Mayor's Youth Climate Leadership Team
Minutes

Wednesday, April 16, 2025
4:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, Second Floor
New Westminster City Hall, 511 Royal Avenue

Present:	Mayor Patrick Johnstone, Facilitator Erika Mashig, Deputy Director, Parks, Policy and Planning Maia Odegaard, Communications Coordinator, Community Services Sheena Soon, Parks and Open Space Planner, Parks and Recreation Brittany Tom, Integrated Storm Water Engineer, Engineering Ashleigh Young, Manager, Communications Paolo Zenone, Youth Centre Supervisor Juno Avila-Clark, YCLT Member Elizabeth Cavanagh, YCLT Member Uliana Chernykh, YCLT Member *(arrived at 4:32 p.m.)* Ruqaiyah Clouden, YCLT Member *(left at 5:27 p.m.)* Shreeya Jagadeesh, YCLT Member Leo Li, YCLT Member Irene Lu, YCLT Member Max MacInnes-Cann, YCLT Member *(arrived at 4:13 p.m.)* Lili Mizuno, YCLT Member Laura Sampliner, Manager, Climate Action Sophie Schreder, Executive Assistant to the Mayor
Absent:	Silisha Ali, Youth Services Coordinator Leya Behra, Deputy Director of Climate Action Curtis Lever, YCLT Member Justine Rosendo, YCLT Member Mahsa Soltani, YCLT Member Lucille Stathis, YCLT Member

1. CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Patrick Johnstone, Facilitator called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. It was acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. It was recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 February 19, 2025

MOVED and SECONDED
THAT the Minutes of the Mayor's Youth Climate Leadership Team meeting held on February 19, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

2.2 March 19, 2025

MOVED and SECONDED
THAT the Minutes of the Mayor's Youth Climate Leadership Team meeting held on March 19, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. EXERCISES & ACTIVITIES

3.1 Project Work

Mayor Patrick Johnstone, Chair, presented the timeline of the project plans that will be brought forward in the form of reports by staff to Council. Staff advised on the details of bringing the projects together and summarizing it for ease of presentation to Council as a broad scope project.

Two subgroups were formed, Physical Group and Communication Group, with the goal of creating a general presentation from each project plan for staff and the Task Force Chair to review.

The Physical group created a PowerPoint presentation and a poster informing of rain gardens and drainage structure plans.

Members also presented plans to daylight streams in an effort to attract diverse ecosystems, as well as long-term projects which would require funding, implementation, and planning support.

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, (attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 1), Sheena Soon, Parks and Open Space Planner, Parks and Recreation, and Brittany Tom, Integrated Storm Water Engineer, Engineering, spoke regarding features and considerations, main components and engineering infrastructure of rain

gardens, and the opportunity for future projects. Staff then presented potential locations for rain gardens, along with the projected scope of work.

The Communication group presented a proposal to use monitors within City Hall for advertising purposes. Their goals include promoting awareness of climate change initiatives through social media. They identified their target audience and outlined effective modes of communication to convey information efficiently. The plan would require staff time and City resources to support its implementation.

Availability and approachability of various social media platforms were discussed, noting the benefits of potential open access to sharing information with the public and receiving feedback.

Further discussion outlined prospective social media spaces where the information would be published, and members requested support from City staff to promote communication, projects, and social media efforts of the Leadership Team.

Ruqaiyah Clouden left the meeting and did not return (5:27 p.m.).

The Leadership Team noted the following:

- videos for social media posts with leading questions embedded would aid in content creation;
- the need for structure or guidelines when designing communication for public consumption; and
- the social media project is intended to promote the creation of content as well as provide feedback on the effectiveness of information provided.

In response to questions from the Leadership Team, staff advised that:

- maintenance crews and trash cans are employed throughout the city to address littering challenges;
- the City encourages its residents to interact with rain gardens so as to gain respect and understanding of nature and environment; and
- volunteers may be effective in aiding with potential projects and their installation process.

4. MEMBER UPDATES

Members shared that the Urban Nature Crafternoon event will take place on Saturday, April 19, 2025 at Saint Barnabas Church.

Chair Johnstone confirmed Century House bookings in order to facilitate the finalization of Task Force reports and presentations.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at 6:00 p.m.