

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 7:01 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Brent Asmundson, Chair
Councillor Robert Mazzarolo, Vice Chair
Mark Ashton, Citizen Representative
Grayson Barke, Citizen Representative
Reza Berry, Citizen Representative
Silvia Cojocar, Citizen Representative
Mohammad Darabi, Citizen Representative
Daryoush Mohammad Hassani, Citizen Representative
Kelly Koome, Citizen Representative
Edward Lau, Citizen Representative (arrived at 7:11 p.m.)
Bonnie Razzaghi, Citizen Representative

REGRETS: Linton Chokie, Citizen Representative
Richard Kenny, Citizen Representative

STAFF: Jonathan Helmus, Director Utilities
Caresse Selk, Manager Environment
Jenny Tough, Environmental Education & Enforcement Manager
Rachel Cormack, Legislative Services Coordinator
Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

1. Welcome and Roundtable of Introductions

The Chair and Vice Chair welcomed those present to the first meeting of the year.

The Committee members and staff participated in a roundtable of introductions.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2. Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 27, 2022

The Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday, September 27, 2022 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS**3. Committee Orientation**

The Legislative Services Coordinator provided the Committee with an orientation of its structure, mandate, and responsibilities by referencing an on-screen presentation and utilizing slides.

Edward Lau arrived to the meeting at this time (7:11 p.m.)

4. Review and Adoption of the 2023 Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Work Plan

The draft 2023 Work Plan was presented on-screen, and the Manager Environment provided an overview of the proposed work plan items.

The Committee discussed the potential to add the following topics to the Work Plan:

- Pollinator gardens
- Storm water design and storm drain legislation
- The optional Joint Flood Mitigation Program
- Light and noise pollution impacts
- Climate initiatives
- NAV Canada's proposed flight plan changes in Metro Vancouver
- Green asset valuation and urban forest mapping
- The potential gravel quarry expansion
- The current petition to save the cedars on Burke Mountain

The Manager Environment noted that many of the requested topics would be addressed as part of the current work plan items.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The understanding that the Committee should focus on topics that are within the scope of municipal governments and the desire to ensure that the Work Plan reflects the Committee's mandate
- The understanding that Committee members, as individuals, can advocate for environmental concerns to different levels of government
- The proposed timeline for the Urban Forest Management Plan's public consultation
- A map contained in the City of New Westminster's Urban Forest Management Strategy
- Securing Federal Government funding for tree planting
- Topics that can be discussed as part of the Roundtable discussions

The Committee endorsed the 2023 Work Plan and a copy is attached hereto, and forms a part of, these minutes.

The Committee recommended:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the 2023 Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Work Plan.

5. Seasonal Water Pricing

The Director Utilities provided the Committee with an on-screen presentation entitled “Seasonal Metered Water Rates” that covered the following topics:

- The City’s Seasonal Water Pricing Plan
- Data on historical water consumption
- The Coquitlam Lake Reservoir supply status
- Recent technological advancements in water meter technology that allows consumers to track consumption and minimize waste

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The projected costs and revenues for the project
- Support for the City’s measured plan for a two-year approach of education prior to implementing seasonal water pricing
- Water meter technology and how it will measure and manage water usage
- How the City measures against other Metro Vancouver municipalities on water consumption
- The management of the Coquitlam Lake Reservoir during peak rainfalls
- Concern about flooding impacting fish spawning along the Coquitlam River
- How the water monitoring data can assist residents and businesses to manage and reduce their water consumption
- Monitoring of water usage by residential and commercial properties

6. 2023 Environmental Volunteer Celebration / Proposed Establishment of an Event Planning Sub-committee

The Environmental Education & Enforcement Manager provided the Committee with an on-screen presentation entitled “2023 Environmental Volunteer Celebration” that covered the following topics:

- The previous events held by the Committee
- The desire for the Committee to provide feedback on the upcoming Environmental Volunteer Celebration

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The potential for the Sub-committee to engage with local schools to raise awareness of and participate in the Environmental Volunteer Celebration
- The desire to publicize the celebration event early for increased engagement with the community
- The potential to split the event into two portions to celebrate the volunteers and provide an engagement event for the community
- Tentative agreement to host the event on Sunday, June 4 at Blue Mountain Park
- The preference to provide volunteers with packed lunches rather than a buffet
- Potential entertainment and music options for the event
- Praise for the previous events and entertainment and the potential to incorporate a tree walk and tree planting event

The Committee formed a 2023 Environmental Volunteer Celebration Sub-committee and the following members offered to serve:

- Mark Ashton
- Grayson Barke
- Reza Berry
- Daryoush Mohammad Hassani
- Bonnie Razzaghi

The Chair noted that staff would follow-up with the Sub-committee volunteers regarding next steps.

7. Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Issues

The Chair invited the Committee members to share information and emerging issues from the community. The following issues and concerns were shared:

- The current proposed programs to address future heat domes and climate events, and the need to provide proactive communication to residents as to where they can shelter
- How a summer safety education program can encourage residents to check-in on vulnerable neighbours during extreme heat events

The Chair noted that members were welcome to ask questions (unrelated to agenda items) of staff and Council outside of regular Committee meetings, and thanked the Committee members for their volunteerism.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, May 30, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

_____ CHAIR

I hereby certify that I have recorded the Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 as instructed, subject to amendment and adoption.

Caley Amundsen
Committee Clerk