

## SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*Note: This meeting will be live-streamed online at [coquitlam.ca/webcasts](http://coquitlam.ca/webcasts)*

DATE: Tuesday, June 21, 2022

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

PLACE: **Council Chambers via Zoom (RSVP Required)**

### CALL TO ORDER

### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. **Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022**

### NEW BUSINESS

2. **Strategic Transportation Plan (including E-Mobility) Presentation**  
Glen Chua, Major Project Planner; 7:05–7:35 p.m. (30 minutes)
3. **Economic Development Strategy Presentation**  
Andre Isakov, Manager Economic Development; 7:35–8:00 p.m. (25 minutes)
4. **Project Greenlight and Sustainable Coquitlam**  
Ryan Voon, Sustainability Programs Specialist; 8:00–8:20 p.m. (20 minutes)
5. **2022 Environmental Volunteer Celebration Event Planning Sub-Committee Update**  
Shannon Wagner, Environmental Education and Enforcement Manager / Sub-Committee;  
8:20–8:30 p.m. (10 minutes)
6. **SEAC Emerging Issues/Updates (Standing Agenda Item)**  
*Opportunity for Committee members to share emerging issues/updates from their sustainability and environmental communities.*  
Committee; 8:30–8:45 p.m. (15 minutes)

### OTHER BUSINESS

**NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, September 27, 2022**

### ADJOURNMENT

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**SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, April 26, 2022**

A Regular Meeting of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 7:01 p.m. in Council Chambers, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Teri Towner, Chair  
Councillor Brent Asmundson, Vice Chair  
Tracy Adole (left at 7:53 p.m.)  
Mark Ashton  
Grayson Barke  
Reza Berry  
Linton Chokie  
Christine Coles  
Mohammad Darabi (arrived at 7:05 p.m.)  
Rich Kenny  
Edward Lau

REGRETS: Bonnie Razzaghi

STAFF: Caresse Selk, Manager Environment  
Erin Desautels, Environmental Sustainability Manager  
Shannon Wagner, Environmental Education and Enforcement Manager  
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair acknowledged that the City operates on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the kwikwəłəm (Kwkwetlem First Nation).

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**1. Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022**

The Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 were approved.

**NEW BUSINESS****2. Environmental Sustainability Plan Update**

The Manager Environment introduced the Environmental Sustainability Manager and she provided a presentation, utilizing on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Environmental Sustainability Plan Update
- Outline
- Purpose
- Background
- ESP Structure
- Implementation and Monitoring
- Top 10 Actions
- 2021 Community Engagement: What We Heard
- New Climate Action Targets
- Advancing Climate Action
- ESP Next Steps
- Questions?

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The Plan's Top Action 10., "Measure tree canopy cover percentages in developed neighbourhoods", and whether the City had a proposed project timeline, outreach plan, and/or goals to increase the tree canopy cover in Coquitlam
- Support for the Plan's Top Action 8., "Create and expand education/outreach and volunteer opportunities related to residential stormwater management", and the desire for volunteer opportunities to be robust and posted publicly
- Concern regarding large trees cut down in the Burquitlam area over recent years due to development
- The suggestion that the City could adopt more sustainable urban design policies, such as the City of North Vancouver's, so that mature tree canopies could be maintained and mingled amongst developments
- The suggestion that City staff could utilize the District of West Vancouver's "2022 State of the Urban Forest Report" as a resource to guide development of Coquitlam's citywide Urban Forest Management Plan

In response to questions from the Committee members, the Chair, Vice Chair, Manager Environment, and Environmental Sustainability Manager noted the following:

- That the Urban Forest Management Plan was a priority under the City's 2022 Business Plan and its development would include a public engagement component
- The digital technologies that are typically utilized to model and measure tree canopy cover in order to establish baselines
- A past Metro Vancouver analysis of tree canopy covers within the region and the importance and value of reviewing tree canopy metrics both inside and outside of the Urban Containment Boundary
- The benefits of building compact, transit-oriented communities around rapid transit hubs, including that such development encouraged walkable communities,

- discouraged urban sprawl, and reduced greenhouse gases (GHGs)
- That lost tree canopy cover in Coquitlam could be offset by establishing additional parkland, maintaining and protecting riparian areas, and robust tree planting and street tree requirements
- That in certain areas of the City, a greater number of trees were being replanted than being lost
- The City's initiative to plant 10,000 trees in Coquitlam during 2022
- The Plan's GHG reduction targets for the City and the community were in alignment with those of other regional jurisdictions and international, federal, and provincial climate action targets
- Details of the City's Climate Action Plan would be shared publicly with residents and input requested via a public engagement process.

### 3. City Nature Challenge

The Environmental Education and Enforcement Manager introduced herself and provided a presentation, utilizing on-screen slides titled as follows:

- 2022 City Nature Challenge
- Agenda
- City Nature Challenge
- Results of Participating Cities 2020
- 2021 Collective Results
- 2022 Tri-Cities Nature Challenge
- How to Participate
- List of Coquitlam Events and Activities
- Expected Outcomes
- Join the Tri-City Nature Challenge April 29 – May 2

She encouraged the Committee members to participate in the City Nature Challenge and to provide staff with feedback regarding the lineup of events and activities.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Whether the event could be posted on the City's website calendar
- Appreciation for the involvement of local stewardship groups in the event
- Whether staff had reached out to local high schools and science teachers to encourage their students' participation in the event
- The belief that the initiative was fun, competitive, and easy to participate in
- How the information gathered through the iNaturalist app could be utilized as a collective resource
- Expressions of thanks and appreciation to the City for organizing the event and the desire for it to be held on an annual or semiannual basis
- Whether the event could be advertised through the City's social media channels and the sub-Reddit for Coquitlam
- That the event had been posted on the City's website and social media channels, and additional posts would be made leading up to the event

#### 4. Urban Wildlife Program Update

The Manager Environment and the Environmental Education and Enforcement Manager provided a joint presentation, utilizing on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Urban Wildlife Program Update
- Background
- Urban Wildlife Program Goals
- Bylaws for Attractant Management
- Public Education and Outreach Material
- 2021 Urban Wildlife Program Summary
- Bear Smart Video Series
- Urban Wildlife Enforcement Update
- 2021 Enforcement Related Activities
- Early Cart Set Out Compliance Audit Update
- Urban Wildlife – Other
- 2022 Program Priorities
- Questions

During their presentation, a video titled “Be Bear Aware: Secure Your Attractants” was previewed for the Committee.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The understanding that the educational signage posted at Lafarge and Como Lakes was working to protect onsite wildlife from entanglement and harm by abandoned fishing tackle
- The annual work undertaken by the City’s Environment and Urban Forestry staff to cleanup discarded fishing line in City parks, and collect and monitor statistics regarding injured wildlife
- Belief in the effectiveness of the City’s educational and communication materials
- The strategies utilized by the City to educate and engage residents that speak English as a second language
- That the City’s bylaws regarding urban wildlife and attractant management apply to industrial, commercial, and institutional land uses in Coquitlam, although the majority of non-compliance issues occur on residential properties
- That due to safety concerns for people and wildlife, the City does not make allowances for shift workers who are unable to set out their waste or green carts on time, and staff work one-on-one with such residents to identify workable solutions
- An anecdote regarding how placing garbage carts curbside outside of allowed times can immediately act as bear attractants
- The importance of neighbours alerting neighbours of any infractions to encourage bylaw compliance in neighbourhoods
- That food waste/residue left on recycled material is considered a wildlife attractant and falls under the Wildlife and Vector Control Bylaw
- That staff had not seen an increase in calls from residents about coyotes in 2021
- The suggestion that it could be helpful if a QR code were printed on the City’s public education and outreach materials, i.e. signs

- The effectiveness of the City's red "Violation Wildlife Attractant" sticker to educate residents about the importance of complying with bylaws
- The desire that newcomers to Coquitlam continue to be apprised of Coquitlam's bylaws so that they learn how to appropriately sort their waste, green, and recycling materials
- That during 2021 residents of west Coquitlam had continued to receive warnings for setting waste and green carts curbside at times that were not allowed under the City's bylaws
- The education and enforcement work in the west Coquitlam that would continue to be undertaken by staff
- The belief that substantial fines were key to the City having achieved a 99.4 percent cart set out compliance rate

The Vice Chair thanked staff for their ongoing education and enforcement work.

#### **5. 2022 Environmental Volunteer Celebration Event Planning Sub-Committee Update**

The Environmental Education and Enforcement Manager provided a verbal update regarding the work undertaken by the Sub-Committee to date. She spoke to the following points:

- The Sub-Committee met in April to brainstorm 2022 event planning
- The City holds an Environmental Volunteer Celebration event each year and an awards component every second year
- That 2022 would include an awards component and a call for nominations had been promoted publicly
- Committee members were encouraged to nominate environmental champions from their communities
- Event logistics and planning were well underway, including that the event would be hosted at Blue Mountain Park and held on Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Chair noted that she would be unable to attend the event due to a previous commitment. She encouraged the Committee members to submit nominations from their communities.

#### **6. SEAC Emerging Issues/Updates (Standing Agenda Item)**

The Chair invited the Committee members to share emerging issues/updates from their sustainability and environmental communities. The following was shared:

- The importance of installing heat pumps in residential, multi-unit, strata-controlled buildings to protect residents from the dangerous impacts of future heat domes
- The challenges that residents were experiencing when trying to convince stratas to install heat pumps in multi-unit buildings
- Whether the City of Coquitlam could offer any assistance to residents in situations where stratas were reluctant to install cooling systems that would require alteration of building envelopes or the installation of external equipment
- The suggestion that questions about heat pumps could be asked during the City's

Heat Pump Webinar to be held on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>

- Whether information regarding the City's bylaw limiting the physical placement of heat pumps could be widely promoted to homeowners and local contractors
- That BC's Knowledge Network program titled "The Life Sized City" could be of interest to the Committee members and further information was available on their website at [knowledgenetwork.ca](http://knowledgenetwork.ca)

The Manager Environment undertook to consult with the Environmental Sustainability Manager and report back regarding the questions about heat pumps.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, June 21, 2022**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

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CHAIR



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Jeri Hohn  
Committee Clerk