

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**Tuesday, September 26, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Brent Asmundson, Chair
Councillor Robert Mazzarolo, Vice Chair
Grayson Barke, Citizen Representative
Reza Berry, Citizen Representative
Linton Chokie, Citizen Representative
Silvia Cojocar, Citizen Representative
Mohammad Darabi, Citizen Representative
Daryoush Mohammad Hassani, Citizen Representative
Bonnie Razzaghi, Citizen Representative

REGRETS: Mark Ashton, Citizen Representative
Edward Lau, Citizen Representative

STAFF: Jenny Tough, Environmental Education and Enforcement Manager
Laura Sampliner, Environmental Sustainability Manager
Doron Fishman, Park Planning and Design Manager
John Musil, Parks Planner 2
Karin Johnson, Sustainability Programs Specialist
Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

1. Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, July 25, 2023

The Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, July 25, 2023 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Climate Action Plan Engagement

The Environmental Sustainability Manager provided introductory comments regarding the Climate Action Plan Engagement.

The Sustainability Programs Specialist provided a presentation entitled “Climate Action Plan – Project Update and Discussion” that covered the following topics:

- Background, overview, goals and timeline of the City’s Climate Action Plan (CAP)
- Synergy between the City’s CAP and Environmental Sustainability Plan (ESP)
- Breakdown of Coquitlam’s carbon pollution, greenhouse gas (GHG) emission sources and emission reduction targets
- CAP priority areas and next steps

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- City efforts to reach climate goals by retrofitting buildings with sustainable infrastructure
- The feasibility and challenges of retrofitting older buildings with sustainable and zero-carbon/low-carbon energy systems
- The necessity of installing sustainable energy systems in new buildings to avoid retrofitting later
- Municipalities having limited regulatory power in terms of mandating sustainable energy systems for large buildings
- The necessity of lobbying higher levels of government to provide funding for climate change initiatives
- Older multi-unit residential buildings and whether data exists regarding their retrofitting with sustainable energy technology
- Ontario’s “right-to-charge” legislation, O.Reg. 114/18, s.8 in *1998 Condominium Act*, regarding condominiums and EV charging technology
- Whether the City will provide incentives for older stratas to install EV charging technology
- The desire for a more comprehensive breakdown of Coquitlam’s residential GHG emissions and transportation GHG emissions
- Barriers to *how we build* CAP priority, including heat pump retrofitting, sourcing, installation costs and maintenance, strata regulations, high costs of installing EV chargers and higher insurance premiums, City permit process being inhibitive, building capacity, natural gas being more reliable than electrical heating systems, climate misinformation, transition stage of emerging climate technology, loans and financial incentives being hard to access for retrofits, reluctance to embrace emerging sustainable technology and the lack of information regarding retrofits and sustainable technology
- Barriers to *how we move* CAP priority, including the lack of safe bike paths and safe, accessible and multi-use sidewalks, the lack of reliable transit options, difficulties of travelling with young children and construction activity hampering traffic flow and pedestrian access
- Barriers to *how we consume* CAP priority, including lack of awareness regarding the recycling of old stationary office materials, grocery stores not working with food banks to reduce food waste, lack of education regarding GHG emissions and waste, plastic packaging in fruits, methane emissions at landfills, and reluctance to change eating habits to consume less red meat and beef
- Barriers to *how we steward* CAP priority, including lack of opportunities for

people to know their local environment, not planting enough trees to replenish what has been cut down, lack of community gardens, lack of greenspace within urban areas, challenges of planting more trees, tradeoff between greenspace and housing, provincial housing targets and regulations for municipalities and human caused climate disasters such as forest fires

3. Glen Park – Phase 3

The Park Planning and Design Manager provided introductory comments relative to the Glen Park – Phase 3 Project.

The Parks Planner 2 provided a presentation entitled “Glen Park Phase 3” that covered the following topics:

- Background and overview of Glen Park (hereon “the Park”)
- Project timelines and public engagement opportunities
- Glen Park Master Plan (2011)
- The Park and City Centre demographic data and population growth projections
- Project’s phase 3 proposed amenity expansion and upgrades
- The City having an agreement with School District No. 43 (SD43) to prioritize access for students from nearby Glen Elementary School to use a 1.2 acre shared-use site in the Park during school hours

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The desire for the Park to include amenities for children and families, covered spaces for year-round use, playground space, social gathering space, more lighting at night, an enlarged seating area, a formalized horticultural garden and garbage/recycling bins
- The feasibility of installing a perimeter walking pathway around the Park
- The Park being an alternative to Town Centre Park when events and festivals are occurring
- The possibility of connecting the Park with other City amenities and greenspace such as Coquitlam River Park
- Whether the Park’s southern forest will be thinned out
- The challenges of creating new field space
- The importance of preserving trees that are still healthy
- Whether data exists on the diversity of trees in the Park
- The City’s Canopy Walk through Mundy Park
- Harper Park signage displays that provide tree canopy information
- Concern regarding coyotes and rodents in the Park

4. Committee Members’ Roundtable / Emerging Issues

The Chair invited the Committee members to share information and emerging issues from the community.

A Committee member shared that another Tri-Cities Urban Forest Forum will be held on November 7, 2023 at Douglas College Coquitlam Campus Lecture Theatre A1470.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, November 28, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Brent Asmundson, Chair

Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk