

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD ROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
WEDNESDAY, 2021-JAN-27, AT 5:01 P.M.

Present: Councillor T. Brown (Chair, joined electronically)
Councillor B. Geselbracht
E. Boulanger, At Large Member (joined electronically)
D. Chen, At Large Member (joined electronically)
H. DesRoches, At Large Member (joined electronically 5:07 p.m.)
L. Frey, At Large Member (joined electronically)
J. Lesemann, At Large Member (joined electronically)
L. McCunn, At Large Member (joined electronically)
W. Wells, At Large Member (joined electronically)

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works (joined electronically)
J. Holm, Director, Development Approvals
L. Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning (joined electronically)
K. Kronstal, Social Planner
K. Gellein, Zero Waste Coordinator (joined electronically)
R. Lawrence, Environmental Planner
S. Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer
J. Vanderhoef, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Environment Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Sky Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer, noted that two committee members had forwarded documents to be distributed to the committee.

It was moved and seconded that the following documents be circulated to Environment Committee Members following the 2021-JAN-27 Environment Committee Meeting:

- “Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Climate Action Goals – Working Draft”
- “Implementing Food Security Indicators”

The motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Geselbracht noted that the document titled “Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Climate Action Goals – Working Draft” was a visioning document prepared in coordination with multiple communities across Vancouver Island and the version provided is still a draft.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2020-NOV-04 at 5:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

H. DesRoches joined the meeting electronically at 5:07 p.m.

5. REPORTS:

(a) 2021 Environment Committee Work plan

Introduced by Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner.

- Reviewed proposed topics for the 2021 Environment Committee Work plan:
 - REIMAGINE NANAIMO: Doughnut Economic Environmental Indicators, Phase 2 Environmental Policy Options, Climate Action Plan Review and Update
 - Solid Waste Education
 - Step Code Acceleration Options Review
 - Home Energy Retrofit Program
 - Comprehensive Soils Bylaw

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Promoting the regeneration (or expansion) of top soil in the region
- Comprehensive Soils Bylaw addressing erosion issues and potentially addressing erosion during the development permit process
- Committee's main focus being on the REIMAGINE NANAIMO process and developing the Doughnut economic framework and the Climate Action Plan to set bases
- Receiving the presentation regarding environmental indicators prior to making a motion and the potential to amend the work plan in the future
- Amendments to the work plan can be recommended to Council in the future if needed

It was moved and seconded that the Environment Committee recommend that Council endorse the 2021 Environment Committee Work Plan as outlined in the report titled "2021 Environment Committee Work Plan", dated 2021-JAN-27. The motion carried unanimously.

(b) City Portrait Environmental Indicators

Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner, introduced and suggested the presentation and review of the Staff report be done in conjunction to better facilitate discussion.

Presentation:

1. Karin Kronstal, Social Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Noted Council's direction provided during the 2020-DEC-14 Special Council Meeting regarding adoption of the Doughnut Economic Model
- The goal of the Doughnut Economy is that everybody has enough and the environment is not overtaxed
- Provided examples of sustainable development goals and other Doughnut diagrams showing the life supporting systems of the planet (including limits of the planet)
- "City Portrait" reviews the local-social and ecological indicators and contrasts those to the global impacts resulting from economic choices of the community - how can the people thrive locally while ensuring global health
- Provided example of Amsterdam's indicators/topics
- Listed current City plans that relate to developing the City Portrait:
 - Regional Growth Strategy Annual Update
 - Affordable Housing Strategy
 - Health and Housing Action Plan
 - Economic Development Strategy
 - GIS Mapping of Land Use/Parks
 - Forest Canopy Cover
 - Water Quality Indicators
 - Community Greenhouse Gas Emission Levels

Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner, spoke regarding the local indicators listed in the Staff report and noted items have been categorized under the headings of Air, Water or Land. He noted that some of the indicators listed have a local or regional lens and some are provincial. He suggested considering items that the City can control and manage directly (under the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter*) and items that might have an impact locally (for example the City's Purchasing Policy).

Karin Kronstal, Social Planner, continued her presentation. Highlights included:

- Goals and indicators identified by the Regional District of Nanaimo and the Capital Regional District
- Noted the Nanaimo Health and Housing Action Plan may include potential indicators
- Cautioned against selecting too many indicators
- Provided a diagram (The Local-Social Decision Tree) outlining the methodology for creating a City Portrait
- Next Steps:

- Analysis of Phase 1 engagement for community priorities – summary of engagement is scheduled to go forward to the Governance and Priorities Committee 2021-FEB-08
- Review of relevant existing plans and documents for key indicators
- Consultation with key Staff on potential innovative approaches
- Using the tools developed by Doughnut Economics Action Lab (DEAL) to develop a unique Nanaimo portrait

Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner, spoke regarding the Staff report. Highlights included:

- Indicators suggested in the report being a starting point
- Some indicators could focus on performance of the City (levels of service, permits) while others could focus on a threshold like water quality
- Anticipate adjustments to indicators during the REIMAGINE NANAIMO process

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Concern regarding potential bias in responses collected during REIMAGINE NANAIMO process
- Committee and community members identifying indicators and including multiple areas of expertise to better coordinate initiatives
- Staff are working interdepartmentally to identify potential lenses/indicators and there will be many other opportunities for discussion

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, spoke regarding cohesiveness and potentially including other committees like the Economic Development Task Force and Health and Housing Task Force in the discussion.

Committee discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Ensuring the correct indicators are selected from the start with the intent of being integrated
- Importance of understanding the data provided by indicators and how to apply that information
- Considering the impacts of COVID-19 on density, office space, transportation needs, and the real estate market
- Accepting that the real costs of accomplishing/implementing large goals/changes will be uncomfortable and cannot be limited by financial budgets or capacity
- Setting the largest goals first and setting milestone goals as a way to progress to that goal
- Using environmental limits to establish sections of Nanaimo's City Portrait and identifying indicators that are unique to Nanaimo
- Global impacts versus local impacts

- Staff and committees identifying goals and indicators and providing those to the community for feedback

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, spoke regarding phase 2 (REIMAGINE NANAIMO) being focused on developing and evaluating scenarios which were identified based on feedback gathered during phase 1. Engagement in phase 2 would be related to the scenarios and not the indicators themselves. She cautioned against setting indicators/scenarios too firmly as there may be a need to reassess items later in the process. She spoke regarding the potential to host larger online sessions and include multiple committees/task forces.

Committee discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Process for selecting indicators/identifying goals and examples/methods used by other municipalities
- Need to identify where data is collected
- Ensuring data is available for tracking
- Tracking indicators and providing annual reports to Council regarding progress and potential adjustments
- Previous City report cards used to review and adjust City policies
- Currently reports are collected at random and the doughnut economics model might be an opportunity to make this more cohesive
- Ensuring there is a way to report out so the community understands and can respond
- Providing a real time dashboard for measuring indicators
- Painting an honest story and not only good news stories
- Making targets relatable/personal to individuals
- Installation in Vienna train station used to relate to people through art regarding expansion of deserts
- Committee members researching potential framework, indicators and goals for next meeting
- Thinking about global target indicators, local indicators and Vancouver Island region targets
- Unlikely to see global indicators move substantially, more impact on local indicators
- Staff potentially scheduling an online half-day charrette with the committee to gain feedback on indicators
- Ensuring information and measurements are useful, important, and meaningful
- Aiming for approximately 12 meaningful indicators
- Inviting other committees/task forces to join the charrette or inviting representatives of other committees/task forces to join
- Using “breakout groups” feature through Zoom to divide discussion
- Committees/Task Forces discussing and selecting their indicators prior to the charrette

It was moved and seconded that the Environment Committee recommend that Council direct Staff to schedule a charrette to help refine indicators for use in developing the City Portrait for Nanaimo as part of the REIMAGINE NANAIMO process. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Committee members researching indicators within their jurisdiction/organization to provide examples for a future discussion and to provide ideas and brainstorm with Staff
- Timeline for submitting potential indicators

6. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 6:47 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER