Mayor's Youth Climate Leadership Team
Minutes

Wednesday, May 21, 2025
4:00 p.m.

Terry Hughes Park
8 8th Avenue, New Westminster

Present: Mayor Patrick Johnstone, Facilitator
Leya Behra, Deputy Director of Climate Action
Gabe Beliveau, Senior Manager, Public Works
Erika Mashig, Manager, Parks and Open Space Planning, Design & Construction
Laura Sampliner, Manager, Climate Action
Sophie Schreder, Executive Assistant to the Mayor
Brittany Tom, Integrated Storm Water Engineer
Paolo Zenone, Youth Centre Supervisor
Juno Avila-Clark, YCLT Member
Elizabeth Cavanagh, YCLT Member
Ruqaiyah Clouden, YCLT Member
Leo Li, YCLT Member
Max MacInnes-Cann, YCLT Member
Justine Rosendo, YCLT Member
Mahsa Soltani, YCLT Member
Uliana Chernykh, YCLT Member
Shreeya Jagadeesh, YCLT Member

Absent: Curtis Lever, YCLT Member
Irene Lu, YCLT Member
Lili Mizuno, YCLT Member
Silisha Ali, Youth Services Coordinator

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. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

2.1 Rain Garden

Erika Mashig, Deputy Director of Parks, Planning, and Policy, spoke on design aspects of the project, advising that consideration could be given to public consultation, notification, and accessibility design.

Discussion occurred and the following staff responses were noted:

- the design concept, seasonality, and other factors will inform when project implementation begins;
- the City generally mails notifications to stakeholders in advance of project implementation and there is opportunity for Task Force members to be directly involved in creation of the notification; and
- the most prominent stakeholder is Glenbrooke Middle School, and there is potential opportunity to liaise with the school and the Parent Advisory Committee to educate them on the project.

Staff further directed Task Force members to consider preparing a Frequently Asked Questions document for City distribution to stakeholders regarding potential impacts of the project.

2.2 Communications Presentation

Ashleigh Young, Manager, Communications, presented on aspects of social media related to the project, including what types of information should be captured and communicated with stakeholders, such as key project dates and milestones. A. Young further advised that the Task Force could benefit from knowing such dates and milestones in advance, and planning to work to them.

3. EXERCISES & ACTIVITIES

3.1 Explore the Site

Task Force members split into groups to explore the potential project site, with the aid of staff.

Discussion occurred and the following staff responses were noted:

- the next Parent Advisory Committee meeting for Glenbrooke Middle School is June 18, 2025, and it could be a good opportunity for the Task Force to present to community stakeholders;
- the last meeting for the Task Force will occur in October of 2025;
- surveys will go out to Task Force participants to review their experience and gather information regarding the potential for future Youth Climate Action Task Forces; and
- conversation with Indigenous Elders has taken place, and staff will facilitate further conversation between the Task Force and the Indigenous Elders regarding the project.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at 6:00 p.m.