New Westminster

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# Mayor's Youth Climate Leadership Team
# Minutes

**Wednesday, June 18, 2025**
**4:00 p.m.**

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

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| Present: | Mayor Patrick Johnstone, Facilitator<br>Leya Behra, Deputy Director of Climate Action<br>Sayano Izu, Public Engagement Coordinator<br>Erika Mashig, Manager, Parks and Open Space Planning, Design & Construction<br>Jennifer Miller, Manager of Public Engagement<br>Laura Sampliner, Manager, Climate Action<br>Sophie Schreder, Executive Assistant to the Mayor<br>Paolo Zenone, Youth Centre Supervisor<br>Juno Avila-Clark, YCLT Member<br>Leo Li, YCLT Member<br>Lili Mizuno, YCLT Member<br>Lucille Stathis, YCLT Member<br><br>Committee Clerk – Kristin Unger |
| Absent: | Elizabeth Cavanagh, YCLT Member<br>Uliana Chernykh, YCLT Member<br>Ruqaiyah Clouden, YCLT Member<br>Shreeya Jagadeesh, YCLT Member<br>Curtis Lever, YCLT Member<br>Irene Lu, YCLT Member<br>Max MacInnes-Cann, YCLT Member<br>Justine Rosendo, YCLT Member<br>Mahsa Soltani, YCLT Member |

## 1. CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:15 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 April 16, 2025

MOVED and SECONDED
*THAT the Minutes of the Mayor's Youth Climate Leadership Team meeting held on April 16, 2025 be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED**

### 2.2 May 21, 2025

MOVED and SECONDED
*THAT the Minutes of the Mayor's Youth Climate Leadership Team meeting held on May 21, 2025 be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED**

## 3. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

### 3.1 Community Advisory Assembly Presentation

Jennifer Miller, Manager of Public Engagement, accompanied by Sayano Izu, Public Engagement Coordinator, provided background information on the Community Advisory Assembly (Assembly), highlighting it is a large advisory body comprised of 36 people, covering a range of ages and demographics of the City of New Westminster, including youth, and that the Assembly covers a wide range of topics. It was noted that youth under age 19 will receive an honorarium for being an Assembly member. J. Miller advised that there is no minimum age for Assembly members, and that the online application for the upcoming term will open by the end of June 2025.

Discussion occurred and in response to questions from the Members, staff noted that the Assembly meets monthly, on a variety of days, times, and locations, adding that a meal is served at each meeting.

*Sayano Izu and Jennifer Miller left the meeting (4:30 p.m.).*

# 4. EXERCISES & ACTIVITIES

## 4.1 Project Work and Milestone Planning

Mayor Johnstone advised that the meeting is intended for members to work on projects and determine next steps.

Erika Mashig, Manager, Parks and Open Space Planning, Design & Construction, noted the Public Works team will soon begin excavation at the proposed site at Terry Hughes Park and that members will be presented with schematics for the next meeting. E. Mashig further advised that supplies will be ordered soon using the allocated funds, and highlighted that the City has some landscaping elements available for use on the project such as boulders, logs, and stumps.

E. Mashig advised that members will need to design signs for the project, with the aid of the Communications team.

E. Mashig noted staff will be available to begin excavation in September 2025. There may be an opportunity to hold a planting day with members once digging is underway. The October or November meeting could serve as a chance to celebrate the project's completion, with potential include the community.

In response, members noted that:

- there is potential for conceptual art illustrating what is planned for the space; and
- informing Glenbrooke Middle School of the plans for the space is advisable.

Staff advised that:

- the Stream Team and Communications staff will work in collaboration on signage;
- consultation with all First Nations with regards to naming of the completed project would be challenging. It was highlighted that the Halkomelem language is part of the City's land acknowledgement. It was further advised that there is potential to leave space on the sign for a name to be added at a later time;
- there is a need to begin designing a mailer to be hand-delivered to relevant neighbourhood mailboxes. A sign will also need to be placed on-site to inform the public about the project. The use of social media was noted, including the potential creation of an account on a social media platform, the naming of which would be left to Members to decide. Once established, this account could be linked to the City project page, which staff would manage as part of their regular portfolio of active projects;

- staff will liaise with Glenbrooke Middle School to share details about the project plans, timeline, and the potential opportunity for students from the school to participate in the project; and
- content is needed for the Youth Climate Action Leadership Team webpage, and Members are encouraged to draft language describing the upcoming project.

Discussion was held regarding the project timeline, with Chair Johnstone advising that excavation and planting will take place in September, and Members should plan for mailer delivery in August, with posters and leaflets prepared for July.

## 5. ADJOURNMENT

*The meeting concluded at 6:00 p.m.*