



ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EnCAC)

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Meeting held electronically under Ministerial Order No. M192

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa	- Chair, City Council Member
Meesh Bono	- Community Member
Karen Crosby	- Community Member
Colleen Gillespie	- Representative, Professional in Environment or Climate Field, Business, Government or Non-Profit
John Lekakis	- Representative, Local Institution (SD40)
Teresa Morton	- Representative, Local Environment Association
Patrick Parkes	- Community Member
John Ragone	- Community Member
Raunaq Singh	- Community Member
Bryanna Thiel	- Representative, Professional in Environment or Climate Field, Business, Government or Non-Profit

REGRETS:

Serena Vampa	- Representative, Local Business Association
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STAFF PRESENT:

Leya Behra	- Manager, Climate Action
Nayel Halim	- Community Energy & Emissions Specialist
Jennifer Lukianchuk	- Senior Environmental Coordinator
Jennifer Miller	- Manager, Public Engagement
Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk
Nicole Ludwig	- Assistant City Clerk

GUESTS:

Roger Quan	- Director, Air Quality Policy and Climate Change, Metro Vancouver
Ken Reid	- Superintendent, Environmental Sampling & Monitoring, Metro Vancouver

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m.

Heather Corbett, Committee Clerk, provided information on tools available to participate in the electronic meeting.

1.0 HOUSEKEEPING

1.1 Online Introductions and Icebreaker

The Chair acknowledged that the meeting was being held on unceded Indigenous territory.

Members, staff and guests took turns responding to the icebreaker question "What is your favourite noodle?"

2.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO AGENDA

2.1 Additions/revisions to and Adoption of the Agenda

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda of the December 16, 2020, Environment and Climate Advisory Committee meeting be adopted with the addition of item 6.1 - Environmental Recognition Program.

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Adoption of the Minutes of October 21, 2020

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the October 21, 2020, Environment and Climate Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Metro Vancouver Air Quality Program

Ken Reid, Superintendent, Environmental Sampling and Monitoring, Metro Vancouver, provided a presentation on the air quality monitoring in Metro Vancouver, with particular emphasis on New Westminister. Mr. Reid, along with Roger Quan, Director, Air Quality Policy and Climate Change, Metro Vancouver, provided the following information in response to questions and comments from Committee members:

- A variety of business sectors use the data gathered, from health to emissions work;

- The Clark Drive Near Road Air Quality Monitoring station is the first of its kind and provides clear data on emissions gradients as air moves from the road to the sidewalk;
- In addition to the airmap.ca website, Metro Vancouver communicates and provides public education through the Clean Air Plan, community presentations and generally tries to get information out when there are opportunities to do so;
- Schools are being considered for small sensor projects;
- There is a focus on using the information gathered to provide rationales for new programs;
- The Caring for the Air report card shows highlights of the air quality annual report;
- There is now a third party review of the air quality network taking place focusing on gaps and how portable monitoring can be used to fill them;
- Portable monitoring may be a good option for New Westminister; one such project resulted in the removal of part of the parkade as it was trapping truck fumes;
- Most monitors measure nitrogen oxides (NOx), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), and particulate matter 2.5 (PM 2.5);
- Most of the data is publicly available on AirMap; older data is provided in spreadsheets; and,
- Metro Vancouver staff are investigating the possibility of an open data website where data would be available for download.

4.2 Community Energy and Emission Plan (CEEP) 2021 Scope

Nayel Halim, Community Energy & Emissions Specialist, provided a presentation on the Community Energy and Emissions Plan, including what has been achieved over the last decade and the scope for future work. Mr. Halim and Leya Behra, Manager, Climate Action, provided the following additional information in response to Committee questions and comments:

- Staff are investigating several funding programs to encourage people to retrofit existing buildings and strategy options will be explored in the next few months and an ongoing basis;
- The CEEP will focus on policy tools needed to enable acceleration and action, and include social, economic, and environmental principles to build resilience;
- Staff are investigating programs to incentivize buildings and businesses to decarbonize;
- Although there are programs to incentivize businesses to decarbonize, it will be easier to align practices with policy as more regional decarbonization takes place;

- Staff are leaning towards a yearly check-in, and a deeper review every five years; and,
- There will be ongoing interaction and opportunities for feedback on the CEEP.

In discussion, Committee members noted:

- Support for asking businesses to create products that last longer;
- Rationing energy may be inequitable since people with more financial resources will be able to keep buying;
- Transparency is paramount; and,
- General support for a 10-year plan with a yearly check-in, and a deeper review every five years.

4.3 Environmental Strategy and Action Plan (ESAP) Action Updates

Jennifer Lukianchuk, Environmental Coordinator, provided an update on the Environmental Strategy and Action Plan (ESAP) actions, and due to time constraints, agreed to distribute the document to the Committee. The Chair requested members review the document and return with more detailed questions.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Lukianchuk advised that Indigenous groups will be consulted. The Chair advised that the City is still working on identifying Indigenous groups and developing relationships that will enable the City to build with them rather than just consult.

Procedural Note: Patrick Parkes left the meeting at 6:48 p.m. and did not return.

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Motion from Committee Member presented October 21, 2020:

POSTPONEMENT MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Environment and Climate Advisory Committee postpone discussion and decision on the following motion to the next meeting:

THAT the Environment and Climate Advisory Committee recommend that Council:

- a) Work to have air quality (i.e., fine particulate matter) monitors installed within the next two years at street level in a variety of New Westminster residential areas, including those along busy roads,*
- b) Publicize the readings on a monthly basis in a variety of locations including the City's website, digital signboards, and other local media, and*

c) *Notify the public (monthly, in the same locations indicated in “b”) of air pollution sources and health risks.*

CARRIED.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.
(Patrick Parkes absent for the vote)

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Environmental Recognition Program

Teresa Morton, New Westminster Environmental Partners Representative, introduced the concept of an Environmental Recognition Program, and advised that it is envisioned to acknowledge the efforts that are being done on behalf of the community, and is usually given to individuals or organizations.

In discussion, Committee members noted the following:

- The principle is a good one;
- If the City is to run it, it would require staff resources to promote and run the program; and,
- Contacting the Platinum Awards (run through the Chamber of Commerce) and Douglas College and asking them to add a category may be a better idea, as these awards are already well established and high profile in the community.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environment and Climate Advisory Committee recommend to Council that the City establish an Environmental Recognition program.

DEFEATED.

(Meesh Bono, Karen Crosby, Colleen Gillespie, John Lekakis, John Ragone, and Bryanna Thiel opposed)
(Patrick Parkes absent for the vote)

7.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

7.1 Environment Coordinator’s Update – Jennifer Lukianchuk

This item was dealt with under item 4.3 above.

8.0 NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, March 10, 2021 – Time and location details to be confirmed

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION, the meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

ORIGINAL SIGNED
COUNCILLOR NADINE NAKAGAWA
CHAIR

ORIGINAL SIGNED
NICOLE LUDWIG
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK