

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 25, 2020

A Regular Meeting of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 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 Craig Hodge, Vice Chair
Mark Ashton
Jay Ashworth
Lori Austin
Sara Badiei (arrived at 7:02 p.m.)
Grayson Barke
Cheryl Katnick
Bonnie Razzaghi (arrived at 7:05 p.m.)
Michelle Rosenquist
Ivana Smolcic
Pamela Zevit

REGRETS: Michael Wilson

STAFF: Verne Kucy, Acting Manager Environmental Services
Caresse Selk, Environmental Projects Manager
Julie Kanya, Environmental Programs Specialist
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

1. Welcome and Roundtable of Introductions

The Chair welcomed new and returning members to the meeting and the Committee and staff participated in a roundtable of introductions.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2. Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, November 26, 2019

The Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday, November 26, 2019 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Committee Orientation

The Committee Clerk provided the Committee with an orientation of its structure, mandate, and responsibilities, utilizing an on-screen presentation with slides titled as follows:

- Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Orientation
- Housekeeping Items
- Coquitlam City Council
- 2020 Advisory and Statutory Committees
- Connect with Us
- City's Planning Processes and You
- Committee Mandate
- Role of the Committee
- Role of the Committee Cont'd
- Role of the Chair and Vice Chair
- Role of the Staff Lead(s)
- Role of the Committee Clerk
- Term of Appointment and Code of Conduct
- Conflict of Interest
- Questions?

4. Review and Approve Draft 2020 Work Plan

At the invitation of the Chair, the Acting Manager Environmental Services referenced the draft 2020 Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee (SEAC) Work Plan attached to the agenda package and spoke to each of the proposed items to be addressed during the year.

The Chair invited feedback from the Committee relative to the proposed work plan items.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Whether an item regarding stormwater impact analysis (SIA) percentages relative to upcoming development in Coquitlam could be added to the work plan
- Whether the City has a Stormwater Management Plan and whether the issue could be addressed through the "Climate Adaptation Strategy – Update" work plan item
- Past revisions to the City's bylaws relative to stormwater and the Chair's suggestion that the Committee could be provided with an update regarding their present status

In response to a question from a Committee member, the Chair suggested that staff could connect with him offline to discuss SIA percentages and the City's bylaws.

In response to a question from a Committee member, the Acting Manager Environmental Services confirmed that an update regarding greenhouse gas emissions and carbon offsets could be provided as part of the "Strategic Environmental Sustainability Plan – Update" work plan item.

The Committee approved the 2020 SEAC Work Plan and a copy is attached to these minutes.

The Committee recommended:

**COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve the 2020 Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Work Plan.

5. Waste Management and Recycling – Update

The Acting Manager Environmental Services provided an update regarding Waste Management and Recycling initiatives in the City, utilizing an on-screen presentation with slides titled as follows:

- Waste Management and Recycling Update – SEAC Meeting – February 25, 2020
- Outline
- Collection Program
- Curbside Organics Collection – Education and Enforcement Program
- City-wide Audit
- Wildlife Attractant
- City-wide Audit Results
- Waste Composition Study
- Recycling Highlights
- City-wide Garage Sale and Giveaway
- City of Coquitlam - Fall City-wide Weekend Garage Sale & Giveaway
- Recycling Depots
- Town Centre Recycling Depot – Before
- Town Centre Recycling Depot – After
- Recycling Depots
- Coquitlam Transfer Station Replacement Project
- Facility Features
- Recycling Services
- Single-Use Item Reduction Strategies
- Questions

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Whether residents could be sent a flyer to remind them of what can and cannot be deposited within various recycling receptacles
- The details and benefits of the City's Waste Wizard app
- Information regarding the system utilized by RecycleBC that allows drivers to identify recycling cart(s) contaminated with non-recyclable items
- The local rules surrounding biodegradable and non-biodegradable packaging, and the types of biodegradable bags currently accepted in other jurisdictions
- The understanding that there is a difference between “compostable” and “biodegradable”

- The positive behavioral effects resulting from the City's redesigned curbside garbage violation sticker and the past Committee's input to the redesign
- The City's enforcement efforts and the belief that the violation sticker program will need to remain in place in order for bylaw compliance to remain high
- Whether enforcement statistics collected by the City could be the basis for an educational flyer campaign regarding residential recycling compliance
- Multi-family recyclables and compostables and the potential for cascading punitive actions from operators to building owners to residents
- The fines that can be utilized at the recycling depot "tipping floor" and Metro Vancouver's efforts to apply licensing requirements to haulers
- Flexible packaging trends and the desire that legislation to address flexible packaging be put in place by the Province
- That the end-use of packaging products must be built into their design from inception and the work of the National Zero Waste Council relative to that issue
- Whether the City could consider hosting a "repair café"
- Whether Coquitlam has a refillery shop and positive feedback regarding a refillery currently operating in the City of Vancouver
- Whether there is any profit generated from recycling
- Concern regarding the amount of cardboard packaging produced by online shopping companies
- Whether the City sells its compost
- Whether the new Coquitlam Transfer Station generates revenues
- Beliefs regarding the drivers of change within the recycling industry and the ongoing evolution of the industry
- Whether local governments have the power to ban Styrofoam packaging within their jurisdictions

The Chair thanked the Acting Manager Environmental Services for his presentation.

6. 2020 Environmental Volunteers Celebration and Awards – Establish Event Planning Sub-committee

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

- Environmental Achievement Awards
- Background
- Environmental Awards
- Participation
- 2018 Environmental Awards
- 2019 Environmental Volunteer Celebration
- 2019 Environmental Volunteer Celebration – Activity Stations
- 2020 Environmental Achievement Awards – Volunteer
- 2020 Environmental Achievement Awards – Timeline
- Discussion

The Environmental Projects Manager outlined two options for potential Committee

volunteers and asked members for feedback regarding a new “Green Sprouts” awards category for children.

The following Committee members volunteered to participate on the Sub-committee: Mark Ashton, Grayson Barke, and Michael Wilson (in absentia). Sara Badiei also volunteered, should there be a need for additional assistance.

The following Committee members volunteered to assist on the day of the event: Cheryl Katnick, Lori Austin, and Sara Badiei.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The proposed timing of the two Sub-committee meetings (late March and early May)
- That the Awards would take place at Dogwood Pavilion on June 13, 2020
- Suggestions that nominations could be increased through staff speaking at local schools and/or collaborating with schools to bring about curriculum “add-ins”
- That the City utilize Snapchat to test award categories
- A past Committee Recommendation that resulted in the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce adding an “Environmental Steward of the Year” category to its Business Excellence Awards
- The suggestion that posters with QR codes could be provided at Coquitlam Centre Mall, recycling and waste stations, and/or bus stops and SkyTrain stations to drive views and encourage nominations
- Whether the Waste Wizard app, social media channels, and videos could be utilized to promote nominations and submissions

The Committee expressed support for the new Green Sprouts awards category.

The Environmental Projects Manager noted that any further ideas for increasing 2020 nominations would be welcomed by staff.

The Chair noted that Committee members could volunteer at a later date via email to the Committee Clerk, should they so desire.

7. 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 and the following information was shared:

- The potential impacts of climate change relative to increasing residential insurance rates and what the City’s approach, if any, would be relative to the issue
- The City’s regular risk management assessments
- The belief that insurance rate increases relative to climate change had been exaggerated by the press and the understanding that many insurance policies involved only a small levy for fire and flood insurance
- Concerns regarding global hazardous waste issues arising from battling COVID-19 (Coronavirus), information regarding where residential garbage within the lower

mainland is collected, and the understanding that medical waste is specially dealt with

- That Burke Mountain Naturalists and the City would hold a weed pull event in mid-March and that Committee members and the public were welcome to participate
- That the Cities of Surrey and Richmond would compete in a “City Nature Challenge” event for three days in April to encourage residents to observe and record all occurrences of plants and animals within their jurisdictions
- That the City of Surrey would shortly launch the “iNaturalist” app to measure biodiversity indicators within the City
- Information regarding work being completed by the City in the creek channels proximal to United Boulevard in order to reduce flooding along Schoolhouse and clean the channels next to Mackin Park and IKEA

In response to a question from a Committee member, the Environmental Projects Manager shared that the City’s Urban Forestry Manager position would be filled by Erin Gorby on an acting basis for the next year.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, April 28, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

CHAIR

Jeri Hohn
Committee Clerk