

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 23, 2020

A Regular Meeting of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, June 23, 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
Mark Ashton
Jay Ashworth
Lori Austin
Grayson Barke
Cheryl Katnick
Bonnie Razzaghi
Michelle Rosenquist
Ivana Smolcic
Pamela Zevit

REGRETS: Sara Badiei

STAFF: Jaime Boan, General Manager Engineering and Public Works
Verne Kucy, Acting Manager Environmental Services
Caresse Selk, Environmental Services Manager
Julie Kanya, Environmental Program Specialist
Sean O'Melinn, Legislative Services Manager
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

1. Welcome and Roundtable of Introductions

The Chair and Vice Chair welcomed new and returning members to the meeting and the Committee participated in a roundtable of reintroductions. The Chair noted the resignation of a long-time Committee member and spoke appreciatively regarding the contributions that Dr. Wilson had made to the Committee over his years of volunteer service.

The Chair welcomed staff to the meeting and the Acting Manager Environmental Services introduced himself and the new General Manager Engineering and Public Works to the Committee. The General Manager Engineering and Public Works (GM EPW) addressed the Committee, noting that the environment was a large part of EPW's role with the City.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2. Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, February 25, 2020

The Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

3. 2020 Environmental Volunteers Celebration and Awards – Event Review

The Environmental Projects Manager and the Environmental Programs Specialist provided a joint presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Environmental Achievement Awards – 2020 Debrief to SEAC
- Background
- Environmental Award Categories
- Participation
- 2020 Environmental Achievement Awards Recognition
- Green Sprouts
- Green Sprouts Group – Recipient
- Youth (12-19) – Individual
- Youth – Individual Recipient
- Youth (12-18) – Group/Club
- Youth Group Recipient
- Adult – Individual
- Adult – Recipient
- Adult – Group Resident
- Environmental Educator Recipient
- Lifetime Achievement Recipient
- Discussion

The Committee considered how to maintain momentum from the 2020 year moving forward and 2021 volunteer celebration plans.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The timing and number of calls for Environmental Achievement Awards nominations issued by the City
- How an interested group could be added to the distribution list of the calls for nominations
- How to gain more interest/improve the level of responsiveness of School District 43 and/or individual local schools to the calls for nominations

A Committee member undertook to speak to her children's school principal to determine whether the City's messaging was reaching local schools and staff welcomed that feedback.

A Committee member undertook to provide contact details for the environmental and LEEDS teacher for elementary schools in Coquitlam to the Environmental Program Specialist.

4. 2019 Urban Wildlife Program Update and 2020 Early Cart Set Out Audit Results

The Environmental Programs Specialist provided a presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- 2019 Urban Wildlife Program Update & 2020 Early Cart Set Out Audit Results
- Background
- Background – Urban Wildlife Program Goals
- Background – Bylaws for Attractant Management
- Background: Public Education & Outreach Material
- 2019 Urban Wildlife Program Summary
- Urban Wildlife Enforcement Update
- 2019 Enforcement-Related Activities
- Urban Wildlife Enforcement – Early Cart Set Out Compliance Audit Update
- 2020 Garbage Compliance Audit
- 2020
- Discussion

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The differences between the Bear 101 and the Wildlife 101 educational programs hosted by the City
- Concerns raised by the Committee during its last meeting regarding the protection of riparian areas in new developments and the importance of larger sized culverts for wildlife migration

The Acting Manager Environmental Services noted that Environmental Services staff could provide an update to the Committee regarding setbacks for riparian areas at a future meeting. He further noted that his staff could contact Planning and Development staff to request that the Committee be presented with the types of development requirements that the City has in place and the holistic planning process undertaken prior to bringing new developments forward to Council.

In response to a question from a Committee member, the Chair confirmed that the items could be added to the Committee's fall meeting agenda(s).

- Whether any research had been done regarding bear movements and their den locations in Coquitlam
- Some details of the Metro Vancouver study underway in Minnekhada Park relative to bears
- Whether the Wildlife and Vector Control Bylaw applies to all areas of Coquitlam, including parks, and the desire that the principle that wildlife should not be fed be promoted
- The understanding that there has been an increasing number of bobcat sightings reported in Coquitlam

- Details regarding the City's waste sorting and wildlife attractant fines and how they are utilized as compliance tools
- Whether the City's waste app could be modified to inform residents regarding what biodegradable bags, if any, are allowed in green carts
- The process followed by the waste contractor and the City to identify those residents who have carts contaminated with plastics
- The activities of Metro Vancouver's Zero Waste Committee relative to cart contamination, biodegradable bags, soft plastics, single-use plastics, and educational outreach
- Whether the City could undertake business outreach to encourage sellers of so-called biodegradable bags to remove them from their shelves
- That the City does not have the jurisdiction to stop stores from selling certain items
- Whether the cart statistics relative to bear attractants provided within the presentation included recycle bins
- Details of the types of recycle bins and allowable recyclables picked up by Recycle BC
- That the City's bylaws apply to green carts, garbage carts, and blue recycling boxes so that all three must be put out in the morning and may not be placed out the night before
- That Committee members could personally encourage local stores to carry the 'correct' (allowable brown paper) biodegradable bags
- The belief that the solution relative to biodegradable bags is for the Province to take action rather than individual cities attempting to mandate change
- The belief that it is important to use distinct terminology to clearly delineate compostable from biodegradable green waste
- Clarification regarding why bobcat sightings will continue to grow in urban areas
- The City's Urban Wildlife Program and how public outreach is undertaken
- An explanation regarding the various coloured bears on the map provided as part of the presentation
- That the Province's Wildlife Alert Reporting Program (WARP) Map is updated daily and available to the public online

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

The Chair invited the Committee to share information from their communities that could be of interest to Council or the public.

In response to a question from a Committee member, the Environmental Programs Manager shared the following:

- That Parks work planned for the Lafarge Lake Loop Enhancement Project may have been deferred until the fall due to the pandemic and that she would check the status with Parks staff and report back
- That the 2020 SEAC Work Plan items relative to climate adaptation and invasive species would be discussed during the Committee's fall meetings

A Committee member shared that on May 15, 2020 Council for the District of North Vancouver unanimously voted to ban the use of rodenticides on City-owned lands and intended to petition the provincial and federal governments to reduce and/or ban the use of

second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs). She further shared her understanding of the harmful nature of rodenticides, their wide use at commercial, retail residential buildings, the practices that municipalities could choose to employ on their own lands relative to rodenticides, and some details of a study conducted by the District of North Vancouver that revealed the negative impacts that rodenticides can have on the lives of desirable wildlife.

The Committee member asked whether Coquitlam Council could support the District of North Vancouver's petition to the provincial and federal governments if it came forward, and whether the Committee should put forward a recommendation to Council requesting that endorsement.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- That City staff had attended a presentation put on by staff at the District of North Vancouver and found it to be educational and informative
- The understanding that the District of North Vancouver had indeed completed a comprehensive study prior to taking steps to move forward with their ban, including setting up "critter cameras" on the bait boxes located at their civic facilities
- Confirmation that the outcome of the District of North Vancouver's study revealed that although the bait boxes targeted house mice and rats, native field mice were being poisoned which, in turn, poisoned other wildlife
- The understanding that second generation anticoagulant rodenticides were likely being used in the bait boxes at City-owned locations

Environmental Services staff undertook to follow-up with the City's pest control provider regarding the type of rodenticides used at City-owned locations.

The Chair spoke to the process that would typically be followed by the City and Council regarding another municipality's request for support regarding a resolution or petition being made to higher levels of government. He noted that should such a petition be received Council would generally ask staff to provide key information as background prior to making its decision.

The Chair suggested that staff could request an update on the issue from the District of North Vancouver and it could be helpful for the Committee member to provide background information to the Environmental Programs Manager. The Committee member undertook to do so.

Councillor Hodge left the meeting at this time (8:37 p.m.).

In response to questions and suggestions from Committee members, discussion ensued relative to the following:

- How the City was managing the increased use of parks and trails occurring since the pandemic
- That due to liability issues the City could not map or add signage to trails that were not constructed by the City
- The desire for improved wayfinding signage and trail markers on Burke Mountain so

- that hikers could better navigate and understand linkages between trails
- The understanding that the City was undertaking improvements to wayfinding signage at parks throughout Coquitlam in an established order of priority

A Committee member volunteered to help with the City's wayfinding signage program and noted his belief in the willingness of other members of the community to volunteer, perhaps as part of a service project. The Environmental Programs Manager thanked the Committee member, noting that staff could follow-up with the Committee should such an opportunity arise. She further noted that there are some restrictions to the work that can be undertaken by volunteers on behalf of the City.

OTHER BUSINESS

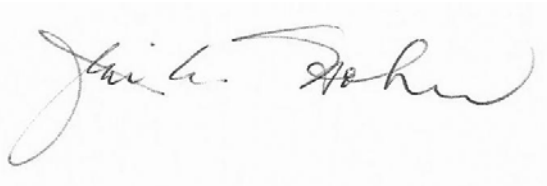
NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, September 29, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

CHAIR



Jeri Hohn
Committee Clerk