

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, November 28, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, November 28, 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
Mark Ashton, Citizen Representative
Grayson Barke, Citizen Representative
Reza Berry, Citizen Representative
Silvia Cojocar, Citizen Representative
Daryoush Mohammad Hassani, Citizen Representative
Edward Lau, Citizen Representative
Bonnie Razzaghi, Citizen Representative

REGRETS: Linton Chokie, Citizen Representative
Mohammad Darabi, Citizen Representative

STAFF: Caresse Selk, Manager Environment
Jenny Tough, Environmental Education and Enforcement Manager
Shannon Hadley, Solid Waste and Special Projects Manager
Erin Gorby, Urban Forestry and Parks Services Manager
Nilou Rajaei, Urban Wildlife Program Coordinator
Sergio Garcia, Utility Planning Engineer
Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023

The Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Single Family Stormwater Management

The Utility Planning Engineer provided a presentation entitled “Stormwater Detention for Low Density Developments” that covered the following topics:

- Overview of the City’s Stormwater Management Project (hereon “the Project”)

- Breakdown of current land use in Coquitlam and population growth projections
- Comparison from 2003 to 2023 regarding development conveyance implications for stormwater drainage
- Concern regarding increased water flow through City's drainage systems
- The Project's three levels of control for stormwater monitoring and management
- Example diagram of onsite engineering standards
- Public engagement opportunities with residents and other committees
- Bylaw enforcement of stormwater management standards

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Recent provincial housing legislation, Bills 44, 46 and 47, including implications for housing density, impact on City's ability to enforce stormwater standards on developers and fund capital projects, and the Committee's desire for a future presentation from staff regarding the legislation's implications
- Feasibility of applying stormwater management policies to areas in Coquitlam with significant erosion, challenging slope grades and limited space
- The Project, including whether it applies to single-family developments, comparison to other municipalities and possibility of development projects being mandated to install detention ponds that prevent excess stormwater flow
- Infiltration component of water and water quality concerns
- Impact of soil condition, construction development and neighbourhood types on stormwater flow
- Feasibility of creating rock pits and drainage challenges in Northeast Coquitlam
- Possibility of implementing more efficient stormwater infiltration features and systems along public roads and walkways
- Difference between on-site and off-site stormwater infiltration systems
- The Committee's desire for bylaw changes that mandate developers to install more efficient stormwater management technology

3. Urban Forest Management Plan

The Urban Forestry and Parks Services Manager provided a presentation entitled "Urban Forest Management Strategy" that covered the following topics:

- Overview of the City's Urban Forest Management Strategy (hereon "the Strategy")
- Health benefits and climate change mitigation effects of urban forests and greenspace
- The Strategy's synergy with other City plans such as the Climate Action Plan (CAP), community and consultant involvement in the development process and staff desire for community feedback
- The necessity of the Strategy and development's impact on Coquitlam's urban forest canopy

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- When the Strategy's first public survey on Let's Talk Coquitlam will be accessible
- Possibility of holding the Strategy's public engagement activities along the High Street near Coquitlam Centre
- Whether data exists regarding lost tree canopy in Coquitlam since 2014
- Greenfield development, or unused land, and its impact on tree canopy
- Concern regarding trees being cut down for new developments in Coquitlam
- Tree replacement plans, including current strategies, future recommendations and whether a tree replacement plan will be a core component of the Strategy
- Whether there will be a public feedback opportunity once the Strategy is drafted
- Communication mediums for community groups and individuals involved in the Strategy's drafting
- City contact person for urban forest management concerns

4. Waste Management and Recycling Update 2023

The Solid Waste and Special Projects Manager provided a presentation entitled "2023 Solid Waste Operations Update" that covered the following topics:

- Overview of updates to the City's 2023 solid waste projects and initiatives
- City garbage, recycling and green waste collection services data, focus, education and enforcement
- Recycling collection in Coquitlam provided by Recycle BC
- Removal of downsizing garbage bin fee to incentivize waste reduction
- Regional and provincial updates regarding waste collection, management and reduction

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Town Centre Recycling Depot, including capacity concerns, types of waste it accepts and whether the organic dumpster is bear-proof
- Possibility of incinerating garbage to produce electricity and health concerns of incinerating garbage
- Which City department is responsible for special solid waste projects and initiatives
- Metro Vancouver's incinerator facility and its method of operation

5. Urban Wildlife Management Update 2023

The Urban Wildlife Coordinator provided a presentation entitled "Urban Wildlife Program Update" that covered the following topics:

- Background of the City's Urban Wildlife Program (hereon "the Program")
- Data breakdown of wildlife bylaw violations from 2017 to 2023
- Crows, rodents and raccoons remaining the top wildlife concerns in Coquitlam
- The Program's 2024 priorities

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Scope of the Program's bylaws and whether they apply to strata properties

- Possible deterrence measures for bears seeking food sources in garbage and green bins
- Concern regarding rodents in Coquitlam, including whether population numbers have increased over the last few years, the Provincial Government's second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide ban and the increase in restaurants' impact on rodent population numbers
- Possibility of working with developers to incorporate wildlife friendly culvert and bridge designs for road crossings over watercourses to facilitate movement of bears within riparian areas

6. 2023 Year-End Review/Identify Potential Items for the Draft 2024 Work Plan

The Manager Environment and Environmental Education and Enforcement Manager provided a presentation entitled "SEAC 2023 Year-end Review & 2024 Work Planning" that covered the following topics:

- Review of 2023 Work Plan items and meetings
- Acknowledgement and appreciation of the Committee's feedback throughout 2023
- 2024 Work Plan drafting process and staff's desire for Committee feedback

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Committee desire for the draft 2024 Work Plan to include presentations on the impact of recent provincial housing legislation, Bills 44, 46 and 47, and impact on the City's environmental planning, the interface between levels of government for salmon habitat restoration and maintenance, Metro Vancouver's tree canopy study and Coquitlam Water Main Project's impact on greenspace and a study involving the composition of Coquitlam's tree nurseries
- Committee desire for the creation of a sub-committee in 2024 to assist with the Urban Forest Management Strategy drafting process
- Possibility of involving the Riverview Horticultural Centre Society in future river and tree canopy studies

7. Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Issues

The Chair invited Committee members to share emerging issues from their communities.

The Committee expressed appreciation for City efforts on environmental concerns and staff's consideration of community feedback.

The Chair expressed appreciation for the Committee's volunteerism and engagement throughout 2023.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE - TBD (2024)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Brent Asmundson, Chair

Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk