



**ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EnAC)**

**Thursday, June 13, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.**

**Council Chambers - City Hall**

**MINUTES**

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

|                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Colleen Gillespie   | - Community Member     |
| Lesley Malcolm      | - Community Member     |
| Christopher Lumsden | - Community Member     |
| Raunaq Singh        | - Education Sector Rep |
| John Ragone         | - Education Sector Rep |
| Bryanna Thiel       | - Community Member     |
| Ingrid Tymm         | - Community Member     |
| Cyrus Sy            | - Community Member     |

**MEMBER REGRETS:**

|                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Councillor Nadine Nakagawa | - Chair                       |
| Kyle Routledge             | - Local Environmental Org Rep |

**GUESTS:**

Members from an affiliate organization of the Beacon Unitarian Church

**STAFF:**

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Jennifer Lukianchuk | -Environmental Coordinator<br>Engineering Services           |
| Erika Mashig        | -Manager, Horticulture Services and<br>Parks and Open Spaces |
| Jeff Case           | -Arboriculture Technician                                    |
| Eugene Wat          | -Manager, Infrastructure Planning<br>Engineering Services    |
| Tabitha Guichon     | -Committee Secretary<br>Engineering Services                 |

The meeting was called to order by Ingrid Tymm (Acting Chair) at 6:33 pm.

**1.0 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

**1.1 Additions to the Agenda of June 13, 2019**

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Agenda of the Environment Advisory Committee meeting held on June 13, 2019 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 April 17, 2019**

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Minutes of the Environment Advisory Committee meeting held on April 17, 2019 be received and adopted with the following amendments to Item 3.2*

- *There were concerns regarding individuals who don't have cars being able to access the depot and that the relocation will not meet the needs of resident's*
- *The committee feels that relocating the facility isn't promoting climate change adaptation and the additional driving time is counterproductive to the plan to reduce carbon emissions*

**CARRIED.**

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

## **3.0 PRESENTATIONS**

### **3.1 Tree Planting Strategy – Jeff Case**

Jeff Case provided a presentation on the Tree Planting Strategy. It was noted that the city is going through 4 steps to develop the street tree master plan with hopes of implementing the plan in the fall of 2019. (See attachment 1).

Discussion ensued and the following comments were provided:

- It was clarified that this plan is for street trees not canopy coverage
- In terms of a tree lifecycle and the end stages of a trees life, if the tree is presenting as a hazard, it will be removed and replaced; however if it is in a natural setting where there is a value for the tree to decay naturally, the city may leave the tree. It is in a park they may trim the top and leave a standing snag so that it still provides habitat for insects and woodpeckers, etc...

- The city has adopted a tree pruning schedule, and residents are also encouraged to contact the city if they see any trees that require attention
- The city does own a portable mill and if the wood is still sound, it will be repurposed into furniture and placed around the city.
- The parks department will be bringing in additional arborists to provide more resources to help maintain the trees
- The city does not have any policy on tree removal unless it is hazardous
- The city is still coming up with a comprehensive design that will achieve a certain percentage of the different scenarios, especially with the city moving towards underground electrical. Some cases may need to be looked at as a one off.
- The plan is going to council on June 24<sup>th</sup> and will be available for the public if it gets endorsed
- In terms of pricing, this will be broken down on a per tree basis that would include purchase, installation and maintenance as well as labour and equipment costs.
- In terms of engagement, staff are open to suggestions
- Staff will be identifying heritage trees throughout the city and documenting trees to provide more history
- In terms of the climate emergency staff are thinking futuristically, but believe that this tree strategy is part of the implementation of what needs to be done
- Suggestions for staff to communicate with the residents could be through block parties where they show how a tree is planted and how to care and maintain it. Sample training scenarios, possibly through parks and rec, century house, Queensborough, firehalls, etc...
- Education needs to be done for residents on what can and can't be done to care for trees as well as what is and isn't theirs in terms of trees near their property

### **3.2 Glenbrook Ravine Invasive Species Management Plan (Draft Actions)**

Jennifer Lukianchuk provided a copy of the draft actions for committee members to review and provide input on (See attachment 2).

Discussion ensued and the following comments were provided:

- Glenbrook Ravine will remain a natural area for the city where natural habitat will increase substantially.
- Consider ensuring the long term maintenance of the plants that are there. Make maintenance a more obvious action item.
- The plan offers more clarity on the roles of the city, community and contractor

- The city will lead on the strategy, but wants to keep certain things flexible and versatile. Volunteering is being looked at as a bonus.
- There will be a line for funding each year in the capital budget for the next 3 years related to this project.
- Trees will be something that will need to be incorporated into this plan.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommend that council endorse the Glenbrook Ravine Invasive Species Management Plan.

**CARRIED**

All members voted in favour of the motion.

**3.3 An Alternative Solution to a Wasteful Problem – John Ragone & Raunaq Singh**

\*\*\*It was decided that since there were 3 presentations related to single-use plastic, all presentations would be done prior to discussions taking place.

John and Raunaq provided a presentation titled “An Alternative Solution to a Wasteful Problem” (see attachment 3). Their request was to ask that the City of New Westminster:

- Prioritize the implementation of a plastic bag ban and motion 36a from the Feb 19, 2019 council meeting;
- Include single use Styrofoam packaging for food products in their ban;
- Create a response plan with specific actionable steps that exceeds standards set by other local municipalities by December 2019;
- Fully implements their response plan by December 2020.

**3.4 Living with Less Plastic New West – An affiliate organization of the Beacon Unitarian Church**

Members provided a presentation for the committee. (See attachment 4). The following list is what they are asking of New Westminster:

- Ban on plastic straws
- Ban on single-use plastic bags
- Ban on plastic take-out
- Ban on plastic cutlery
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) on plastic clamshells, plastic wrap, plastic tubs

### **3.5 Single-Use Item Reduction: Regional Work Update – Jennifer Lukianchuk**

Jennifer Lukianchuk provided a presentation on what has been happening so far in the region (including a recent announcement by the federal government) with respect to single-use items. (See attachment 5).

Following all three presentations, discussion ensued and the following comments and concerns were provided:

- It was clarified that plastic bags do include shopping/grocery bags. Some bags, such as the ones used to put produce in, may not be part of the ban as there are food safety concerns
- There were comments that the timelines may be too aggressive
- Consider approaching this in smaller steps
- Suggestion to have local shops do something to display that they are “no plastic” friendly
- New Westminster doesn’t accept glass with their curbside collection, but with glass being an alternative to plastic, linking this all together and looking at the bigger picture is suggested
- When discussing this strategy there needs to be more emphasis on the cost and the financial impacts that come with it
- There needs to be a more holistic strategy where it connects all the different initiatives such as community gardens, shopping at farmers markets, etc...
- Certain alternative options to single-use plastic are great, but may not be accessible to everyone
- It was noted that the Chamber of Commerce was contacted to see about creating a business award framework that incentivises businesses to adopt more sustainable systems and marketing systems.
- Consultation and stakeholder sessions would be required
- Staff commented that the 2019 budget and work plan is already set, but if this requires more resourcing, it would require council to approve more budget
- Staff mentioned that its possible to create the framework this year with a plan for implementation in the 2020 year

Following the discussion, the following motion was made:

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

**THAT** the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that council prioritize the exploration of the implementation of motion 36a from Feb 19, 2018 council meeting;

And to include single use Styrofoam take-out packaging in their ban and create a work plan with actionable steps by the end of 2019.

**CARRIED**

All members voted in favour of the motion.

**4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No items

**5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

5.1 No items

**6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

**6.1 Environment Coordinator's Update – Jennifer Lukianchuk**

No update at this time

**7.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

No items.

**8.0 NEXT MEETING DATES**

**Wednesday, September 18, 2019**

**Wednesday, November 20, 2019**

**9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:02

ORIGINAL SIGNED

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**NADINE NAKAGAWA**

**CHAIR**

ORIGINAL SIGNED

\_\_\_\_\_  
**TABITHA GUICHON**

**COMMITTEE SECRETARY**