

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7:03 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, 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 (arrived at 7:31 p.m.)
Silvia Cojocar, Citizen Representative
Mohammad Darabi, Citizen Representative
Daryoush Mohammad Hassani, Citizen Representative
Kelly Koome, Citizen Representative
Edward Lau, Citizen Representative

REGRETS: Mark Ashton, Citizen Representative
Richard Kenny, Citizen Representative
Bonnie Razzaghi, Citizen Representative

STAFF: Caresse Selk, Manager Environment
Jenny Tough, Environmental Education & Enforcement Manager
Laura Sampliner, Environmental Sustainability Manager
Pádraig Harrington, Utility Planning Manager
Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023

The Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. City Creeks Water Quality Monitoring, Development Impacts and City Projects

The Utility Planning Manager provided the Committee with an on-screen presentation entitled “Monitoring Results and Impacts of Development – Creek Water Quality” that covered the following topics:

- Provincial and municipal legislation concerning creek and watershed management
- Community involvement in Coquitlam creek and watershed management
- City departments responsible for creek and watershed management
- Metro Vancouver's Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) and its primary components
- Creek and watershed management challenges in urban environments
- The impact of climate change on creek and watershed management modelling data
- Details of Coquitlam's LWMP baseline and the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Framework (MAMF) Program
- Water quality results for North Coquitlam, South Coquitlam and the Coquitlam River
- The City's spill reporting, tracking and response systems and Bylaw Officers' role in reporting spills
- Measured factors included in real-time watershed monitoring
- Real-time monitoring at higher risk sites such as construction sites
- Details of the City's In-Stream Works Program
- Key design criteria for developments and drainage systems
- Key infrastructure and system enhancements including diversion sewers, water quality ponds, boulevard infiltration trenches, rain gardens and oil interceptors/filtration units

Linton Chokie arrived to the meeting at this time (7:31 p.m.).

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- How often the City's watershed management plans are updated
- Construction dewatering including its use at Coquitlam construction sites and associated challenges
- Regulations around erosion and sedimentation controls for single family homes and larger buildings
- The City's on-site stormflow detention policies for developments in comparison to other municipalities
- Infiltration trenches in boulevards and data on their performance
- The possibility of eventually installing real-time watershed monitoring technology in every Coquitlam creek and river and associated costs
- The rationale for placing real-time monitoring technology at present locations in Coquitlam such as Stoney Creek
- The possibility of acquiring a mobile real-time monitoring unit that can be transferred to other sites
- Continued utilization of consultant staff for real-time monitoring technology and data interpretation
- New requirement for construction projects to have real-time monitoring technology for wastewater runoff and whether this regulation is retroactive
- Road runoff data and possible methods to combat this issue
- Adoption of electric vehicles and their positive impact on road runoff
- The desire to lobby higher levels of government to enact stricter regulations on tire companies to produce cleaner vehicle tires
- The Coquitlam River's recovery as a successful example of community and City efforts to preserve watersheds

3. Climate Action Plan – Scope, Process and Timeline

The Manager Environment and the Environmental Sustainability Manager provided the Committee with an on-screen presentation entitled “Climate Action Plan Scope and Process Update” that covered the following topics:

- Climate terminology, mitigation, low carbon resilience and climate adaptation
- Local climate change impacts and examples
- The necessity for Coquitlam to have a climate action plan
- Timeline of Coquitlam’s climate action journey in the last two decades
- BC Climate Action Charter (2007)
- The connection and synergies between existing City environmental plans
- Related City corporate plans and policies such as the Strategic Transportation Plan
- Scope of the City’s Climate Action Plan and its approach, phases, themes and key activities
- Data breakdown of Coquitlam’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by sector and fuel type
- Opportunities for Coquitlam to reduce GHG emissions
- Ongoing engagement with kwikwəłəm First Nation regarding climate policy
- The Committee’s engagement and input opportunities
- Survey data from the Environmental Sustainability Plan consultation phase in 2019

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The feasibility of solar energy use within Coquitlam
- Monitoring of clean energy technology developments
- Sustainable transportation options such as car and bike sharing
- The City’s E-mobility Strategy and E-Scooter Pilot Program
- The feasibility of implementing hydrogen fuel cell technology in Coquitlam
- Limited data access for other transportation options, such as SkyTrain, and their electricity consumption
- City bylaws concerning plastic bags and efforts to reduce their use
- Provincial legislation around single-use plastics
- The desire for heat-management solutions such as heat pumps/air conditioning units in older buildings and planting trees in residents’ yards
- The possibility of embarking on extreme heat studies for local parks
- The desire to reduce natural gas use in new buildings
- The BC Energy Step Code and its climate policy regulations for new buildings
- The necessity of a reasoned approach to climate policy targets and implementation timelines
- Appreciation for kwikwəłəm First Nation being included in consultations for the City’s climate plans
- Passive House buildings

4. Environmental Volunteer Celebration Public Event

The Environmental Education & Enforcement Manager led a brief discussion that covered the following topics:

- The Environmental Volunteer Celebration alternating each year with the Environmental Achievement Awards
- Both events traditionally being invite-only
- The desire by past committee members to open the Environmental Volunteer Celebration to the public
- The possibility to open future Environmental Volunteer Celebrations to the public beginning in 2025
- The Committee unanimously agreed to delay voting on the motion that would open future Environmental Volunteer Celebrations to the public to a future meeting where all Sub-Committee members are present.

5. **Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Issues**

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

The following issues and concerns were shared:

- Concern about rat and mice populations increasing due to ongoing construction projects
- Pest control management on private properties and developments
- Improper storage of garbage and waste as a contributing factor to the increase in mice and rat populations
- Desire to ascertain data on areas where rat and mice populations are increasing

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, July 25, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Brent Asmundson, Chair

Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk