



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EAC)

Wednesday, February 22, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.

Committee Room 2

City Hall

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	- Chair
Todd Beernink	- Community Member
Laura Cornish	- Community Member
Karla Olson	- Community Member
Raunaq Singh (left at 7:53 p.m.)	- Community Member
Patrick Parkes	- Community Member
Ingrid Tymm (arrived at 6:38 p.m.)	- Community Member
Wilmer Lau (arrived at 6:53 p.m.)	- Local Business Representative

MEMBER/STAFF REGRETS:

Amanda Semenoff	- Community Member
Nadine Nakagawa	- Community Member
Claude Ledoux	- Parks Horticulture Manager Parks & Recreation

STAFF:

Jennifer Lukianchuk	- Environmental Coordinator Engineering Services
Eugene Wat	- Manager, Infrastructure Planning Engineering Services
Mark Allison	- Manager Strategic Initiatives & Sustainability Office of the CAO
Kristian Davis (left at 8:16 p.m.)	- Supervisor, Solid Waste & Recycling Branch Engineering Operations
Kristina Fiedrich (left at 8:14 p.m.)	- Arts Programmer Office of the CAO
Jan Gibson (left at 7:02 p.m.)	- City Clerk, Legislative Services
Philip Lo (left at 7:02 p.m.)	- Council & Committee Clerk Legislative Services
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Secretary, Engineering Services

GUESTS:

Eyal Lebel (left at 7:50 p.m.)	- Master Recycler Program
Angie Nicolás (left at 7:50 p.m.)	- Master Recycler Program

Procedural Note: Item 3.1: *Orientation and Oath of Office* will be conducted prior to the start of regular agenda items.

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

1.1 Additions to and adoption of the Agenda of February 22, 2017

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda of the Environment Advisory Committee meeting held on February 22, 2017 be received and adopted.

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 November 23, 2016

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the Environment Advisory Committee meeting held on November 23, 2017 be received and adopted with the following changes:

- 1. Item 3.1 – First bullet point should read, ‘As the facility has low noise levels, it was suggested that a new community centre be part of the facility, especially considering planned increases of population in the area’;*
- 2. Item 4.1 – The motion should include reference to the Blue Dot Initiative that was recently passed by Council;*
- 3. Item 5.1 – Add bullet point stating, ‘There was a request to include conflict of interest documents in future grant binders as many of our friends and neighbours are applicants and that would help the subcommittee understand their role.’;*
- 4. Item 5.3 – First bullet point should state, ‘Grain terminals are considered hazardous due to dust.’*

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Orientation and Oath of Office – Legislative Services

Councillor McEvoy introduced Jan Gibson, City Clerk, Legislative Services, and Philip Lo, Council and Committee Clerk, Legislative Services who commenced with the Orientation and Oath of Office. The following items were reviewed:

- Rules of Conduct: Advisory Committee & Bodies of Council
- Respectful Workplace and Human Right Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Committee Schedule
- Freedom of Information (FOI) Permission Forms

Members were reminded to contact Carilyn Cook, Committee Secretary, regarding attendance for each meeting.

The Oath of Office was administered to Committee members.

Councillor McEvoy welcomed Committee members to the 2017 term of the Environment Advisory Committee and provided a brief overview of how the meetings are run. Members commenced with a roundtable introduction of themselves.

3.2 Master Recycler Program

After a brief introduction, guests, Eyal Lebel and Angie Nicolás, Master Recycler Coordinators, commenced with their presentation, *“Training for Waste Reduction: Sharing One Year of Learnings.”* With a mission to bridge the gap between waste awareness and action, they proposed a condensed Master Recycler Pilot Program for New Westminster. While the Program would be open to everyone, multi-family residences would be targeted as, historically, they are more challenging to get committed to a consistent and appropriate recycling program. The Master Recycler Pilot Program would include training and outreach resulting in a trained community of zero waste ambassadors.

Jennifer Lukianchuk, Environmental Coordinator, Engineering Services, shared the following information regarding the Program:

- Up to 30 participants at a time could take part in the Program;
- Classes would be held one night per week, starting around 6:00 p.m./6:30 p.m., at a civic facility, and run for 2-3 hours each of those nights for an estimated 3 to 4 weeks after which participants would “graduate” from that phase of the Program;

- The Program would include a field trip to a landfill or recycling plant, etc.;
- Upon finishing the first part of the Program, participants would then begin the community service aspect which could, among other things, include educating their co-residents on recycling and implementing on-site management;
- A \$30 fee could be charged which would be reimbursed upon completion of the Program;
- Benefits to the City are hoped to include a higher compliance with recycling, more participation in City programs, and a list of graduates that could facilitate the implementation of new recycling initiatives within the City.

The following discussion ensued:

- As recycling facilities in multi-family dwellings are housed farther away from residences and out of their line of vision, often in the basement or parking lot, tenants are less likely to recycle;
- Single-family residences are more likely to recycle than multi-family residences as their recycling tends to be more in their line of vision;
- More items being recycled means less dumpster waste and a lower cost for garbage removal. Property managers and owners are more likely to implement a recycling program if it means they will save money;
- Some multi-family residences utilize security cameras in order to hold residents accountable for their waste management;
- Most people want to do the right thing, they just lack the education;
- Social media should be used to get recycling information and Master Recycler Pilot Program training information out.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environment Advisory Committee request Council to direct staff to pursue the implementation of a Master Recycler Pilot Program for the City of New Westminster to commence in the fall of 2017.

CARRIED.

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

3.3 Bee City Initiative

- Kristina Fiedrich, Arts Programmer, Office of the CAO, introduced the Bee City Initiative which is being considered as part of the Parks & Recreation *Naturally Fun* programming campaign. The *Naturally Fun* campaign strives to get families

and citizens outside and promotes outside activities and creative play in nature. The objective of the Bee City Initiative would be to provide creative, educational, and hands-on programming opportunities and resources for residents of New Westminster to learn about at-risk and endangered pollinator species, native plant species, and sustainable gardening. Since New Westminster already has a number of pollinator-friendly initiatives in place, it would be very easy for the City to bring these together in the resolution for inclusion in our Bee City application.

Kristina outlined the following two recommendations for the Committee's consideration:

1. To pursue an application to become a Bee City;
2. To make a concerted effort to offer pollinator positive programming under the umbrella of the *Naturally Fun* initiative.

Mark Allison, Manager, Strategic Initiatives & Sustainability, Office of the CAO, suggested that going forward, this initiative could become part of the City's environmental strategy and be more detailed about the kind of biodiversity we are trying to promote within the City including pollinators, songbird habitat, etc.

The following discussion ensued:

- It was clarified that the name "Bee City" is a play on words and other pollinators such as butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, birds, and bats are included in the Initiative;
- There is no cost to apply for a Bee City designation and the City would need to re-apply each year in order to maintain the designation;
- Councillor McEvoy suggested that the Committee pass a motion to agree, in principle, with the general concept of the Bee City and to proceed at the next EAC meeting with a recommendation to Council.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environment Advisory Committee agree in principle with the general concept of the Bee City initiative and will proceed at the next Committee meeting with a recommendation to Council.

CARRIED.

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

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No Items.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Election of Alternate Chair

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Patrick Parkes act as Alternate Chair for the Environment Advisory Committee for the 2017 term.

CARRIED.

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

5.2 Official Community Plan (OCP) Environmental Policies Feedback

Jennifer provided a brief overview of the OCP framework and proceeded to review the draft environmentally-related policy areas, on slides, with the Committee. She reminded members that the OCP is the City's long-term vision for the future up to the year 2041 and, as staff are working to update the document, they are looking to the EAC for feedback on the environmental aspects of the OCP.

Some member comments and suggestions included:

- With respect to 'heart-centered businesses,' all businesses should be included in this part, not just those that are centered in the middle of the community;
- ***Policy 4.1: Reduce transportation energy use and related greenhouse emissions.***
 - Transportation and building are identified as key parts to this Policy and should be included in the heading for ease of reading;
- ***Policy Actions 4.1a: The City should...***
 - This should include the encouragement of transit transportation hubs as well as offering affordable housing near transit hubs to help reduce emissions (should be *housing and energy*);
 - Members observed that this seems to be an aside – has the City not previously worked with the Province, Metro Vancouver, and regional and local partners? Is the real gist of this funding or is it that we will commit to infrastructure? Staff to get clarification from the Planning Department;
- ***Policy Actions 4.1b: The City should continue to...***
 - 'Densify' should be used in this passage, and the promotion of affordable housing should be included as well. It was noted that the OCP includes a separate section relating to this; however, staff will take note;

- ***Policy 4.2: Achieve continuous improvements in energy conservation, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reductions for new and existing buildings.***
 - Language is too weak; the word ‘Mandate’ should replace ‘Achieve’;
- ***Policy Actions 4.2d: The City should continue to...***
 - ‘Mandate’ should replace ‘Implement’
- ***Policy 4.3: Encourage renewable and low-carbon energy systems to service homes, businesses and institutions...***
 - ‘Mandate’ should replace ‘Encourage’;
- ***Policy Actions 5.1a: The City should...***
 - The *how* and *when* of this section are very important;
- ***Policy Actions 5.1b: The City should...***
 - Suggestion to add amphibians/animals to plant and insects;
- ***Policy Actions 5.1c: The City should...***
 - ‘Green Infrastructure Network’ needs to be defined;
- ***Policy 5.2: Enhance and celebrate waterway corridors as a place of ecology, leisure and work.***
 - Suggestion to include verbiage, ‘acquire lands for the public realm’;
 - Suggestion to include the conversion of private lands to micro parks;
- ***Policy 5.3: Ensure ecological elements are integrated throughout the urban environment.***
 - Verbiage around supporting and retaining boulevards and greenspaces that already exist should be included;
 - Suggestion to add action of enforcement (i.e. with respect to those that illegally widen their driveways);
 - Suggestion to add the planting of wildflowers along boulevards instead of grass;
 - Members noted that the title and plan seem too loose as it only speaks of one element, Urban Forests, and should include others such as the Fraser River, Forest Walls, etc. Could wording request that residents forward ideas for implementation? This item to be flagged for further discussion at another meeting;
 - The Bee City Initiative could be included in this section;
- ***Policy 5.4: Facilitate community environmental stewardship initiatives that protect and restore ecological health.***
 - Restoring habitat is a regional effort and should be stated as such and not just as a local initiative;
 - Verbiage should have City staff leading - not just partnering and facilitating;
- ***Policy 12.1: Plan, construct and operate City services in a manner that best serves the community while protecting public health and the environment.***
 - Suggestion for a City initiative or a solar garden to get people involved in creating green energy – can this be added?;
 - There is no actual action related to the environmental green infrastructure – nothing on swales or using natural infrastructure – staff will take note;

- **Policy 12.2a: The City should continue to...**
 - Groundwater absorption should be included in this;
 - Should read, ‘low-impact design strategies *and requirements*’;
- **Policy 12.3c: The City should continue to...**
 - The verbiage should state that this is the City’s goal and it will be enforced.

Other ensuing discussion included:

- The general theme was that the Committee wanted more forthright language in the document;
- The City should address switching their fleet to electric cars;
- Affordable housing should be identified somewhere in the OCP;
- Active transportation is extensively addressed in the City’s Master Transportation Plan (MTP); it is only generally addressed in the OCP;
- All the titles should be turned into links;
- Acquiring private land for City use or naturalization is not covered in the OCP as this would involve a number of legal issues;
- The Integrated Storm Management Plan (ISMP) has language to maximize perviousness in private parcels but it’s not a regulatory bylaw and would have to be if the City wants to regulate it;

Procedural note: item 5.5 was addressed at this time. Given time constraints, all other items were tabled to the next meeting.

5.3 2017 Environment Initiatives – Jennifer Lukianchuk

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

5.4 Proposed Derwent Way Soil Transfer and Barge Facility

Mark informed members that the City received an application for comment with respect to a proposed soil transfer and barge facility to be located east of Derwent Way and south of Salter Street. Utilization of the facility would include up to 60 trucks accessing and departing the site daily and it is expected that one barge per week would be loaded with approximately 1,500 to 2,500 m³ of contaminated soil that has been stored at the site.

The following discussion ensued:

- The soil would be coming from construction sites throughout the lower mainland and it would be remediated and put back to use;
- Both modes of transfer of the contaminated soil need to be weighed to determine which, overall, has the least environmental impact. Implementation

of this facility would eliminate a number of trucks travelling up to Cache Creek and barge transfer is more environmentally friendly;

- The land to be used is private; however, it is in Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA)'s jurisdiction. They are working with the City cooperatively on this proposal;
- As Committee members were at an information disadvantage with respect to soil remediation and transportation over the river, Mark will forward a link to expert reports on the matter;
- As this facility would impede part of the Queensborough perimeter trail, the Port has indicated a willingness to work with the City to provide access at locations along the trail that would not affect waterborne operations of the facility. In certain areas, we would be able to use the dykes where the facility does not require water access, in other areas where water access is required, we will have to go around them;

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Environment Coordinator's Update – Jennifer Lukianchuk

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 OCP Environment Policies Feedback – Memo & Information (See Item 5.2)

8.0 NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, April 19, 2017
Wednesday, June 21, 2017
Wednesday, September 13, 2017
Wednesday, November 15, 2017

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Certified correct,

Original Signed

JAIMIE MCEVOY
CHAIR

Original Signed

CARILYN COOK
COMMITTEE SECRETARY