

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022
Electronic and in Meeting Room G
Lower Level, City Hall

PRESENT

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa*	Chair
Nazli Azimikor*	Community Member
Ryan Bardini	Community Member
Farbod Behshad*	Community Member
Danison Buan	Representative, Local Business Association
Karen Crosby*	Community Member
Elsie Krebs	Representative, Professional in Environment or Climate Field, Business, Government, or Non-Profit
Alvin Kube*	Representative, Indigenous Community
Teresa Morton	Representative, Local Environment Organization

REGRETS

Colleen Gillespie	Representative, Professional in Environment or Climate Field, Business, Government, or Non-Profit
John Lekakis	Representative, Local Institution

STAFF PRESENT

Nayel Halim	Community Energy and Emissions Specialist
Lynn Roxburgh	Acting Supervisor, Land Use Planning and Climate Action
Katie Stobbart	Committee Clerk

*Denotes electronic attendance

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Councillor Nakagawa opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the

Halkomelem speaking peoples. She acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. She recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

2. INTRODUCTIONS AND ICEBREAKERS

2.1 Icebreaker Question

Committee members and staff responded in turn to the icebreaker question, “What brought you to this committee”?

2.2 Legislative Services Committee Orientation

Katie Stobbart, Committee Clerk, provided a presentation entitled “Committee Orientation.”

a. Oaths of Office

New members recited their Oaths of Office.

b. Election of Alternate Chair

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Danison Buan be elected as the Alternate Chair for the 2022 term of the Environment and Climate Advisory Committee.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environment and Climate Advisory Committee add the following as New Business to the agenda:

- Q to Q Ferry
- Spot Emissions Testing
- Electricity Tax

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 Adoption of the Minutes of January 19, 2022

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Environment and Climate Advisory Committee meeting held on January 19, 2022 be adopted.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

5. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Environment and Climate Policy Introduction

Lynn Roxburgh, Acting Supervisor, Land Use Planning and Climate Action, provided a presentation entitled “Environment and Climate Policy Introduction: 2022 Orientation.”

There were no questions or comments from the Committee.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no items.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Committee Member Topics for 2022

Karen Crosby, Community Member, raised the matter of what topics Committee members would like to discuss in 2022, and encouraged fellow members of the Committee to bring topics forward.

In response to a question from the Committee, Councillor Nakagawa advised:

- Topics from members may be anything that fits within the mandate of the committee;
- New budget items would likely be directed to the next budget year; and

- If an item is not within municipal jurisdiction, staff may be able to find out what we can do as a municipality, or advocate to senior levels of government.

The Committee identified that the tension between building climate-appropriate buildings and bird strikes is an item they would like on a future agenda.

7.2 New Homes and Renewable Energy

Karen Crosby, Community Member, raised the topic of discussing speeding up the requirement for new homes and buildings to only use renewable energy, rather than natural gas hookups.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT ENCAC encourages New Westminster City Council to adopt a CEEP which includes a plan to create regulations by 2023 in New Westminster for new construction of single family dwellings that require builders to achieve level 5 of the STEP code, the highest standard for building energy efficiency, or if the builder uses a low-carbon (usually electric) system for heat and hot water, the STEP code is relaxed to level 3.

Procedural note: This motion did not go to a vote as the Committee wished for more information on Step Code before continuing the discussion.

The Committee had the following comments arising from discussion:

- Appreciate the intent of the motion, but it may not capture all considerations. Rather than just avoiding natural gas, would like to encourage a holistic approach which encourages builders to consider the building envelope and total efficiency of the system; and
- We need to also work to reduce consumption, and replacing everything with electricity may not be the answer. May want to amend the wording of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environment and Climate Advisory Committee postpone New Homes and Renewable Energy to the next meeting so that staff may provide more information to the Committee about STEP code.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

7.3 Q to Q Ferry

Teresa Morton, Representative, Local Environment Organization, asked whether the City of New Westminster plans to cancel the Q to Q Ferry, which runs on diesel, produces high emissions, and is heavily subsidized.

In response, Councillor Nakagawa advised that there are no plans to cancel the ferry.

7.4 Spot Emissions Testing

Teresa Morton, Representative, Local Environment Organization, asked for an update on the status of spot emissions testing in the City of New Westminster at high truck and train emission locations.

In response, staff indicated that they would look into this following a letter that was sent to Metro Vancouver on the topic, and report back at a later meeting.

7.5 Electricity Tax

Teresa Morton, Representative, Local Environment Organization, asked whether the City of New Westminster plans to cancel the extra 3.5% tax on electricity to encourage residents to switch to more electric heating, hot water, and EV usage.

In response, staff advised that the City's focus has been more on ensuring the programs that support reducing emissions balance out the cost of the increased taxation.

8. STANDING REPORTS AND UPDATES

8.1 Urban Reforestation & Biodiversity Enhancement Initiative Update

Lynn Roxburgh, Acting Supervisor, Land Use Planning and Climate Action, provided an update on behalf of Mathew Pilfold, which was sent to members in the agenda package.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Roxburgh advised that the 27% target is primarily focused on trees, but there is consideration of other foliage needs integrated into the Biodiversity Strategy and Urban Forest Management Plan. Ms. Roxburgh will report back to the Committee on the survival rate of seedlings and whether the City is making progress on urban tree coverage overall.

9. END OF MEETING

On MOTION, the meeting ended at 6:31 p.m.

10. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The remaining scheduled meetings for 2022, which take place at 5:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted:

- May 18
- July 20
- November 16

Certified Correct,

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa
Chair

Katie Stobbart
Committee Clerk