

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at 7:00 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 (arrived at 7:01 p.m.)
Grayson Barke, Citizen Representative
Reza Berry, Citizen Representative
Linton Chokie, Citizen Representative
Silvia Cojocar, Citizen Representative
Mohammad Darabi, Citizen Representative
Daryoush Mohammad Hassani, Citizen Representative
Edward Lau, Citizen Representative
Bonnie Razzaghi, Citizen Representative

REGRETS: Kelly Koome, Citizen Representative

STAFF: Graham Stuart, Director Corporate Planning
Caresse Selk, Manager Environment
Jenny Tough, Environmental Education and Enforcement Manager
Thomas Thivener, Transportation Planning Manager
Jude Pillainayagam, Utility Asset Manager
Mark Thompson, Project Manager – Corporate Planning
Glen Chua, Transportation Planning Specialist
Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023

The Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 were approved.

Councillor Robert Mazzarolo, Vice Chair, arrived to the meeting at this time (7:01 p.m.).

NEW BUSINESS

2. Strategic Transportation Plan & E-Mobility Demonstration

The Transportation Planning Manager and Transportation Planning Specialist provided an on-screen presentation entitled “Strategic Transportation Plan Proposed Vision, Goals & Themes” that covered the following topics:

- Overview of the Strategic Transportation Plan (STP) including its timeline, proposed vision, goals and key objectives
- Key insights from STP public engagement and results breakdown from the Coquitlam Household Travel Survey (2022) (hereon “the Survey”) conducted by Malatest & Associates on behalf of the City
- Interactive data from the Survey being available on the City’s Let’s Talk Coquitlam website
- Coquitlam population growth and expectations of increased concentration near rapid transit areas such as City Centre, Lougheed and Burquitlam
- The STP’s synergy with other City and Provincial corporate plans
- The desire to capitalize on “mobility hubs” or parking stations with various transportation and micromobility options
- Overview of the City’s E-Mobility Strategy and E-Scooter Pilot Project (hereon “the Project”)
- Public demand for safer transportation infrastructure and multimodal options
- Examples of separated infrastructure in Coquitlam and other municipalities
- The National Association of City Transportation Officials’ micromobility infrastructure recommendations, including wider protected lanes for wider devices and passing, safe and maneuverable intersections and driveways, smooth surfaces for devices with small wheels, and an easily identifiable network that people would want to use
- The draft Micromobility and Greenway Network updates, vision, principles and 2050 goals
- Taking advantage of redevelopment projects to create better transportation infrastructure

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Whether the Project’s devices work outside City boundaries, the Project’s age restrictions and a form for residents to provide feedback on the Project
- Support for “mobility hubs”
- The desire for smoother road surfaces more comfortable for e-scooter use
- Bike network gap on Lougheed Highway between Highway 1 and Highway 27
- Whether data exists to demonstrate the Project’s impact on reducing traffic congestion and automobile usage
- Potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Survey’s results and accuracy
- Possibility of the City offering free trial days for micromobility devices and information sessions on how to use them
- The importance of clustering community amenities and services rather than having them spread over vast areas
- Safety concerns and regulations around micromobility devices

- Whether there is synergy between the City's departments regarding communicating micromobility infrastructure expectations to developers and whether the City can condition bike lanes through rezoning development applications
- Pushback from landowners over micromobility infrastructure
- The desire to work with immigrant settlement organizations to assist newcomers to Canada in becoming comfortable with using e-bikes and e-scooters
- Challenges with the City of New Westminster in relation to the Brunette Interchange
- The possibility that seated e-scooters will eventually become legal

3. Creek Hazard Assessment

The Utility Asset Manager provided an on-screen presentation entitled "City of Coquitlam Creek Hazard Assessment & Mitigation" that covered the following topics:

- Map of Coquitlam Creeks
- Creek assessment methodology, timeline and challenges
- The City's Climate Adaptation Strategic Plan (2020), Environmental Sustainability Plan (2022) and In-stream Works Program
- Existing City programs and initiatives regarding creek management, including the Creek Hazard Assessment and Mitigation Program
- Top 15 at-risk creeks in Coquitlam
- Timeline for developing the Field Inspection and Mitigation Master Plan
- Future considerations and next steps

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Whether data exists on the number of drainage mains that flow into Coquitlam creeks and on the health of creeks across time
- The logistics of creek bed modification and Provincial legislation involving mitigation strategies
- The importance of planning for future extreme rainfall events
- Frequency of creek monitoring and assessment and factors that are considered
- Mitigation strategies that slow water drainage and flow prior to reaching creeks
- Positive impact of rain gardens and other green infrastructure on creek flows and drainage

4. Environmental Volunteer Celebration Public Event

The Environmental Education and Enforcement Manager led a brief discussion on the following topics:

- 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 endorsed the recommendation for staff to make the second half of the Environmental Volunteer Celebration, beginning in 2025, open to the public.

5. 2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan Renewal: Opportunity for Input

The Director Corporate Planning and Project Manager – Corporate Planning provided an on-screen presentation entitled “2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan Renewal” that covered the following topics:

- Overview of the City’s Strategic Plan (hereon “the Plan”)
- Key objectives, timeline and engagement opportunities for the Plan’s renewal process
- Synergy between the Plan and other City corporate plans
- The Plan’s core components and components that will be updated in 2024 and 2028
- Key themes identified by the annual Business Plan and online Ipsos Community Satisfaction Survey
- How the Committee’s feedback will be reported to Council and used to develop actionable items

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- In regards to the *Safe and Complete Neighbourhoods* theme, including climate adaptation measures, mixed-use zoning bylaws for residential and commercial space, reducing food deserts/lack of accessible and healthy food, public safety initiatives to combat gangs and gun violence, multimodal transportation options, more access to recreation programming, more lighting at night, cultural and recreational options to promote wellbeing, and increasing childcare spaces
- In regards to the *Local Economy and Local Jobs* theme, including more office space, presentation and event centres, co-working spaces, more hotels and accommodations to support commercial growth, innovative and high-technology infrastructure, facilities for start-ups, a Coquitlam baseball stadium, incentives to support small business, and economic branding
- In regards to the *Healthy Community and Active Citizens* theme, including climate resilient infrastructure and facilities, advocating for more healthcare centres, promoting natural outdoor amenities, bear-proof garbage bins along park trails, diversity of park amenities, additional pickleball courts, more covered community areas for different weather conditions, creating different community activity groups, and increasing transportation options to community centres
- In regards to the *Sustainable Services, Environment and Infrastructure* theme, including more roof-gardens, smart road surfaces and heat mitigation efforts, different parking options, maintenance and improvement of tree canopy, promoting electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure and micromobility options, promoting information and education about City green initiatives, reducing light and noise pollution, natural asset valuation, banning single-use plastics, cultivating public stewardship of environment, increasing community partnerships with non-profits, and fostering a transit-oriented community
- In regards to the *Excellence in City Governance* theme, including financial resource management, sustainable budgeting, offering community engagement and awareness opportunities, engaging with faith-based communities to disseminate information on City programs and services, providing different means to communicate feedback such as service kiosks, transparent and efficient public service, departmental reviews, and strong partnerships with private sector

6. Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Issues

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

The following information was shared:

- Coquitlam Public Library's Eco-Cinema Series with two screenings on August 9 and September 14, 2023
- Discussions around wildfire emergency preparedness in Coquitlam and wildfire preparedness grants
- The City's Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan
- Metro Vancouver Watershed Tours
- Updates on NAV Canada's proposed airline route changes in the proximity of Vancouver International Airport (YVR)

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, September 26, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Brent Asmundson, Chair

Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk