

ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EnAC)**Tuesday, November 26, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.****Committee Room 2 - City Hall****MINUTES****VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa - Chair
Colleen Gillespie - Community Member
Christopher Lumsden - Community Member
John Ragone - Education Sector Representative
Raunaq Singh - Education Sector Representative
Bryanna Thiel - Community Member
Ingrid Tymm - Community Member

MEMBER REGRETS:

Lesley Malcolm - Community Member
Kyle Routledge - Local Environmental Organization Representative
Cyrus Sy - Community Member

GUESTS:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy - Council Member

STAFF:

Jennifer Lukianchuk - Environmental Coordinator
Eugene Wat - Manager, Infrastructure Planning
Carol Lee - Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

Councillor Nakagawa acknowledged the traditional territories of the First Nations peoples in which the City of New Westminster is located.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

1.1 Additions to the Agenda of November 26, 2019

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda of the Environment Advisory Committee meeting held on November 26, 2019 be received and adopted with the following amendments:

- *Addition of Item 5.1 – Seven Bold Steps to Climate Action;*
- *Renumbering of Item 5.1 - Environmental Strategy and Action Plan Update to Item 5.2; and*
- *Addition of Item 5.3 – Announcement.*

CARRIED.

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

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of September 18, 2019

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the Environment Advisory Committee meeting held on September 18, 2019 be received and adopted.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Massey Theatre Climate Action Activities for 2020

Julian Legere, Placemaking Initiatives, Massey Theatre, reported on the Massey Theatre Climate Action Event being planned for April 4, 2020:

- The objective of the event is to engage New Westminster citizens in addressing climate grief through education, creativity and action; and,
- This will be an opportunity for the City to showcase the actions it is taking to address the climate crisis.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- The issue of family planning within the context of the climate emergency will be a topic for discussion at a future event:
 - Suggestion to connect with the Babies for Climate Action group; and,
- Suggestions to connect with other organizations in the City (e.g. New Westminster High School, Royal Columbian Hospital, industry, etc.) and the City's public engagement staff member that will be hired shortly.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No items.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Seven Bold Steps to Climate Action

Councillor Nakagawa reviewed the presentation provided to Council on November 4, 2019 titled “Climate Action Budgeting Framework & Seven Bold Steps” and highlighted:

- The Climate Action Budgeting Framework and Seven Bold Steps were endorsed by Council;
- The March 2019 climate emergency declaration included:
 - GHG reduction targets in 2030, 2040 and 2050;
 - Consideration of new actions beyond current climate targets;
 - Implementing a carbon budget;
 - Incorporation into the 2019–2022 Strategic Plan;
- Climate Action Budgeting Framework:
 - Prioritize climate emergency actions in work plans;
 - Prioritize climate emergency initiatives in Five-Year Financial Plan;
 - Embed carbon pricing into decision-making;
 - Strive for affordability, equity and livability;
 - Implement Climate Action Levy;
- Seven Bold Steps:
 - Carbon free corporation;
 - Car light community;
 - Carbon free homes and buildings;
 - Pollution free vehicles;
 - Carbon free energy;
 - Robust urban forest;
 - Quality people-centred public realm; and,
- Next steps.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- Incentives to reduce car usage will include both “carrots” and “sticks”;
- Carbon free energy will include district energy from renewable sources;
- Climate action will be used as a lever to build a more liveable community;
- FortisBC is seeking to expand their renewable natural gas program in the City:
 - The need to recognize that natural gas is still a fossil fuel;
- Whether there has been any consideration of divesting the City of its fossil fuel investments:

- The Municipal Finance Authority (MFA) has advised there is currently not sufficient demand for an oil and gas-free fund;
- Whether the impact of the Seven Bold Steps on seniors and people with disabilities has been considered:
 - Public engagement on the Seven Bold Steps will commence shortly;
 - Council has discussed the need to undertake an equity analysis of the Seven Bold Steps;
- Suggestion that the City take the opportunity to share what it learns with other organizations in the City (e.g. New Westminster High School, Royal Columbian Hospital, industry, etc.);
- The City can play a leadership role in demonstrating actions that small municipalities can take to address the climate emergency;
- Suggestion to focus on a hopeful vision for the future, rather than negativity, to engage the public in taking climate action;
- Importance of including the equity and inclusivity lenses; and,
- The need for the City to consider the cost, tax implications and the prioritization to be placed on the Seven Bold Steps.

A copy of the presentation is included as Attachment 1.

5.2 Environmental Strategy and Action Plan Update

Jennifer Lukianchuk, Environmental Coordinator, reviewed the status of the actions included in the Environmental Strategy and Action Plan Direction (2018) and indicated how they relate to the Seven Bold Steps, where applicable.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- Action 5.2b – Update and implement New Westminster Floodplain Management Strategy:
 - Elevated to a short-term action with some groundwork starting in 2020;
 - The work will be undertaken as a broader project with the Fraser Basin Council;
- Action 7.1a – Develop a Biodiversity and Natural Areas Strategy:
 - Elevated from medium to short-term;
 - The goal is to have the strategy completed by summer/fall 2020;
- Action 7.2a – Incorporate Integrated Stormwater Management Plan practices into new development:
 - There are technical challenges with developing a functional system that can be integrated into a separate utility;
 - The need for additional internal discussions before a recommendation can be submitted to Council for consideration;
- A green infrastructure engineer has been hired by the City;

- Action 8.8a – Explore opportunities to use recycled biosolids in local landscaping:
 - Expectation that Metro Vancouver produce more biosolids from wastewater treatment in the future;
- Suggestion to have a comprehensive discussion on the inclusion of the Brunette River in the Environmental Strategy and Action Plan at the next EnAC meeting:
 - The riparian area and the area close to the drainage system are not City lands;
 - Metro Vancouver is doing some work on the Brunette area; and,
- Whether communications support to achieve the actions will be included in the budget:
 - There are repercussions of not making an adequate investment in communications and public education.

A copy of the presentation is included as Attachment 2.

5.3 Announcement

Raunaq Singh, Education Sector Representative, reported on his participation with the Vote 16 campaign and noted that one of the major motivations for his involvement is to provide those who will be most impacted by climate change with a voice. He invited EnAC members to contact him if they are interested in receiving more information about the Vote 16 campaign.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Environment Coordinator's Update

Ms. Lukianchuk reviewed the accomplishments of the EnAC from 2009 to 2019.

Councillor Nakagawa advised that the City has restructured its 38 committees to align with its strategic priorities and noted:

- The EnAC will be reconstituted as the Environment and Climate Advisory Committee;
- The first meeting of the new Environment and Climate Advisory Committee will likely be held in March 2020;
- Members will be appointed for two-year terms with one half of the members' terms expiring each year;
- The applications for membership are currently available on the City's website;
- A workplan will be established for the new advisory committees;
- A civic dinner will be held in January 2020 to thank the volunteers who have served on the advisory committees.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- There will be attempts to avoid having people serving on multiple committees;
- Committees are only one form of public engagement
- The intention of the proposed committee memberships is to supplement the information available through City staff and to engage specific groups

A copy of the presentation is included as Attachment 3.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

NADINE NAKAGAWA
CHAIR

ORIGINAL SIGNED

CAROL LEE
RECORDING SECRETARY