

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, June 22, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 7:02 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Teri Towner, Chair
Councillor Brent Asmundson, Vice Chair
Tracy Adole
Lori Austin
Grayson Barke
Alice Hale
Bonnie Razzaghi
Michelle Rosenquist
Ivana Smolcic (arrived at 7:21 p.m.)
Pamela Zevit

REGRETS: Jay Ashworth
Jason Liao

ABSENT: Mark Ashton

STAFF: Caresse Selk, Manager Environment
Shannon Wagner, Environmental Education and Enforcement Manager
Kristen Elkow, Planner 3
Glen Chua, Planner 2
Michelle Frilund, Senior Communications and Engagement Specialist
Elona Saro, Planning Assistant
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021

The Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, were approved.

NEW BUSINESS**2. Community Engagement Strategy - Presentation**

The Senior Communications and Engagement Specialist introduced herself and provided a presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Community Engagement Strategy
- Agenda
- What is Community Engagement?
- What Does Engagement Look Like Now?
- What Does Participation Look Like Now?
- What is a Community Engagement Strategy?
- IAP2 Spectrum
- Timeline
- How Can You Get Involved?
- Questions?
- Thank You

The Senior Communications and Engagement Specialist previewed the Letstalkcoquitlam.ca website and highlighted details of the Environmental Sustainability Plan page.

She invited the Committee to participate in an online engagement activity and the Committee provided input to the following questions:

- Is there something you heard tonight that you liked?
- Is there a question/concern or maybe something you still don't understand from what I shared?
- Is there something you have experienced in an engagement (in Coquitlam or somewhere else) that really worked and that you would want to share?
- Is there something that you would want me to know or research more in order to create the Strategy?

In response to the input provided and questions asked during the engagement activity, the Senior Communications and Engagement Specialist spoke to the following:

- Whether or how the results of the City's public surveys were shared with the public
- Whether First Nations would be included in the engagement process
- The City's social media presence and some of the ways that followers of the City's Facebook page could ensure that they see the City's posts
- Whether the City uses established thresholds to determine if the public is consulted regarding certain issues
- Equitable engagement design best practices relative to ways to engage hard-to-reach residents and/or under-represented communities
- Information about the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2)
- Whether the City's public surveys are provided in multiple languages

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Development in areas of Coquitlam that could impact other Tri-Cities municipalities and the potential for cross-jurisdictional collaboration on regional issues

- That regular meetings are held between Tri-Cities municipalities

The Senior Communications and Engagement Specialist encouraged the Committee to provide further feedback by email.

3. Hazel-Coy Neighbourhood Plan - Presentation

The Chair welcomed the Planner 3 to the meeting. The Planner 3 introduced herself and provided a presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Hazel-Coy Neighbourhood Plan
- Purpose of Today's Session
- Location of Northwest Burke Vision (NBV) in Coquitlam 2017
- Northwest Burke Vision – Land Use and Servicing Overview
- Northwest Burke Vision – 4 Neighbourhood Planning Areas
- Northwest Burke Vision – Land Use and Servicing Overview
- Northwest Burke Vision – Conceptual Pedestrian, Bicycle & Trail Network
- Watersheds
- City of Coquitlam 2021 Business Plan
- What's A Neighbourhood Plan?
- Objectives
- Process
- What We Are Doing Now
- Being Involved

The Committee members shared questions and concerns relative to the following with staff:

- Ecological connectivity and the habitat fragmentation that could result
- The potential for displaced wildlife and increased human-wildlife conflicts
- The myriad of watercourses and headwater forested wetlands within the area
- Integration/harmonization of the Plan with the Pinecone Burke Provincial Park management planning process underway by BC Parks and First Nations
- A second bridge crossing over the Coquitlam River vis-à-vis the approval of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for such a crossing
- Tree retention and green space
- Stormwater management and water quality in creeks located within steep slope terrain
- Natural values (wildlife, vegetation, and landscape)
- Community outreach
- Traffic
- Fire risk within the planned neighbourhood

The Planner 3 spoke to the Northwest Burke Vision (NBV), the percentage of the area that had been identified as developable, the neighbourhood planning process, and how tree retention decisions are made by the City.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The belief that the questions being posed by Committee members would be raised

again in the future, whenever development was proposed to occur in forested and/or riparian areas

- The belief that the strategic Environmental Sustainability Plan could, in a general way, answer some of the Committee's questions by providing the City's vision
- The belief that residents want answers to the kinds of questions being asked by the Committee, however, information is not always readily available
- Whether the City presently has an overarching urban forest management strategy in place

The Manager Environment noted that although the City did not currently have such a strategy, while developing the strategic Environmental Sustainability Plan, staff had identified it as a potential gap for the City to address going forward.

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- Concern that residents' confidence in the development process could be challenged without answers to the kinds of questions being posed by the Committee
- Whether the City could prioritize the preparation of an urban forest management strategy
- Whether the City could engage well-respected consultants to help develop such a strategy, similar to work undertaken in other local jurisdictions
- How access points into the Burke Pinecone Provincial Park could be impacted by the proposed Hazel-Coy Neighbourhood Plan
- Whether the Committee could consider making a recommendation that the City undertake the development of urban forest management strategy to help inform development and mitigate climate change
- The belief that discussing and providing input to the proposed HCNP was challenging in light of the lack of (environmental) information available

In response to a question from the Chair, the Manager Environment noted staff's intention to present the strategic Environmental Sustainability Plan (ESP) to Council in the coming weeks and, following that, to the public at the end of July. She suggested that once the Committee had an opportunity to review the ESP, a recommendation regarding a proposed urban forest management strategy could be made, should the Committee still wish to do so.

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- The desire to ensure that the Committee had a fulsome opportunity to provide input to the ESP and the suggestion that a sub-committee could be struck to review the document when it became publicly available at the end of July
- The public consultation process and timing relative to the ESP, including that input would be sought from the Committee during its September meeting

The Chair and Vice Chair spoke to the Urban Containment Boundary (UCB) and the balance needed to address housing needs and development relative to environmental protections.

A Committee member raised a concern regarding the City's institutional memory and questioned whether the Committee's past feedback regarding planning designs and approaches for development in wilderness interface areas in the northeast of Coquitlam

had been utilized by staff to date and, generally, how well the Committee's input was being utilized within the City's planning processes.

The Chair and the Manager Environment spoke to the valuable input provided by the Committee over the years, and gave examples of the City's plans, processes, and projects that had been improved/positively impacted by the Committee's advice.

4. 2021 Environmental Volunteer Celebration Sub-Committee Update

The Environmental Education and Enforcement Manager thanked the sub-committee for its participation and engagement, and shared the following:

- A brainstorming session was held at the beginning of June
- Ideas took into consideration pandemic restrictions at the time and that the Environment Division (who provide event planning supports) is currently running at reduced capacity
- The Sub-committee proposed that an outdoor celebration could be held at the beginning of October (possibly on Saturday, October 9th) at Mundy Park Field House or other appropriate outdoor location such as Town Centre Park or the new Buchanan Square at City Hall
- The idea that the proposed celebration would include some form of planting/ beautification effort, a bio-blitz or eco-challenge, and a sustainable giveaway for participants.

In response to a question from the Vice Chair, the Environmental Education and Enforcement Manager confirmed that Mundy Park Field House was the preferred venue and tents could be erected in anticipation of inclement weather.

The Vice Chair encouraged the Committee to forward any comments and/or other ideas to staff for consideration.

The Chair thanked the Sub-committee for time and effort they had put into event planning thus far.

5. 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. The following information was shared:

- An anecdote regarding the need to be very bear aware when hiking in Minnehada Park over the next few months while bear activity is at its peak, and concerns regarding the increasing number human-wildlife conflicts in the park
- An expression of appreciation for the assistance provided by the City's Natural Area Supervisor, Park Planning and Forestry, relative to a successful invasive weed pull at Como Lake, and to the Urban Forestry and Parks Services Manager for answering a myriad of questions regarding trees and tree management
- An expression of sadness over the passing of Don Gillespie and recognition of his many contributions to the betterment of the Coquitlam community
- Anecdotes regarding recent human-black bear and human-grizzly bear interactions

by Committee members and the importance of wildlife awareness and education to public safety.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – Wednesday, September 29, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

CHAIR



Jeri Hohn
Committee Clerk