

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EnCAC)

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

**Meeting held electronically under Ministerial Order No. M192/2020 and the
current Order of the Provincial Health Officer - *Gatherings and Events***

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa	- Chair, City Council Member
Meesh Bono	- Community Member
Danison Buan	- Representative, Local Business Association
Karen Crosby	- Community Member
Colleen Gillespie	- Representative, Professional in Environment or Climate Field, Business, Government or Non-Profit
Teresa Morton	- Representative, Local Environment Association
Patrick Parkes	- Community Member
John Ragone	- Community Member (arrived at 5:13 p.m.)
Bryanna Thiel	- Representative, Professional in Environment or Climate Field, Business, Government or Non-Profit (arrived 5:35 p.m.)

REGRETS:

John Lekakis	- Representative, Local Institution (SD40)
Raunaq Singh	- Community Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Leya Behra	- Manager, Climate Action
Jennifer Lukianchuk	- Senior Environmental Coordinator
Erika Mashig	- Manager, Parks and Open Space Planning, Design and Construction
Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. The Chair acknowledged that the meeting was being held on unceded Indigenous territory.

1.0 HOUSEKEEPING

1.1 Icebreaker Question

Committee members and staff took turns responding to the icebreaker question "Share any outdoor adventures you've had recently".

2.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO AGENDA

2.1 Additions/Revisions to and Adoption of the Agenda

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda of the May 12, 2021, Environment and Climate Advisory Committee meeting be adopted with the following additions:

- *Add 7.1 Environmental Coordinator's Report*

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Adoption of the Minutes of March 10, 2021

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the March 10, 2021, 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 Urban Forest Management Strategy: Implementation Update

Erika Mashig, Manager, Parks and Open Space Planning, Design and Construction, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the subject of the City's Urban Forest Management Strategy (UFMS), covering information on the following three areas:

- The role of urban forests and challenges faced by the City;
- Overview of the urban forest management strategy; and,
- Status of implementation.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Mashig provided the following information:

- The investment costs to grow the urban forest occur in the early years of a tree's life due to the requirements of pruning, watering and fertilizing; however, as they mature and adjust to the environment, they need less care;
- Of the 8500 trees that the City is planning to plant by 2035, 6300 would be 6-7 years old (6-7cm caliper), and 2200 would be younger (smaller-sized trees);
- At the time that the UFMS was developed (2015), the 27% target (Scenario 3) was deemed ambitious given the capacity and resources of the division and the number of trees to be planted per year; however staff resources have since grown and priorities have changed, and there may be ambition to look beyond 27% towards the 40% (Scenario 4);

- It is estimated that it takes approximately 50-60 years for trees to reach sufficient maturity to become a carbon sink, therefore planting trees are not a quick fix to the climate emergency;
- The City does not have a record of where the trees sold in the tree sale were intended to be planted; however, it is hoped that they have been planted in properties within the City;
- Tree permits provide one element of tracking where trees are planted on private property;
- Cornwall Park is a property in Brow of the Hill that came up for sale and was purchased by the City in 2019 as a new park;
- As part of the Tree Canada Grant requirements, a registered biologist is expected to monitor the mortality of the seedlings over one year and report back to the granter and the community;
- The expected mortality of the planted seedlings is approximately 30%, like a natural forest environment; and,
- To further support the UBMS, the City has funding for a Natural Areas Practitioner, who will be dedicated to improving the City's natural areas and building a team over time.

The Committee provided the following comments:

- While receiving grants for tree planting is very important, it would also be important to build resources and allocate sufficient budget to maintain and care for the natural areas for the long-term;
- It is encouraging to hear that the City is building staff resources in the area; of tree planting and maintenance; and,
- It is positive to see the trees being planted on City streets and within neighbourhoods.

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Motion from Committee Member presented October 21, 2020:

Patrick Parkes, Community Member, presented the following motion to Committee members for their consideration:

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.

Jennifer Lukianchuk, Senior Environmental Coordinator, provided a reminder of the information presented at the December 16, 2020 ENCAC meeting by Ken Reid, Superintendent, Environmental Sampling and Monitoring, of Metro Vancouver.

Metro Vancouver initiatives that were highlighted to the committee included the near-road air quality monitoring study that was conducted in Vancouver (Clark Drive and Grandview Avenue area) and the Citizen Science project where Metro Vancouver staff engaged the public in assessing emerging technologies for small, low-cost air quality sensors for residents.

In discussion, Committee members noted:

- Air quality is an important issue, particularly with the City's high population density;
- More information about air quality needs to be publically available and actively communicated to the public to raise awareness about ailments that occur due to air quality;
- One of the best solutions for improved health would be to eradicate car dependency;
- The motion presents another way of framing and raising awareness about the climate crisis and the health benefits of cleaning the air through reduced dependency on fossil fuels;
- Concern was expressed about part a) of the motion, as there would be costs to install the monitoring devices and air quality lies under Metro Vancouver's jurisdiction;
- Addressing the motion as three separate issues may be a good approach to addressing jurisdiction and cost;
- Concern was expressed about City resources being scarce and pulled from somewhere else that the City might have more impact on; and,
- The public education piece of the motion is important.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the original motion put forward be addressed as three separate motions.

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

*THAT the Environment and Climate Advisory Committee recommend that Council:
a) Advocate to Metro Vancouver 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.*

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environment and Climate Advisory Committee recommend that Council:
b) Publicize the readings on a monthly basis in a variety of locations, including the City's website, digital signboards, and other local media.

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environment and Climate Advisory Committee recommend that Council:
c) Notify the public (monthly, in the same locations indicated in "Motion b)" of air pollution sources and health risks.

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

5.2 Biodiversity Strategy: Goals, Draft Recommended Actions & Strategies
a) Review Revised Goals; Further Discussion on Actions, if applicable
b) Presentation: Draft Strategies

Jennifer Lukianchuk, Senior Environmental Coordinator, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Biodiversity Strategy, including the newly developed goals for the strategy, which fit within the values of Equity, Diversity of Voices and Shared Knowledge.

Ms. Lukianchuk also discussed the priorities by topic area, presented a timeline for the Strategy and asked the Committee to provide feedback on the Strategy.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Lukianchuk provided the following information:

- The little islands in the Fraser River (east of Sapperton) lie within the geographic perimeter of the Strategy; however their biodiversity was not ranked; and,
- Poplar Island was included in the Strategy, although it is not owned by the City.

Committee members provided the following comments:

- It is reassuring to see the incorporation of the shorelines and waterways within the Strategy;
- It would be of critical importance to prioritize understanding the complexities of the effects of climate change on biodiversity and densification along the river, in terms of erosion impacts and flooding;
- The small islands to the east of Sapperton have quite a lot of biodiversity, so it may be worth including them in the Strategy;
- A key priority would be naturalization of the Brunette River, as it has importance in terms of salmon and wildlife habitat and significance to indigenous peoples;

- Focusing on the shoreline is important; however, it would also be beneficial to prioritize increasing biodiversity where people live, such as re-wilding of Moody Park, so that the increased biodiversity occurs where people are impacted and will benefit from it; and,
- It would be beneficial to learn more about how the City is engaging with First Nations on this topic.

Ms. Lukianchuk advised that an update on the feedback received from the First Nations groups on the biodiversity strategy could be provided at a future meeting.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Draft Environment & Climate Advisory Committee 2021 Work Plan

Leya Behra presented the Committee Work Plan for the rest of the year and how each item relates to the Environmental Strategy and Action Plan and the 7 Bold Steps.

The Committee requested that the work plan be sent out by email for further review and comments.

7.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

8.0 Environment Coordinator's Update

Jennifer Lukianchuk, Senior Environmental Coordinator, noted that there was an upcoming opportunity to engage with Metro Vancouver on their Solid Waste Management Plan and advised that further information would be sent out to the Committee by email.

9.0 NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, July 14, 2021 – Location details to be confirmed

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Certified correct,

ORIGINAL SIGNED
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa
Chair

ORIGINAL SIGNED
Heather Corbett
Committee Clerk