

ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday November 23, 2016 - 6:30 pm

Committee Room - 2

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Wilmer Lau
Karla Olson
Todd Beernink
Laura Cornish
Amanda Semenoff
Nadine Nakagawa

Co-Chair, Council Member
Local Business Representative
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member (arrived at 6:54 pm)
Community Member
Community Member (exited at 7:59 pm)

VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

Councillor Patrick Johnstone
Kathleen Somerville
Peter Rautenbach
Raunaq Singh
Reginald Zotzman

Co-Chair, Council Member
Local Environment Organization Representative
Post-Secondary Student
Community Member
Community Member

STAFF:

Jennifer Lukianchuk
Eugene Wat
Norm Connolly
Mark Allison
Sandy Kalra

Environmental Coordinator
Manager, Infrastructure Planning
Community Energy Manager (exited at 7:13 pm)
Manager, Strategic Initiatives & Sustainability
Recording Secretary

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

1. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

1.1 Adoption of the November 23, 2016 Agenda – Environment Advisory Committee

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda of the Environment Advisory Committee held on November 23, 2016 be received and adopted with the addition of Item 5.3. Under New Business: Proposed Fraser Grain Terminal at the Fraser Surrey Docks.

CARRIED

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

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1. Adoption of Minutes from the meeting of September 14, 2016

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Environment Advisory Committee held on September 14, 2016, be received and adopted.

CARRIED

All Committee Members present voted in favour of the motion.

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1. Sapperton's New Low-Carbon Neighbourhood Energy System – Norm Connolly (Attachment-1)

After a brief introduction, Mr. Connolly commenced his presentation on the new, low-carbon Neighbourhood Energy System in Sapperton. Members were encouraged to share their ideas and provide input to help design a new Renewable Energy Centre in the Sapperton area. Staff would like to know which sustainable elements they should consider while designing this new Energy Centre.

Discussion ensued, and the following comments were noted:

- 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;
- Site plans for this project will not be impacted by the new Braid Brunette Interchange planning in this area however, Metro Vancouver might have to relocate some of their sewer lines;
- New distribution lines required for this project will probably be regulated by BC Utilities Commission once we cross municipal boundaries;
- Buildings over a certain size will now be required under the new By-Law to have an internal mechanical heating and cooling system that are compatible with hydronic ally served District Energy System. The City hopes to connect old buildings in the future especially if they already have a hydronic distribution system and they have piping in the area and;
- New Westminster is situated centrally in Metro Vancouver and has a significant amount of 'low grade' recoverable heat via Metro Vancouver's large Sanitary Sewer trunk line that flows right along Fraser River all the way to Annacis Island. There is enough recoverable heat to install three District Energy Systems.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1. Intro To Food Discussion (as per May/September meeting) – Karla Olson/Wilmer Lau (Attachment-2)

Ms. Olson and Mr. Lau commenced their presentation on "Food for Thought-Discussion". Please see attached.

Discussion ensued, and the following comments were noted:

- It would be a good idea to separate the sandwiches to help identify their ingredients;
- Look into options that are cheaper and environment friendly;
- To develop a Sustainable Food Policy;
- To use locally grown foods to support local economy and help reduce our environmental impact;
- Have Meat Free days at the City Hall as meat accounts for 14.5 percent of greenhouse gas emissions; and
- Look for ways to change our consumption habits.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the City of New Westminster considers creating a sustainable food policy given City's recent environmental initiatives, including Council's recent passing of the Blue Dot Initiative.

CARRIED

All members of the committee present voted in favor of the motion.

Members were informed that staff anticipates doing a general review of complimentary food supplied at the meetings in 2017.

Procedural Note: Item 5.1. was discussed before 4.1.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1. 2017 Environmental Grant Program (EGP) – Chair EGP Sub-Committee Karla Olson (Attachment-3)

The Environment Grant Sub-Committee Chair - Ms Olson talked briefly about the decision making process and how the quality of applications impacts an applicant's potential for success. Ms. Olson gave an overview of the four grant applications received and presented their recommendations to the Committee. Based on the allocations provided by the Sub-Committee, the Committee made the following recommendation:

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the funding recommendations made by the Environmental Grant Program Sub-Committee be accepted by the Committee Members and forwarded to the Council for their approval.

CARRIED

All Committee members present voted in favor of the motion.

Discussion ensued, and the following suggestions were noted:

To help applicants succeed in their current and future grant applications following few points were identified:

- 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;
- Include who in their group will be responsible for carrying out the initiative, as well as follow up on grant report including names and roles as applicable;
- Provide more information on what City Services could be or will be needed such as garbage and recycling pick up for public events;
- Provide an explanation and example of items that are excluded from grants such as travel vs. bussing, staffing vs. contracted wages vs. contracted services;
- Include an Excel table to make it easier to add costs related to special events;
- Include end of life plans for projects on City property such as garden beds etc.; and
- Include a list of options for types of reporting that could be done to aid groups to plan for future grant applications e.g. Before and After Photos, Number of hours of Volunteer Participation, Number of Attendees/Participants, Letter of support from Individuals, Groups and Partnerships and Promotions acknowledging the City's sponsorship.

5.2. Environment Strategy Update – Jennifer Lukianchuk/Eugene Wat/Mark (Attachment-4)

Ms. Lukianchuk distributed copies of the final vision document that was created after receiving feedback from Committee Members at the September EAC Meeting. Staff has begun to develop goals based on this vision and members were encouraged to provide their comments.

Discussion ensued, and the following suggestions were noted:

- Food topic should be added under Energy, Emissions & Climate Change to prepare for its future impacts on climate change;
- City should commit to work with Metro Vancouver and other municipalities to achieve bigger goals;
- Members were informed that actions will be developed to achieve and deliver these goals;
- Add the word “Adapt” to the Climate Change vision in order to harness some of the advantages and opportunities that might come up with Climate change; and
- Encourage Innovators to the City of New Westminster by participating in interesting ideas that they might want to model.

Mr. Allison gave an update on the progress of the Environmental deliverables and distributed handouts to Committee Members outlining the scope of work that will need to be completed by a consultant that would help the City develop this strategy. This is going to be a very comprehensive program that will have indicators to track how we are doing.

Members were encouraged to look at the economy and employment policy areas as outlined in Envision 2032 document and provide their comments and feedback.

5.3. Proposed Fraser Grain Terminal at the Fraser Surrey Docks – Mark Allison (Attachment – 5)

Handouts were distributed to Committee Members containing information on Fraser Grain Terminal Export Facility being proposed in Surrey. They plan to ship different types of grains to 40 different countries that can potentially have the same type of issues and concerns as export of coal e.g. dust pollution and spillage into the Fraser River. Members were encouraged to attend their upcoming Open Houses to ask questions and voice their concerns.

Discussion ensued, and the following comments were noted:

- Grain terminals are considered hazardous due to dust;
- Both New Westminster and Delta do not have a second alarm response, enough fire trucks and apparatus to handle an explosive accident on a large scale. This can be a significant public safety issue if the grain terminals do not provide these services themselves;
- Grain fires are an incredible source of pollution and can be very explosive; and
- Grain spills can have damaging ecological impacts.

Procedural Note: Item 5.3. was discussed before 5.2.

6. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1. Environmental Coordinator's Update – Jennifer Lukianchuk

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, January 11, 2016

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Original Signed

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Co-Chair

Original Signed

Sandy Kalra
Recording Secretary