

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD ROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
WEDNESDAY, 2019-NOV-20, AT 5:00 P.M.

Present: Councillor T. Brown, Chair
D. Chen
H. DesRoches
L. Frey
J. Lesemann
L. McCunn
W. Wells

Absent: Councillor B. Geselbracht
E. Boulanger

Staff: D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
R. Lawrence, Environmental Planner
J. Holm, Director, Development Approvals
S. Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer
K. Gerard, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Environment Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:00 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 Environment Committee Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Tuesday, 2019-OCT-29 at 5:00 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

4. REPORTS:

(a) 2020 Environment Committee Key Date Calendar

Introduced by Sky Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer, Legislative Services.

It was moved and seconded that the Environment Committee recommend that Council adopt the 2020 Environment Committee Key Date Calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

(b) Overview of Climate Action and Environmental Management in the City of Nanaimo

Introduced by Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services.

Presentation:

1. Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner, provided a presentation regarding the following:
 - Implementation of climate emergency declaration plan is one piece which lead into discussion to terms of reference, where does the Committee want go and initiatives in the community that the city may be missing
 - Legislative framework:
 - Federal: *Fisheries Act, Species at Risk Act*
 - Provincial: *Wildlife Act, Riparian Areas Regulation Act, Water Sustainability Act and Contaminated Site Regulation*
 - Regional District of Nanaimo: Regional Growth Strategy, OCP, Water Conservation Strategy, Parks Master Plan, Bylaw and Council Policy
 - City of Nanaimo plans/strategies, bylaws and Council policies
 - Riparian areas protection required under *Riparian Area Protection Act* to protect fish and habitat
 - Environmentally sensitive areas: non-fish bearing watercourses and wetlands, terrestrial herbaceous, older forest and critical habitat protection
 - Urban Forestry – benefits of a well-functioning urban forest are environmental, social and economic
 - 2010 Urban Forestry Management Strategy developed to improve forest, vegetation and ecosystem, identified need for a new tree bylaw, established goal of increasing tree canopy coverage by 4% over 10 years
 - “Management and Protection of Trees Bylaw 2013 No. 7126” allows home owner to remove up to four non “protected” trees in a year without a permit, other program and projects regarding tree planning are also underway
 - Provided an overview of policies and guidelines for stormwater management including Stormwater management projects include: Longwood Station, Hawthorne Subdivision and Greenrock Industrial Subdivision
 - Adoption of Manual of Engineering Standards and Specifications (MoESS) Section 7 in November, 2016 for Stormwater Management, evolved to look at more environmentally friendly materials
 - Provided an overview of Sanitation Services including current services, regulatory framework and plans going forward

Committee discussion took place regarding the role of the new Zero Waste Coordinator, soft plastics and glass being included in curbside recycling and contamination of compost materials.

Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner, continued the presentation:

- Fleet initiatives to date include:
 - Installing automated fuel management system
 - Implemented a preventive maintenance system
 - Anti-idling policy
 - Car pool program
 - Adopted bio-diesel 5 blend in 2009
- 17% decrease in diesel fuel used in 2007 – 2018 and 4% decrease in gasoline used in 2008 – 2018
- 22% fleet is using alternative fuels and 29% fleet is using Bio-Diesel
- Current Initiatives:
 - Partnering with neighbouring municipalities
 - Right-sizing vehicles at time of purchase
 - Evaluating preventative maintenance program
 - Fuel consumption reports
 - Developing Corporate Green Fleet Strategy
- Goal to prepare formal Fleet Strategy for Council and join E3 Fleet challenge program in the future
- Energy Recover Facility at Reservoir No. 1 generated an average of \$7,600/month from electricity production
- South Fork Dam requirements for water flow and methods used for managing water usage
- Average water demands in City of Nanaimo have decreased by 10% in the last five years, lower than Canadian average
- Future expansion of South Fork Dam and prediction of longer drier summers
- Provided an overview of ecosystems found in parks and examples of rare species in Nanaimo Parks – Vancouver Island Beggartricks
- Restoration projects in parks – Bowen Park side channel, knotweed/hogweed control, education and awareness
- Buttertubs March Conservation Area – 55HA wetland co-managed by the Nature Trust of BC, Ducks Unlimited and City of Nanaimo, restore, conserve and ensure that the public can enjoy these areas
- Other programs include Partners in Parks, Woodstream Park, Broom Busters and Adopt a Park Program
- Provided an update on climate action: relevant policies, corporate versus community greenhouse gas emissions
- Corporate Energy and Emissions – reduced emissions by 42% over the past 10 years, received \$1.93M in incentives, annual energy and cost savings of \$1.1M
- Corporate Energy and Emissions moving forward:
 - Update Energy Conservation and Management Policy
 - Update 2007 Corporate Climate Change Plan
 - Explore and implement new technologies and alternative energy options
- Actions taken regarding community energy and emissions
- Climate Resiliency Strategy includes two parts: Sea Level Rise Mapping Study and Climate Resiliency Study

- Methods for encouraging emission reductions – education/outreach, non-financial incentives, financial incentives and regulation
- Goals include creating actions that meet climate change targets, communication and engagement with the public

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Focusing on and targeting measures that can be taken community wide to lessen impact on climate change
- Promoting parks and green spaces to the public and tourists

It was moved and seconded that the Environment Committee receive the report and presentation titled “Overview of Climate Action and Environmental Management in the City of Nanaimo” dated 2019-NOV-20, for information. The motion carried unanimously.

(c) Discussion Regarding Implementing the City's Climate Emergency Declaration

Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services, advised that the Official Community Plan (OCP) and other policy documents will be reviewed in the new year and that a public engagement session will be included in that review. The Climate Action Plan may be included in the new OCP and the Environment Committee will be asked for input during the review.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 7:01 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CHAIR

CORPORATE OFFICER