

## SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 23, 2021

TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

PLACE: Council Committee Room via Zoom – Pre-registration required

### CALL TO ORDER

1. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
Vice Chair

### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2. **Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, November 24, 2020**

### NEW BUSINESS

3. **Review and Approve Draft 2021 Work Plan**  
Caresse Selk, Manager Environment/Committee; 7:05–7:20 p.m. (15 minutes)
4. **Educational Awareness Presentation: Residential Stormwater Management, and Prevention of Pollutants into City Watercourses**  
Caresse Selk, Manager Environment; 7:20–7:50 p.m. (30 minutes)
5. **Proposed Establishment of a Light Pollution Sub-committee**  
Caresse Selk, Manager Environment; 7:50–8:00 p.m. (10 minutes)
6. **2021 Environmental Volunteer Celebration – Proposed Establishment of an Event Planning Sub-committee**  
Shannon Wagner, Environmental Education and Enforcement Manager; 8:00–8:20 p.m. (20 minutes)
7. **SEAC Introductions and Members' Roundtable/Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)**  
Committee; 8:20–8:40 p.m. (20 minutes)

### OTHER BUSINESS

**NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, April 20, 2020**

### ADJOURNMENT

**SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, November 24, 2020**

A Regular Meeting of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Brent Asmundson, Chair  
Councillor Craig Hodge, Vice Chair  
Jay Ashworth  
Lori Austin  
Grayson Barke  
Cheryl Katnick  
Bonnie Razzaghi  
Michelle Rosenquist  
Ivana Smolcic  
Pamela Zevit

ABSENT: Mark Ashton

STAFF: Caresse Selk, Manager Environment  
Erin Gorby, Urban Forestry and Parks Services Manager  
Julie Kanya, Environmental Services Project Specialist  
Monica Marshall, Environmental Programs Specialist  
Demian Rueter, Planner 3  
James Taylor, Planner 2  
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk  
Julie Hunter, Committee Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**1. Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 29, 2020**

The Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday, September 29, 2020, were approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2. Southwest Housing Review Presentation**

The Chair welcomed the Planning staff to the meeting. The Planner 3 introduced himself

and the Planner 2 and made opening remarks regarding the Southwest Housing Review (SWHR) being undertaken by the City. He provided a presentation, utilizing on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Southwest Housing Review – Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee
- Where is Southwest Coquitlam?
- Population Trends
- Housing Affordability
- Housing Trends: Age of Housing
- Housing Trends: Size of Newly Constructed Houses
- Housing Trends: Finding the Right Fit
- Reviewing Housing and Development Options in Southwest Coquitlam
- Project Scope: 4 Work Streams
- SWHR – Corridors and Nodes
- Neighbourhood Pockets
- SWHR – Current NAR / Housing Choices Areas
- SWHR – Current Single-family Areas
- Sustainable Transportation
- Opportunities for Green Infrastructure
- Protecting Watercourses
- SWHR: Timeline
- Phase 1 Public Consultation
- Discussion
- [Letstalkcoquitlam.ca/swhr](http://letstalkcoquitlam.ca/swhr)

The Committee considered the following focus question:

- We've outlined a few ways that expanding housing options in the Southwest could contribute to sustainability. Are there other ways?

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The City's institutional memory relative to the public consultations for past Community Planning processes in Coquitlam's southwest, and whether that information was accessed by staff when the SWHR was prepared
- What the City had learned from, and how well had it achieved the goals of, its past community plans applicable to Coquitlam's southwest
- The understanding that the City considers Community Planning documents to be living documents that will evolve over time, according to current needs
- The SWHR's proposal for soft densification within its neighbourhoods
- The belief that the contributions and sustainability facets identified within the City's past community plans relative to Coquitlam's southwest area are important
- The belief that a balance between sustainability and densification of neighbourhoods within southwest Coquitlam is not being achieved
- Concern at the amount of green space and tree cover that has been removed from southwest Coquitlam over time, and the belief that those essential natural assets are what make the community livable

The Chair called for any other speakers and, hearing none, thanked the Planner 3 for the presentation.

The Planner 3 encouraged the Committee to contact him by email and to visit the SWHR website to provide further input.

At the request of the Planner 3, the Committee Clerk undertook to email a copy of the presentation to the members.

### **3. Invasive Plant Management - Update**

The Chair welcomed the Urban Forestry and Park Services Manager to the meeting, and she gave introductory remarks and provided a presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Invasive Species Management Update
- Background
- Background – Invasive Plant Management Strategy
- Principles
- Implementation
- Community Involvement
- Mundy Park EDRR Sweeps for Ivy
- Regional Contributions
- COVID-19 Impacts
- Next Steps
- Questions?

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- How to best dispose of invasive plants and dirt from hanging baskets and whether staff could consider providing educational material about that issue to the public
- The efforts made by Metro Vancouver's Regional Invasive Species Committee to discourage plant nurseries from selling invasive plant species
- That compliance by nurseries not to sell invasive plant species is voluntary and not within the purview of the City
- Whether staff had a study available regarding the economic impacts of dealing with invasive plants in Coquitlam
- The amount of work completed by Coquitlam's volunteers relative to eradicating invasive plants

The Chair thanked the Urban Forestry and Park Services Manager for the presentation.

### **4. Strategic Environmental Sustainability Plan**

The Manager Environment gave introductory remarks regarding the City's Strategic Environmental Sustainability Plan and provided a presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Environmental Sustainability Plan Update
- Introduction
- Goals and Objectives
- Themes
- Progress

- Internal Review
- Internal Review: Existing KPIs, Actions and Targets
- Public Consultation
- Survey Results – Q.1
- Survey Results – Q.2
- Survey Results – Q.3 Climate Action
- Survey Results – Q.3 Built Environment
- Survey Results – Q.3 Natural Areas, Wildlife and Habitat
- Survey Results – Q.3 Water Management
- Survey Results – Q.3 Waste Management
- Survey Results – Q.4
- Next Steps
- Questions?

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The timeline that staff expected to present the draft plan to the Committee for input
- Whether the survey question regarding ‘access to nature’ required clarification
- That public transit and enhancements to public transit are the purview of TransLink
- Water metering expense, watering restrictions and the possibility that Metro Vancouver municipalities could move to a 1-day per week watering schedule
- The belief that, in some instances, green roof projects could be preferable to solar powered projects or vice versa, and the need to find the right application to fit the technology
- The suggestion that project values could be framed within the context of educational and environmental values

## 5. **2020 Year-end Review / Identify Potential Items for Draft 2021 Work Plan**

The Manager Environment reviewed the work plan items completed by the Committee during the past year, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- 2020 Year-end Review
- Date / Agenda Items
- Waste Management & Recycling Update
- Highlights
- Environmental Achievement Awards
- Participation
- Award Recipients
- 2019 Urban Wildlife Program Update & 2020 Early Cart Set Out Audit Results
- Background – Urban Wildlife Program Goals
- Urban Wildlife Enforcement – Early Cart Set Out Compliance Audit Update
- 2019 Enforcement Related Activities
- Town Centre Park – Updated Lake Loop Improvements – Concept Design
- Proposed Site Plan
- The Garden Walk
- The Forest Walk
- Climate Adaptation Strategic Plan

- Top Ten Actions
- Suggestions for 2021 Work Plan?

The Chair invited the members to provide input regarding potential work plan topics or items for consideration as part of the draft 2021 Work Plan, and spoke to the need for balance between the suggestions from the Committee and staff's work plan programs for the coming year. The Committee proposed the following items:

- Urban farming and food security, including backyard chickens and beehives
- The establishment of sub-committees to investigate topics, including light and noise pollution
- The City's partnerships and how to better engage the public relative to environmental initiatives
- Residential stormwater management
- Preventing the dumping of pollutants into City watercourses
- Green infrastructure
- Tree clearing/cutting mature trees during development

The Chair thanked the Committee members for their input, noting that additional items could be emailed to the Manager Environment within the next month.

#### **6. SEAC Members' Roundtable/Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)**

The Chair invited the Committee members to share items of information and emerging issues from their communities.

In response to a question raised by a Committee member, the Manager Environment spoke to the City's efforts, and those of the BC Conservation Service, to curtail interactions between users of local parks and trails and the bears/bear cubs frequenting and foraging in those areas, and the desire to ensure the safety of both people and wildlife.

In response to a question from a Committee member, the Manager Environment spoke to the ways that illegal spills of deleterious substances into watercourses could be reported to the City and the enforcement challenges that staff sometimes encounter when working to determine where such spills originate.

In response to a follow-up question from a Committee member, "How can we help as a Committee?", the Manager Environment noted that members were welcome to consider the question and share further ideas and proposed items for the draft 2021 Work Plan with staff.

In response to a question from a Committee member regarding the possibility of educating the public about illegal poaching, fishing, and harvesting of natural materials from local forests, the Chair noted that citizens were encouraged to contact Bylaws to ask questions and report illegal activity.

A Committee member shared information regarding the Province's RAPP Line (Report all Poachers and Polluters).

The Manager Environment noted that the poaching of wildlife or overharvesting of fish is Provincially regulated and should also be reported to the Conservation Officer Service.

A Committee member shared that she had made the decision to resign from the Committee and spoke to the enjoyment she had derived from volunteering and expressed appreciation to her fellow Committee members for their camaraderie during her tenure.

The Chair expressed sincere thanks to the current and outgoing Committee members, noting their valuable input, feedback, and volunteerism during the year.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**NEXT MEETING DATE – TBC (2021)**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

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CHAIR



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Jeri Hohn  
Committee Clerk

## 2021 Work Plan

### Sustainability & Environmental Advisory Committee

#### Committee Mandate

The overall mandate of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee is to provide a local perspective and advice to Council with respect to achieving the City of Coquitlam's strategic goals and accompanying strategic directions. Specific responsibilities of the Committee include, but are not limited to, the following:

- To provide advice to Council on a wide range of existing and emerging environmental issues and trends including strategic planning initiatives, bylaws, and policy development;
- To provide a local perspective on the environment while giving due consideration to the balance between social, environmental and economic aspects;
- To identify and review opportunities for environmental protection and enhancement within the City and advise Council of the same;
- To advise Council on issues of environmental importance to stakeholder groups and to the community at large;
- To identify and advise on ways to build local environmental awareness, and promote environmental stewardship within the City; and
- To celebrate environmental volunteer involvement and leadership including supporting the annual Environmental Volunteer Celebration (and its biannual Environmental Achievement Awards component).

Work Plan Items	Department (Presenters)	Comments (i.e. Initiated by, Priority assignment A, B, C)
Review and Approve Draft 2021 Work Plan	Staff Lead/ Committee	Staff
SEAC Members' Roundtable / Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)	Committee	Committee
Proposed establishment of a Sub-committee to investigate and report back regarding Light Pollution	Committee	Committee
Community Engagement Strategy Presentation	CS (Corporate Communications)	Staff
Educational Awareness Presentation re: Residential stormwater management guidelines, and prevention of pollutants/dumping into City watercourses	E&PW (Utilities)	Committee
E&PW/Environment Division initiatives, as needed, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water Conservation Strategy</li> <li>- Cedar Drive/Partington Creek Enhancement Project</li> <li>- Wildlife Management</li> </ul>	E&PW (Environment)	Staff



Work Plan Items	Department (Presenters)	Comments (i.e. Initiated by, Priority assignment A, B, C)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strategic Environmental Sustainability Plan</li> <li>- Waste Management and Recycling</li> </ul>		
Environmental Volunteer Celebration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Event Planning – Brainstorming</li> <li>- Event Review – Committee feedback</li> </ul>	E&PW (Environment)/ Committee	Staff
Parks Planning and Facilities initiatives, as needed – opportunity for Committee input	PRCF	Staff
Planning and Development initiatives, as needed – opportunity for Committee input <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hazel-Coy Neighbourhood Plan consultation</li> <li>- Southwest Housing Review</li> </ul>	P&D (Community Planning)	Staff
2021 Year-end Review/Identify potential items for the draft 2022 Work Plan – Committee feedback/input	E&PW (Staff Lead)/ Committee	Staff



## 2021 Sustainability & Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule

Meetings are generally scheduled bi-monthly on the fourth or fifth Tuesday of the month from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. Exceptions to this schedule are noted below with an asterisk (\*).

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
February 23, 2021 (Tuesday)	7:00 – 9:00pm	<b>*Council Committee Room</b> via Zoom
*April 20, 2021 (Tuesday)	7:00 – 9:00pm	Council Chambers via Zoom
June 22, 2021 (Tuesday)	7:00 – 9:00pm	Council Chambers via Zoom
No meetings in August		
*September 29, 2021 ( <b>Wednesday</b> )	7:00 – 9:00pm	Council Chambers via Zoom
November 23, 2021 (Tuesday)	7:00 – 9:00pm	Council Chambers via Zoom
No meetings in December		

Note:

Meeting dates are subject to change.

\*Adjustment due to conflict with Board of Variance Meetings scheduled in Chambers.