

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, September 29, 2020

A Regular Meeting of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 7:02 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 (left at 8:21 p.m.)
Mark Ashton (joined at 7:14 p.m.)
Jay Ashworth
Lori Austin
Grayson Barke
Bonnie Razzaghi (joined at 7:04 p.m.)
Michelle Rosenquist
Ivana Smolcic
Pamela Zevit

REGRETS: Cheryl Katnick

ABSENT: Sara Badiei

STAFF: Lanny Englund, Manager Parks Planning and Forestry
Dana Soong, Manager Utility Programs
Caresse Selk, Manager Environment
Julie Kanya, Environmental Program Specialist
Monica Marshall, Environmental Programs Specialist
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk
Julie Hunter, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, June 23, 2020

The Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Lafarge Lake Loop Enhancement Project - Presentation

The Chair welcomed the Manager Parks Planning and Forestry to the meeting and he gave

introductory remarks and provided a presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Town Centre Park – Updated Lake Loop Improvements – Concept Design
- Town Centre Park Master Plan
- Proposed Site Plan
- The Garden Walk
- The Urban Walk
- The Forest Walk
- Next Steps
- Thank You – Questions?

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Management and monitoring of Canada Geese relative to planned increases to passive grass/open lawn areas in the park
- The implications of light pollution relative to modernizing pathway lighting and vegetation management in the southern end of the park
- Whether additional picnic tables would be provided proximal to the server building
- How the water entering and exiting Lafarge Lake is managed
- The understanding that red LED lighting helps bats forage and whether bat-friendly lighting options for the park could be investigated by staff
- Whether the tree canopy in the park would be retained and/or increased as a result of loop improvements
- The higher value habitat in and around the island and an offer from Burke Mountain Naturalists to assist the City with invasive species management in that area
- The activities of the City's Bad Seed Program volunteers

The Chair thanked the Manager Parks Planning and Forestry for his presentation.

3. Climate Adaptation Strategic Plan

The Chair welcomed the Manager Utility Programs to the meeting and he gave introductory remarks and provided a presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Climate Adaptation Strategic Plan
- Strategic Environmental Sustainability Plan
- Adaptation Mitigation
- Historical Data / Current Global Climate
- 1850 Now 2220 Climate Action
- Local Climate Projections
- Climate Adaptation Strategic Actions
- Top Ten Actions
- Next Steps
- Questions?

The Chair spoke to some of the work underway by the City relative to the actions listed on the slide titled "Top Ten Actions".

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Rainwater management infrastructure within watersheds and whether the City had contemplated changing its effective impervious area (EIA) percentage for areas currently under construction
- Whether stormwater infrastructure was coordinated with adjacent municipalities
- The City's adoption of rainwater management standards for developments in NE Coquitlam, including catch basins and infiltration trenches
- The coordinated watershed management plans undertaken with adjacent communities, such as the Hyde Creek Watershed Management Plan
- Whether local or senior levels of government had considered offering financial assistance programs to help individuals adapt to the impacts of climate change
- Whether the idea of offering individual financial aid had been discussed by the Union of BC Municipalities Environmental Committee and the observation that municipalities had limited resources available to provide such assistance
- Whether the City could consider including blue carbon (natural aquatic assets) sequestering within the Plan
- Whether the City is effectively achieving its goals relative to compact communities and how to best implement and be accountable in that regard
- Whether the City's actions relative to flood protection mechanisms would utilize green (nature-based) or grey infrastructure solutions
- How the City would monitor and assess the health of natural ecosystems and impacts from climate change and take corrective action as issues arise
- The City's current stream setbacks and the requirements under the Provincial Riparian Area Regulations
- Whether it could be beneficial to increase stream setbacks relative to the growing number of heavy rainfall events
- The belief that the Plan could address what sorts of actions members of the public could personally take to prepare themselves for climate change
- The challenges that people in all jurisdictions have experienced with the limited capacity of municipal parks and access to nature since the onset of COVID-19
- Concerns with the lack of public parking proximal to parks in Anmore and Belcarra
- That the City's Environmental Sustainability Plan would address the need for equitable access to green space
- The City's ongoing and intentional acquisition of land to increase parks capacity and address the needs of residents
- Development policies that help increase the percentage of parklands in the City

The Chair spoke to the upcoming retirement of the Manager Utility Programs and thanked him for his excellent presentations and guidance to the Committee and service to the City over the past many years.

The Manager Utility Programs thanked the Chair and Council for their past support.

Councillor Hodge left the meeting at this time (8:21 p.m.).

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

The Chair opened the floor and the following information was shared:

- That a group of BCIT students would undertake a habitat assessment and restoration project at Como Lake Park with the approval of the City and assistance of the Burke Mountain Naturalists.
- That Associated Labels in Coquitlam had recently made the decision to stop using rodenticides at their facility as a result of information shared about second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) during the last Committee meeting.

At this time, the following Other Business item was discussed.

OTHER BUSINESS

OB-1 Use of Rodenticides on City-owned Lands

A Committee member spoke to her desire to make a Committee recommendation further to the Committee's June 23rd discussion regarding the use of rodenticides on City-owned lands.

At the invitation of the Chair, the Manager Environment updated the Committee regarding the topic. She spoke to the previous information she had received from a Committee member, the practices employed by the City relative to rodent control, the possibility of changing those practices, and the potential costs involved in modifying the City's current program to one that could utilize reduced or different maintenance techniques and snap traps instead of bait boxes.

A Committee member shared her understanding that the costs provided by rodent control providers to switch from bait boxes to snap traps were often over-inflated, and offered to provide further information to the Manager Environment regarding ways to modify rodent control programs without incurring prohibitive costs. The Manager Environment welcomed receipt of that information.

The Committee recommended:

**COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council ban the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides on all City-owned lands, and direct staff to employ opportunities to communicate alternative pest control methods to residents and businesses.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Whether the City had the power to ban the sale and use of rodenticides in Coquitlam
- The suggestion that staff raise the topic of banning rodenticides on School District 43 owned lands with the School District's management

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, November 24, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

CHAIR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeri Hohn", written over a horizontal line.

Jeri Hohn
Committee Clerk