

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD ROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
WEDNESDAY, 2020-MAR-11, AT 5:00 P.M.

Present: Councillor T. Brown, Chair
Councillor B. Geselbracht
D. Chen
H. DesRoches
J. Lesemann
L. McCunn

Absent: E. Boulanger
L. Frey
W. Wells

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer
R. J. Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
R. Lawrance, Environmental Planner
B. Zurek, Planner (arrived 5:05 p.m.)
S. Snelgrove, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Environment Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Environment Committee held in the HR Training Room, City Hall, 455 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2020-JAN-22 at 5:00 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Zurek entered the Boardroom at 5:05 p.m.

4. DELEGATIONS:

- (a) Delegation from Phil Kent and Chantelle Carden, Cowichan Energy Alternatives, regarding options to create a local, low carbon economy:

- Cowichan Energy Alternatives produces and sells biodiesel fuel
- Vancouver Island based non-profit
- Goal is to create a low carbon economy
- Community Carbon Market Place is an online platform to buy and sell community carbon credits to offset carbon footprint locally
- Purpose is to empower people to adopt sustainable practices that support resilient communities and a healthy planet
- Works with private business to see what they can do to reduce green house gas emissions
- Worked with 10 local governments to create low carbon communities
- Biodiesel as an option for green house gas reduction

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Prepay pump station opened in 2008
- Pay at the pump station opened in 2018
- Looking into implementing a charging station
- Communitycarbonmarketplace.org is the website to learn more information

5. REPORTS:

(a) 2020 Environment Committee Workplan

Introduced by Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner.

Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner, spoke regarding:

- Climate resiliency strategy added to workplan and work is being prepared to move it forward to Council
- There is an opportunity to discuss public engagement and raise awareness
- Staff will return with policy alternatives for the Energy Step Code later in the year
- There may be programs and opportunities to provide top-ups to provincial rebates regarding residential building retrofit initiatives
- The Committee will be kept up to date regarding the strategic planning review and Official Community Plan (OCP) update
- The Committee can provide input on the process and on the review once it begins

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Community Sustainability Action Plan and working with the consultant to integrate the Climate Action Plan into the OCP update
- There may be opportunities or issues Staff didn't foresee which may result in making adjustments to the targets
- Public consultation and input is needed regarding how the climate action plan is integrated
- Advantage of having climate action target is that it will be a fundamental piece of the OCP

- Resiliency strategy already underway and almost complete
- OCP element is more about policy framework for community
- Plans constructed at different times and challenges with weaving them into a cohesive narrative
- Consultant will have a defined scope of work
- All plans being reviewed cohesively will make them link together to be clear, traceable and geared toward outcomes
- Staff are currently in the last steps of finalizing the consultant team
- Community engagement strategy is one of the first deliverables of the consultant team
- There will be opportunities at the early stage to share information and provide input
- Outcome of data analysis depends on what data is received and how it is interpreted
- One of the key pillars for the climate plan is that decisions will be informed by data and climate data will be used to set policies and methodologies to assess emissions
- Generate self assessment data about the process to see how the plan is working
- Evidence based decisions and political choices to be made
- Setting up the data gathering process so that the results can be compared 10-15 years from now
- Craft engagement in a way to communicate and receive key information from the public
- Workplan needs to be sent to Council for endorsement
- Potentially call a meeting in the next month for the consultants speak about how they would engage the public on climate issues and have an opportunity for the committee to provide comments on survey design for the environmental part of OCP process
- Committee can provide input on how to engage the public regarding the Climate Resiliency Strategy

It was moved and seconded that the Environment Committee recommend that Council endorse the draft 2020 Environment Committee Workplan. The motion carried unanimously.

(b) City of Nanaimo Environmental Framework

Introduced by Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner.

Presentation:

1. Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner, advised:
 - Four core principles developed through staff discussion
 - Climate action
 - Protection and restoration of natural spaces
 - Zero waste and energy management
 - Community health
 - All principles are related to community resiliency

- The City is becoming a community leader through energy facility upgrades and electric vehicle fleets
- Climate action plans and strategies include targets and initiatives to meet targets
- Potentially create a “green page” on the City’s website to have information available online with more detail for those interested to review
- Four core principles link to key policies and strategies

Committee and Staff discussion took place regarding:

- Developing an all encompassing statement for the City’s climate action plan and a framework to encapsulate all the principles (vision statement)
- Present weighted items so documents show which are being worked or have more value
- Committee to review categorization and identify gaps in environmental efforts
- Need to have a series of statements that frame actions in the report
- Have conversation with consultants regarding the vision
- Have discussion at some point regarding how plans are integrated, stand alone or if topics are infused in plans
- Potentially switch columns to “target” then “strategy” then “initiative”
- Building out targets and initiatives is a process of integration as plans have already been developed
- Important to go through plans to see targets and devise statement of objectives which reflects overarching framework
- Infographic layout would be beneficial for the public
- Targets listed are in existing documents and a new series of targets will be added as the OCP process is worked through
- Potentially have a state of the environment presentation to Council which would be based on a similar format to the state of economy presentation
- Food security is not included in the document as the City doesn’t have an existing plan but the topic may fit under community health
- Framework is evolving and may stretch out over more than three months
- Metrics will be reviewed and discussed as the City goes through the OCP process
- Keep document in order to have a baseline framework as a historical record and build on it to show the evolution of the document
- Opportunity to have individual statement around what each plan is as it may not be obvious to the public
- Linking Council’s strategic plan to protect biological diversity and determining how that can be measured
- Area units used to calculate tree canopy cover over the boundaries of the City of Nanaimo
- City of Nanaimo’s target’s in compliance with Provincial policy
- Creating policy based on province wide conditions
- Penalties if targets are not achieved
- Consideration if targets are practical and if they can be achieved

6. QUESTION PERIOD:

- Mr. Robert Fuller, re: Delegation time limits and allotting extra time for delegations to finish presenting.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 6:37 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER