

DATE OF MEETING JULY 15, 2019

AUTHORED BY ROB LAWRENCE, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER

SUBJECT TERMS OF REFERENCE: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide the Committee of the Whole with a draft Terms of Reference for the proposed Environment Committee.

Recommendation

The Committee of the Whole recommend that Council adopt the Terms of Reference for the Environment Committee.

BACKGROUND

On 2016-JUL-11, the Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability was suspended and its members reassigned to other committees to continue to provide input from an environmental perspective.

At the Governance and Priorities Committee meeting on 2019-APR-29, Council directed Staff to strike an environmental committee with the terms of reference to be determined after the 2019-MAY-13 Governance and Priorities Committee meeting.

On 2019-APR-29, Council officially declared a climate emergency for the purpose of identifying and deepening our commitment to protecting our economy, our ecosystems, and our community from global warming.

DISCUSSION

With the recent climate emergency declaration and Council direction to strike a new Environment Committee, Staff see an opportunity to work with a range of community and professional expertise on climate change by having the new Environment Committee play a focussed role on providing expertise and input into the City's climate action work.

In addition, there are a range of environmental issues and topics within the mandate of local government, from active transportation, to environmental education and awareness, to urban forestry that can benefit from community input and expertise that would help Staff and ultimately provide Council with a community perspective on key environmental issues or questions.

Therefore, the purpose of the Environment Committee should be to offer Council innovative ideas and advice on climate change, green technology, energy efficiency, urban forestry, and other topics associated with environmental sustainability in the City of Nanaimo.

In order to provide technical support to the committee, an inter-agency working group made up of City Staff and external environmental professionals will be available to attend committee meetings, provide information and answer questions, as needed.

OPTIONS

- Option 1– The Committee of the Whole recommend that Council adopt the Terms of Reference for the Environment Committee.
 - Adoption of the Terms of Reference for the Environment Committee will allow establishment of the committee, and will help support community engagement on the environment.
 - Adoption of the Terms of Reference for the Environment Committee will allow establishment of the committee and help the City meet its strategic priority to take leadership and focus on our environmental impact and climate change contributions in our decision making.
 - Denying the adoption of the Terms of Reference for the Environment Committee would result in a delay on the establishment of the committee while the terms of reference are revised.
 - Denying the adoption of the Terms of Reference for the Environment Committee would result in a delay on the establishment of the committee and would cause delay in implementing Council's strategic priority to take leadership and focus on our environmental impact and climate change contributions in our decision making.
- Option 2 – That Council provide alternative direction with regard to the Environment Committee.

SUMMARY POINTS

- On 2016-JUL-11, the Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability was suspended and its members reassigned to other committee to continue to provide input from an environmental perspective.
- At the Governance and Priorities Committee meeting on 2019-APR-29, the Governance and Priorities Committee directed Staff to strike a new Environment Committee with the terms of reference to be determined after the 2019-MAY-13 Governance and Priorities Committee meeting
- There are a range of issues and topics within the control of local government, from active transportation, to environmental education and awareness, to urban forestry that can benefit from community input and expertise that would ultimately provide Council with community perspective on key environmental issues or questions.

ATTACHMENT

ATTACHMENT A: Draft Terms of Reference

Submitted by:

Dean Mousseau
Manager, Engineering & Environment

Concurrence by:

Jeremy Holm
Director of Development Approvals

Dale Lindsay
General Manager of Development Services