land base are private or publicly owned. How it intersects with City’s mandate?
- Jennifer stated that most of these are city lands. Port Metro Vancouver has jurisdiction in some areas of Fraser River as well as Metro Vancouver has some jurisdiction in Riparian area around Brunette as it’s a drainage corridor.

Councillor McEvoy added that in case of Urban Forest Canopy we are looking at private lands that would involve possibly preserving existing trees but it would also involve education and programs geared towards protecting and increasing tree canopy on private lands. We will need to find ways to work with private land owners.

- Amanda asked if there will be a subsidy program for private land owners like City of Vancouver has where they provide residents fruit trees for \$10 at certain times of the year.
- Claude informed that this will be part of future recommendations under the Urban Forest Strategy.
- Amanda wanted to know how we are planning to reduce vegetation maintenance in Large Tree Parks and wildlife or avoid disturbing nesting sites.
- Claude provided an example from fifteen years ago when Queens Park meadow was left natural to provide more foraging food for all sorts of insects. But as soon as it got dry the City had to cut it as it became a fire hazard. Also in some cases we can’t let vegetation go natural that because of rodent issues.

- A member wanted to know we have plans to put Bee boxes to encourage pollinators and butterflies?
- Jennifer confirmed that Douglas College and Unibug has been working with the City to install bee boxes in areas around City facilities and other areas.
- Reg wanted to know why we are concentrating on Large Tree parks only and not other parks that may not meet that criteria as these recommendations are probably as important or more important for these smaller sites.
- Jennifer informed that even though they have identified four key areas, the consultants did include an area called Urban Matrix that includes everything else so there is opportunity to address smaller parks in this section.
- Todd wanted clarification on installing artificial wildlife trees as mentioned in the recommendations for Large Treed Parks.
- Jennifer stated that its Wildlife Trees are planted to simulate wildlife features as these features opens up opportunity for insects and bird life to nest inside it or feed from it.
- Karla wanted to know if there are ways to maintain water in the park areas especially Queens Park where there isn't a pond not only for the trees but also for bugs and wildlife that need a drink especially during drought summer period of time.
- Claude informed that there is always water in the ponds and mentioned that the area by the lodge and McBride has an area that has water.

Jennifer encouraged members to read through the recommendations regarding the Brunette River and bring their suggestions and ideas to the next meeting. Jennifer informed members that this report will be emailed to all the members by Sandy. At the next meeting Eugene Wat - Manager of Infrastructure and Planning would like Committee to endorse the findings of these recommendations and give their feedback so that staff can incorporate them into the OCP.

**4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**5.1. Demolition/Recycling Requirements Pilot – Jennifer Lukianchuk**

Jennifer presented an overview of Demolition Pilot Project and showed City's Waste Diversion goal. This was a nine month pilot project that took place this year and implemented a draft demolition recycling and Waste Management By-law. The process was outlined which required a Waste Management Plan to be submitted by the applicant who requested a Demolition Permit. Results showed that about half of the applicants were compliant in achieving at least 70% diversion rate. Jennifer handed out copies of

Demolition Permit package regarding recycling requirements that gets handed to an applicant when they come to get Demolition permit from the City.

Jennifer asked the committee two questions. One was related to the 70% recycling rate and second about applying its bylaw to all Demos which would include major renovations or to just Single Family homes and phase it in slowly.

Some of the questions asked after this presentation were:

- Giuliana wanted to know which other cities were pursuing this and how 70% number was decided upon?
- After looking at some other municipalities like Port Moody who has 70% recycling target rate and City of Vancouver with 75% target rate staff decided to go with 70%. Staff wanted it to be something relatively attainable.
- Amanda wanted to know if the fees are high enough to incent people to spend the extra time to recycle.
- Staff is quite pleased that half of these applicants were being compliant especially considering that it's such a new program and is not happening in lot of other municipalities yet. With passing of time we hope to see repeat applicants who would like to become more compliant second time through.
- Karla wanted to know if there is any tracking of their extra time to achieve this.
- Jennifer advised that during the pilot, staff did not specifically ask applicants to do this. Staff had the opportunity to talk to few of these applicants and found that it wasn't too onerous. Staff would like to simplify some of the forms.

Amanda commented how expensive it is to have multiple dumpsters and lot more work to separate materials especially if someone is doing a big renovation. She thinks these fees are not high enough where the materials are mixed to get good compliance.

Jennifer informed that our Demolition Package has a list of licensed facilities where you can take co-mingled loads e.g. Urban Wood Waste in New Westminster. We hope to see more facilities in the region that will take mingled loads to make it easier for the industry to recycle.

Reg suggested that we should be examining it and phasing it in slowly. In couple of years when we have statistics to back it up we should be able to compare the results.

Amanda commented that she likes this idea of requiring some level of recycling during demolition but to consider the challenge it may place on the homeowner.

Councillor McEvoy stated that Metro Vancouver uses the term Waste Diversion instead of Recycling for wood waste as disposal at an adequate facility (i.e. Recycle or Salvage) would be considered successful diversion.

Karla asked staff to consider outlining costs to recycle materials (versus landfill) to its applicants.

**6. REPORTS AND INFORMATION****6.1. Blue Dot Campaign update – Mark Allison**

Mark distributed handout regarding New Westminster Municipal Declaration on the Right to a Healthy Environment which included City Actions associated to each commitment. Part of this declaration includes reporting on how we are planning to achieve these goals. Mark reviewed the City Actions List and informed that number of environmental policies, plans and by-laws are already in place. This document was created for accountability reasons with the help of direction from Council.

The City is currently working on OCP and Envision 2032 that will establish a broader set of indicators and targets. We will have public consultation regarding achieving these targets and will focus on some key indicators to make sure we are headed in the right direction. He encouraged members to review the city actions and provide recommendations and comments.

Karla brought forth suggestion to install water meters in single family homes to help reduce water usage in the City. She suggested that City should not allow garburators in new developments to avoid organics going down the drains. Amanda suggested that city should consider storm water management related actions such as rain garden.

Todd thanked City for following through with the Blue Dot commitment.

**6.2. Fossil Fuel update – Mark Allison**

Fraser Surrey Docks has put in an application to Port Metro Vancouver regarding changing their coal loading procedure. Before it was going to come via rail cars from Montana and then loaded onto barges to head to Texada to deep sea port facility from where it gets shipped primarily to China. Right now it's costing them \$7 a ton to transport coal that is worth about \$23 hence its proving to be uneconomic. Now they would like to send this directly to deep-sea shipping facility that will be loading it onto ships that are about 300 feet long with conveyor belts that are much lower while the ships are much higher.

City has responded to this and told them that this is a significant alteration in their loading method so have asked for a full reassessment. Port Metro has brought in a new project evaluation process which is an attempt to try get back to fundamentals which is basically looking at all impacts of coal from its source to its destination. We have asked them to restart this process and include regulators, Fraser Health authority and Metro Vancouver. We have been granted intervenor status as of now and are calling for judicial review.

Mark gave an update regarding Trans Mountain pipeline and its impact on Brunette River. Our fire chief will be speaking to them about emergency response and our environmental consultant will be talking to them about it potential impact on Brunette River. Kinder Morgan will need to submit updated plans to the National Energy Board including emergency management and protection of species at risk. We are quite concerned about number of conditions that they issued which do not give any opportunity to the intervenors to comment on their final plans after its construction and operation. We are calling for judicial review as it's not clear what will be included in their revised plans.

**6.3. Environmental coordinator’s Update – Jennifer Lukianchuk**

Jennifer updated members about upcoming process of 2016 Environmental Grant Program and involvement of Grant Sub-committee this fall. Sub-Committee will present funding allocations to Environment Advisory Committee at their next meeting on Wednesday November 25<sup>th</sup>. Jennifer stressed the importance of having quorum at this last meeting in order to take recommendations to the Council before the end of this year.

Jennifer reminded members that RiverFest is coming up this week and encouraged members to come down for the event and check out the environmental booths and bands down by the Fraser River Discovery Centre.

Jennifer asked members to look at the info on Ecological Inventory that will be emailed to all members by Sandy in next couple of days especially the recommendations about Brunette river section so we can have discussion about the work being done in this area at our next meeting.

Councillor McEvoy encouraged members to review the document that Mark handed out at this meeting about the Right to Healthy Environment Declaration and City Actions. The City has identified this as a priority policy initiative and would like to know what we have achieved since the Green Plan got adopted. We would also like to know what things are missing from this plan as there is lot of room for new ideas. Mark gave two week deadline for their comments and suggestions as he needs to report back to Council by end of this year.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

**8. NEXT MEETING**

**Date:** Wednesday, November 25th, 2015  
**Location:** Committee # 2  
**Time:** 6:30pm

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm

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

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