



NEW WESTMINSTER

Environment and Climate Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa
Danison Buan*
Karen Crosby*
Colleen Gillespie*

Teresa Morton*
Patrick Parkes*
John Ragone
Raunaq Singh*
Bryanna Thiel*

- Chair, City Council Member (*left at 5:57 p.m.*)
- Representative, Local Business Association
- Community Member
- Representative, Professional in Environment or Climate Field, Business, Government, or Non-Profit
- Representative, Local Environment Association
- Community Member (*left at 6:00 p.m.*)
- Community Member
- Community Member
- Representative, Professional in Environment or Climate Field, Business, Government, or Non-Profit

REGRETS:

Meesh Bono
John Lekakis

- Community Member
- Representative, Local Institution (SD40)

GUESTS:

STAFF PRESENT:

Sadaf Ghalib
Britney Dack
Benjamin John
Matthew Pilfold
Lynn Roxburgh

Eugene Wat
Katie Stobbart

- Senior Climate Action Planner
- Senior Heritage Planner
- Corporate Energy and Emissions Specialist
- Arborist Technician
- Acting Supervisor, Land Use, Planning and Climate Action
- Manager, Infrastructure Planning
- 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 is your favourite fall drink?"

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 Adoption of the Minutes of September 15, 2021

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the September 15, 2021 Environment and Climate Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

5. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Heritage Revitalization Agreement Policy Refresh

Britney Dack, Senior Heritage Planner, provided a presentation entitled "HRA Refresh: Principles for Small-Scale Residential Heritage Developments".

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Dack provided the following comments:

- These principles are primarily targeted at low-density areas in the city;
- There is an approximately equal mix of owner applicants and developer applicants;
- This program builds on current policy and practice. The City has a strong body of practices, but needs to have enforceable rules;

The Committee provided the following comments on the presentation:

- Consider electric vehicle charging facilities;
- Consider type of green space, i.e. monocultures such as grass vs. more diverse species of greenery;
- Concerned about preventing hardscaping and enforcing HRA principles when property ownership changes; and
- Encourage less reliance on natural gas.

5.2 Update: E-mobility Strategy

Benjamin John, Corporate Energy and Emissions Specialist, provided a presentation entitled “eMobility Strategy Update.”

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. John provided the following comments:

- There will need to be a regional approach to micro-mobility options to ensure things are consistent among neighbouring municipalities;
- The budget aspects of the strategy are still being refined; updated numbers will come back to the Committee in the future;
- Public charging stations will be pay per use, following the current rates for EV charging. Part of the rationale is cost recovery, and part is to encourage turnover at charging stations; and
- There is still work to be done to identify policies and supports that can be put in place to make things happen in multi-unit residential buildings.

The Committee provided the following comments on the presentation:

- In many cases, EV users can access a regular outlet without the need to install a charging station; and
- Private business should take on as much of the cost related to charging stations as possible.

Procedural Note: Councillor Nakagawa left the meeting at 5:57 p.m. John Ragone, Community Member, assumed the role of Chair.

5.3 Update: Urban Reforestation and Biodiversity Enhancement Initiative (URBEI)

Matthew Pilfold, Arborist Technician, Parks and Recreation, Operations provided a presentation entitled “Urban Reforestation & Biodiversity Enhancement Initiative: Fall 2021 Progress Update & Workplan Review.”

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Pilfold provided the following comments:

- Caliper-size trees are between four and six centimetres across, which usually means a tree that is two to three metres in height. Age of the tree depends on the species, but in general the trees will be between five and eight years old;
- The City is working with arborists who track trees removed from private property, as well as tree planting and loss on public lands in parks and on City boulevards. Mr. Pilfold will provide an update on whether there is net gain in trees planted over trees lost;
- The City has developed a palette of trees that meet certain requirements—variables considered in tree selection include environmental resilience, provision of shade, tree size at maturity, whether or not the tree bears fruit and makes mess, and whether we are increasing the species diversity in our urban forest;
- 200 of the 2200 have been specifically earmarked as native species; the City needs to be careful where and when native species are planted, as we want trees that are size-appropriate, and adaptive to the artificial environment of the landscape.

The Committee provided the following comments on the presentation:

- Focus the signage content on values of trees, as people may not understand the value we get from trees;
- Include calls to action for people to have trees on their own properties;
- In the long term, it might be valuable to consider partnering with schools, health facilities, places of worship, etc. to encourage more trees planted in the public realm, aside from parks;
- Outreach to schools could be useful in educating the community about trees;
- Have signage in grocery stores, banks, or other places the community visits;
- Could use social media to have an Instagram page featuring trees in various seasons with information;
- A website people can visit to see where trees are being planted and to get more information would be useful to have on signage;
- Apartments or strata adopting trees might be easier to manage than individuals taking on that responsibility;
- Tree-planting events tend to be popular among families and neighbourhood residents;
- Updates to the Committee on this topic should be quarterly, but no less than twice a year. An email sent to the Committee would work as well as a presentation in some cases.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no items.

7. STANDING REPORTS AND UPDATES

There were no items.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Procedural Note: The Committee addressed this item before item 5.3. The minutes are recorded in chronological order.

8.1 Harmonized Approach to Municipal Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaws

Eugene Wat, Manager, Infrastructure Planning, provided an overview of the harmonized approach to municipal single-use item reduction, referring to the document entitled, "Harmonized Approach to Municipal Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaws".

In response to questions from the committee, Mr. Wat advised:

- Businesses will collect fees for themselves, not as a tax.
- The ministerial order allows a phase-in period, which should help small businesses to make the switch. However, in consultation some businesses felt an immediate change was preferred to a gradual one.

The committee advised that the City should go forward with what it has, then make amendments as needed once further information is available.

8.2 Community Livability and Social Equity Grant Committee Representative

Katie Stobbart, Committee Clerk, advised that the Community Living and Social Equity Grant Committee needs a new representative from the Environment and Climate Advisory Committee.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Danison Buan be appointed as the Environment and Climate Advisory representative on the Community Living and Social Equity Grant Committee for 2022.

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

8.3 NWEF Questions

Teresa Morton, Representative, Local Environment Association, raised questions on the following topics for staff response:

a) Heat Pump Program

Benjamin John, Corporate Energy and Emissions Specialist, advised:

- The pilot implemented in 2022 will be targeted to single-family homes; and
- Lessons learned from that pilot will inform the development of a potential future program that targets multi-family buildings, townhomes, etc.

b) Carbon Reduction Targets

Benjamin John, Corporate Energy and Emissions Specialist, advised:

- In 2020 the City's corporate emissions decreased by 22% from the 2010 baseline, which is an 11.5% decrease from what was achieved in 2019;
- COVID-19 did have an impact, which is difficult to quantify, on the City's emissions; and
- There is not a target for 2021 because the target year is 2030, for which the City is targeting a 45% reduction in emissions. To meet that target, the total emissions reduction from the 2010 baseline would be 24.75%.

c) Road Monitoring

Lynn Roxburgh, Acting Supervisor, Land Use, Planning, and Climate Action Team, advised that road monitoring is not in the City's work plan as we recognize Metro Vancouver's jurisdiction; New Westminster will continue to advocate to Metro Vancouver, and will consider incorporating it into the work plan in the future.

d) Energy Save

Sadaf Ghalib, Senior Climate Action Planner, advised that Energy Save New West does not currently provide any incentives or rebates specific to lighting technology.

8.4 The Non-Proliferation of Fossil Fuels Treaty

Karen Crosby, Community Member, provided a brief overview of the non-proliferation of fossil fuels treaty and its history. Ms. Crosby welcomed Committee members to contact her via email for more information.

9. END OF MEETING

ON MOTION, the meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

10. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next meeting time is to be determined.

DRAFT