



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EAC)

Wednesday, October 11, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.

Committee Room 2, City Hall

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	- Chair
Ingrid Tymm	- Community Member
Karla Olson	- Community Member
Laura Cornish (Left at 8:30 pm)	- Community Member
Nadine Nakagawa	- Community Member
Wilmer Lau	- Local Business Representative

MEMBER/STAFF REGRETS:

Todd Beernink	- Community Member
Amanda Semenoff	- Community Member
Patrick Parkes	- Community Member
Raunaq Singh	- Student Representative

STAFF:

Jennifer Lukianchuk	- Environmental Coordinator Engineering Services
Eugene Wat	- Manager, Infrastructure Planning Engineering Services
Jeff Case (left at 7:20 pm)	- Arboriculture Technician Parks & Recreation
Lisa Kvam (left at 7:20 pm)	- Clerk, Parks & Recreation
Norm Connolly (left at 8:05 pm)	- Community Energy Manager Engineering Services
Ryan Coleman (left at 8:00 pm)	- Consultant, Engineering Services
Janet Zazubek	- Planning Assistant, Development Services
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Secretary, Engineering Services

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

***Procedural note: As the meeting had not yet reached quorum, the Chair opted to proceed with the meeting, starting with Presentation Item 3.1:
Tree Protection & Regulation Bylaw – Jeff Case & Lisa Kvam***

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

1.1 Additions to the Agenda of October 11, 2017

There were no additions to the Agenda.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of June 21, 2017

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the Environment Advisory Committee meeting held on June 21, 2017 be received and adopted.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Tree Protection & Regulation Bylaw – Jeff Case & Lisa Kvam

After briefly introducing themselves, Jeff Case, Aboriculture Technician, and Lisa Kvam, Parks and Recreation Clerk, proceeded with their presentation which covered the present status of the Urban Forest in New Westminster, an overview of the City's Tree Protection and Regulation Bylaw and Tree Permit Process, and proposed revisions to the Bylaw based on feedback from the public.

The following discussion ensued:

- The City has received a lot of feedback from single family homeowners stating that the current bylaw places a significant amount of financial burden on them. As a result of this feedback, and while the proposed amendments are not designed to make it easier for homeowners to remove trees, the City is striving to make it a little more financially feasible for single family homeowners to remove trees in order to accommodate a small addition to their home or other renovations which the tree(s) may encroach upon;
- A member suggested that the City strive to maintain a certain density per hectare;
- Staff advised that in order for a tree permit to be granted, the following criteria must be met: a) the tree is identified as hazardous by an arborist;

- b) it is a standing dead tree; c) if the tree falls within the proposed footprint of a building that cannot be adjusted or modified to retain the tree; or, d) if the roots of a protected tree are interfering with underground utilities such as a sewer or water line;
- Generally, it is developers who apply to remove 10-20 trees from a property, not single family homeowners;
 - A member stated that they thought the proposed amendments to the Bylaw were in contradiction of the City's goal of 27% canopy coverage by the year 2035 and that the goal was, perhaps, not big enough and the timeframe could be shorter;
 - As trees can grow quite significantly in 20 years, it is anticipated that a good canopy coverage will be achieved with replacement trees;
 - Staff acknowledged that balancing tree densification with population densification proved to be challenging as we are losing soil volume to maintain existing trees or even to replace them with trees that will grow into specimen-sized trees due to soil volume and space. We have to look at other techniques such as structural soils, etc.;
 - Enforcement is based on the type of violation that has occurred. For instance, if a protected tree is cut down, the violator may be fined up to \$10,000 or required to plant 5 trees on the property – it would depend on the individual circumstances. People are held accountable within the constraints of the bylaw;
 - Aside from scheduled inspections, staff may do additional inspections based on calls from residents who hear chainsaws or from arborists who may have advised someone that they could not cut a tree down but then noticed later that the tree had been taken down;
 - Staff use satellite imagery from annual flyovers accompanied by the GIS program to compare the canopy from year to year;
 - A member advised that we also need to consider how trees can be used to help minimize the rising temperature of the Fraser River due to summertime downpours;
 - Staff noted that one of the goals of the tree program and Bylaw is to introduce stewardship/outreach programs, etc.

Jeff thanked everyone for their input and informed the group that the next steps include analyzing and summarizing the feedback that was received during the open house in September, as well as that received this evening on the Bylaw amendment recommendations, and having an interdepartmental review of the recommendations. Staff will be introducing the formal Bylaw amendments for Council's consideration in late October/early November.

In closing, Jeff informed everyone that for the Urban Forest Management Strategy, the City received the 2017 award for Planning Excellence in the category of Natural Systems Planning from the Canadian Institute of

Planners as well as an honourable mention in the category of Excellence in Policy Planning by the Planning Institute of BC.

3.2 Urban Solar Garden – Norm Connolly & Ryan Coleman

Presenters, Norm Connolly, Community Energy Manager, and Ryan Coleman, Program Coordinator, Energy Save New West. Norm informed members that the Urban Solar Garden will provide local residents and businesses access to solar energy that they wouldn't normally have access to, without having to install solar panels themselves. It was noted that there are a number of under-utilized sites within the City, including the roof of City Hall, which could be used to generate energy.

The following discussion ensued:

- In order to remove barriers and open up the opportunity to a variety of people, the City should consider providing an opportunity for those with affordability challenges, including the possibility of donors buying panels for non-profit organizations;
- Staff advised that the average per panel price will be lower due to economies of scale achieved through larger volume purchase of panels for the array. In terms of installation, the economic impact on the Electrical Utility is minimal, as the capital cost of the array is largely covered by individual subscriptions to the solar garden;
- This is not a traditional investment; however, people are interested in it for a number of reasons, such as environmental leadership and generating renewable energy locally;
- Residents interested in purchasing panels are invited to attend the Urban Solar Garden Public Information Session on October 19th or drop by City Hall for over next 30 days and submit a completed application form;
- Staff advised that consideration is being given to insurance with respect to the protection of the panels.

3.3 South Coast Conservation Program – Jennifer Lukianchuk & Janet Zazubek

Jennifer Lukianchuk, Environment Coordinator, and Janet Zazubek, Planning Assistant, advised the Committee that this topic came to the committee as a result of a delegation presentation to City Council on April 10, 2017 by the South Coast Conservation Program (SCCP), and shared the following resolution which came from Council:

“That the information presented by the South Coast Conservation Program, including the overhead presentation titled, “Supporting Local Government Conservation Efforts for Species and Ecosystems at Risk” be referred to

staff and the Environment Committee for consideration and subsequent discussion with Council along with a report from staff.”

Jennifer began by providing an overview of the SCCP and Janet explained how Species & Ecosystems at Risk (SEAR) are mapped, SEAR of importance in New Westminster, how people can help map SEAR, and the draft action/policy for environmental strategy as it relates to species at risk. Janet outlined the following next steps to be taken and the opportunity to include draft actions in the Environmental Strategy as it relates to SEAR.

The following discussion ensued:

- The City could add a quick link to the government database to encourage people to the list of species they encounter;
- The City could encourage the government to keep their database current;
- A member suggested the implementation of an application such as what Vancouver utilizes with VanConnect as a way to engage the community and encourage reporting of various species. The app could include GPS coordinates, the ability to add photos, etc.;
- A member suggested involving birdwatching groups as they would be good resources for data collection;
- It was noted that currently there are no actions on the City’s Environmental Strategy that speak to the topic of species at risk;
- Councillor McEvoy stated that a study had taken place prior to the building of New Westminster Pier Park and the data/information may be being kept with the Parks and Recreation Department. He further commented that people value what they know and that he would like to see an urban wildlife study conducted;
- A member stated that as the Fraser River is one of the best spawning rivers in British Columbia, we need to support the fish in it;
- A member suggested including the arts community in this issue as artists can sometimes bring these types of things to life and can find other ways to engage the community through the arts.

Members were thanked for their valuable input and were advised that as the Environment Strategy is our biggest opportunity to get the appropriate language in place, staff will continue to work with the Committee on those specific areas as the draft Strategy Plan is being developed.

Procedural note: As the meeting now had quorum, members adopted the minutes from the June 21, 2017 meeting.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No items.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Electric Vehicle Strategy – Norm Connolly

Norm advised members that the City is working on devising a coherent Electric Vehicle Strategy that will provide guidance and direction with respect to priorities and what can be done to facilitate the transition to electric vehicles. The Strategy development process will be kick started with a half-day workshop which would allow staff to use an interactive tool which was designed specifically for the Community Energy Manager Network in BC and funded by BC Hydro's Sustainable Communities Program. The workshop will take place in the next 4-6 weeks and allow staff from all departments to provide their input on the Strategy.

Norm also informed the group that approximately one year ago, a group from BCIT's Smart Microgrid Program, who specialize in renewable energy, approached the City to participate in a curbside electric vehicle charging pilot program. This project is taking place right now and the group has funding from the Federal Government for installing 10 -12 level 2 charging points (two per streetlight) at street level. This would mean more public sites for vehicle charging that would be tied into LED streets lights where the excess power from the streetlight is used to power the EV chargers. Staff are currently short listing sites and there will be a community survey going out to find out what residents think about electric vehicles, if they are planning on purchasing one, if they already have one and, if so, where they charge it, etc.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Environment Coordinator's Update

Jennifer provided the following updates:

- The Wednesday, November 15th meeting of the EAC was moved to Thursday, November 23rd in order to accommodate the Environmental Grant approval process. It is imperative that we have quorum during this meeting to provide recommendations to Council on the grant funding allocations;
- The Royal City Green City: Environment Strategy Anvil Centre Event will be held on October 25th. Jennifer encouraged members to attend the event and to bring friends;

- There will be another workshop on the City's Environmental Strategy at the November 23rd Committee meeting;
- There are two native species planting events coming up this weekend – one at the Glenbrooke Ravine on Saturday and at Lower Hume Park on Sunday;
- The following two reports recently went to Council:
 - Corporate GHG – Energy and Emissions Update Report for 2016; and,
 - Assessment of Water Conservation Measures and Residential Metering.

6.2 Royal City/Green City Event Invite – Received for information.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

No items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING DATE

Thursday, November 23, 2017

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Certified correct,

Original Signed

JAIMIE MCEVOY
CHAIR

Original Signed

CARILYN COOK
COMMITTEE SECRETARY