

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 29, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee convened on Wednesday, September 29, 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
Mark Ashton
Lori Austin
Grayson Barke
Alice Hale
Bonnie Razzaghi (arrived at 7:51 p.m.)
Ivana Smolcic
Pamela Zevit

REGRETS: Jay Ashworth
Jason Liao
Michelle Rosenquist

STAFF: Jonathan Helmus, Director Utilities
Caresse Selk, Manager Environment
Shannon Wagner, Environmental Education and Enforcement Manager
Raj Singh, Park Planner 2
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, June 22, 2021

The Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday, June 22, 2021, were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Blue Mountain Park Master Plan Presentation

The Park Planner 2 introduced himself and provided a presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Blue Mountain Park Master Plan

- Agenda
- Location
- Master Plan Process
- Project Timeline
- Existing Park Amenities
- Three Zones
- The Field
- The Core
- The Grove
- Sustainability and Environment
- Questions and Feedback
- Committee Engagement Opportunities
- Thank You!

The Committee considered the following focus question:

- Are there any Committee priorities, particular and/or emerging practices for staff to consider in the development of the Blue Mountain Park Master Plan?

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The desire that features like a timber play area, community centre and a community garden be added to the Park
- The belief that the Master Planning process affords an excellent opportunity for the City to upgrade the Park and its amenities
- The desire that the unique stand of large trees and their structural diversity (understory) in the Park be maintained and preserved
- The importance of the Park's trees relative to wildlife habitat
- Support for the idea that the proposed fieldhouse be constructed elsewhere in the Park rather than in the Scout Hall location
- The desire that light and noise pollution be curtailed within the Park
- Whether there was an opportunity to reduce light bleed into The Grove at night without generating safety issues
- Safety and whether staff were aware of any criminal related activities occurring in the Park
- The understanding that LED lights cause light pollution and that violet coloured LEDs, i.e. red temperature light, are better for wildlife and people at night
- Support for the idea of constructing an outdoor classroom in the Park
- The meaning of micro-mobility
- Whether permeable pavement materials could be used in the Park
- Support for the idea of multi-purpose outdoor community space
- The suggestion that staff engage the Coquitlam Public Library to discuss a plug and parking location for the Library Link bus
- The desire that staff consider the well-established shortcuts that people have been using in the Park to assure pathway retention and safety
- Whether there was ever a natural water feature (creek) in the Park

The Park Planner 2 encouraged the Committee to provide further comments through the online survey at letstalkcoquitlam.ca/bluemountainpark or directly to staff by email within two weeks.

3. Environmental Sustainability Plan Presentation

The Manager Environment introduced herself and provided a presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Draft Environmental Sustainability Plan
- Outline
- Purpose
- Background
- Progress to Date
- Coquitlam Environmental Sustainability Plan
- What We Heard from the Community
- What We Heard from You
- SEAC Feedback – ESP Actions
- Themes
- ESP Structure
- Climate Action
- Built Environment
- Waste Management
- Water Management
- Natural Areas, Wildlife and Habitat
- Implementation and Monitoring
- Top 10 Priority Actions
- Highlights of Key Performance Indicators
- New Climate Targets
- Next Steps
- Jamboard Activity
- Have Your Say!
- Questions? Thank You!

During the presentation, the Manager Environment previewed a video titled “Coquitlam’s Draft Environmental Sustainability Plan” and invited the Committee to participate in an online engagement (Jamboard) activity.

The Committee considered the following focus questions:

- What is something you heard today that you liked?
- What is something you maybe have questions or concerns with or maybe feel like you don’t understand?
- What is something you didn’t see today that you think should be considered in one of the 5 themes?

Further to some of the input provided by the Committee during the engagement activity, the Manager Environment spoke to the following:

- The draft ESP’s glossary and that it included a definition of green infrastructure
- Whether there was a mechanism for the City to add emerging and/or urgent priorities to the Plan
- That the Plan would be updated regularly and be adapted and evolve over time to include new emerging issues and actions
- The understanding that a Heat Task Force could be an item addressed as part of the

- Climate Adaptation Strategic Plan (completed in the winter of 2020)
- That some action items within the Plan were resourced through the City's current budget and how others could be resourced through the City's future budgets
- That details of Coquitlam's tree canopy would be included within the City's Urban Forest Management Plan
- The role of the Plan's project support team and how the ESP's strategies, goals, and actions could be integrated holistically into the City's various departmental plans
- Details regarding the ESP Dashboard, including where it would be located and that data would be gathered and updated annually
- Details regarding how the ESP's 'New Climate Target' goal to reduce GHG emissions by 45% (of 2007 levels) by the year 2030 was arrived at and whether it was realistic
- The importance of the BC Energy Step Code and ongoing federal and provincial policies relative to helping achieve the ESP's future New Climate Target goals

The Chair encouraged the Committee members to complete the ESP online survey and thanked the staff lead for her presentation, and the Committee for its robust feedback.

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:

- That the invitation to the Celebration event to be held on Saturday, October 2nd at Mundy Park had recently been emailed to the Committee
- The event RSVP deadline had passed, however, there was space remaining for some of the activities should any members still wish to attend
- Details of the outdoor event and information regarding its four activities.

The Chair noted that she would be in attendance and looked forward to seeing the Committee members during the event.

5. Water Conservation Strategy Presentation

The Director Utilities and the Environmental Education and Enforcement Manager provided a joint presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Enhanced Water Conservation
- Enhanced Water Conservation Strategy
- Water Supply
- Monthly Consumption
- Regional Data
- Regional Trend in Per Capital Residential Water Consumption
- Residential Per Capita Water Consumption – Winter Vs Summer
- Customer Category – Customer Count – Percent Consumption
- Coquitlam Water Conservation Program
- Enhanced Water Conservation - Leakage
- Enhanced Water Conservation – ICI Customers
- Uniform Rate / Seasonal Rate
- Enhanced Water Conservation – Residential Customers
- Summary

The Committee considered the following focus questions:

- Do you agree with these water conservation ideas?
- Do you agree with increased sprinkling restrictions?
- Do you have any other ideas, comments or questions?

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- How the City could reduce the 15% water leakage rate
- The meaning of “City irrigation via groundwater” as a water conservation measure
- Whether the City had any concerns regarding irrigating parks with groundwater relative to the interflow relationship between groundwater aquifers and local watersheds
- That the City has hired a hydrologist to examine the aquifer levels including draw and recharge rates
- Support for increased sprinkling restrictions and the proposed timing that the restrictions would come into effect
- Concern regarding residents who hand-water or wash their driveways and sidewalks at length using a hose and nozzle, and possible enforcement measures
- Impacts of the City’s educational Water Conservation Program and how the program is quantified
- Some of the positive impacts of the City’s educational efforts
- Whether the City had given any thought to incentivizing homeowners to encourage them to replace lawns with drought hardy landscaping
- Whether it was legal to have grey water systems for residences in Coquitlam, i.e. for watering vegetable gardens (not lawns)
- Percentages of indoor versus outdoor water use
- Lawn maintenance and watering information
- Whether water from the City’s spray parks could be collected and reused for irrigating nearby landscaping
- Whether the City could consider using innovative drainage products such as “Permavoid” to increase the City’s capacity to store rainwater for use during summer months

6. 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.

A Committee member spoke to the extreme heat waves experienced during the summer of 2021 and asked about the following:

- The potential for a Heat Wave Task Force
- Whether the City had held a debrief regarding how its plans had met the climate challenges of the past summer
- What the City might plan to do differently before the summer of 2022.

The Chair noted that there were many discussions had and actions taken by the City.

The Vice Chair spoke to the following:

- The staff Emergency Response Team

- The facilities opened as cooling centres (and the plan to formalize them in a more structured way moving forward)
- The cold weather map utilized for the homeless during the winter months
- The potential for churches to act as refuges for residents during heat waves
- The facilities that had been fitted with special air filtration systems and stayed open longer so that they could offer residents emergency shelter
- The review of City strategies and plans that was underway in order to ensure that residents were offered respite during extreme weather events.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation for the City's efforts and the desire that it consider long term mitigation strategies and initiatives
- That the staff lead could engage her colleagues to highlight the Committee's suggestions and ask about mitigation strategies and initiatives
- Water conservation concerns relative to spray parks and the desire that a cost-benefit analysis be undertaken relative to retrofitting them so that they reuse and/or recirculate, filter, and chlorinate water rather than directing it to storm drains or sanitary sewer systems.

OTHER BUSINESS

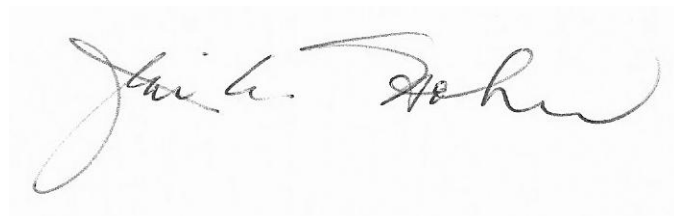
NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, November 23, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

CHAIR



Jeri Hohn
Committee Clerk