

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HR TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL
455 WALLACE STREET, NANAIMO, BC
WEDNESDAY, 2020-JAN-22, AT 5:00 P.M.

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

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer (arrived 5:04 p.m., vacated 6:43 p.m.)
R. Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
J. Holm, Director, Development Approvals
D. Beck, Recreation Coordinator (vacated 5:40 p.m.)
R. Lawrence, Environmental Planner
B. Zurek, Planner
S. Snelgrove, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Environment Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

(a) Agenda Item 6(a) Delegations – Add delegation from Christopher Brown.

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 Regular Meeting of the Environment Committee held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2019-NOV-20 at 5:00 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Rudolph entered the HR Training Room at 5:04 p.m.

5. DELEGATIONS:

(a) Christopher Brown re: Earth Day 2020 Celebration

Christopher Brown provided a verbal presentation regarding the Nanaimo Earth Day 2020 Celebration to be held at John Barsby Secondary School on Saturday, April 25, 2020, and requested that Staff and committee members support Earth Day Initiatives.

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- The City of Nanaimo's role in an Earth Day conference
- City wants to showcase successes and what has been happening and actions taken
- Potential for the committee to work on Earth Day event and to work as a facilitator to connect neighborhoods and bring people together
- Earth Day concept can be expanded to more than one day
- Progression of Earth Day into Earth Month and providing a place for people to find out how they can get involved
- City of Nanaimo earth related programs such as stream keepers, stewardship and adopt a park programs
- Current facilitator is contracted for 80 hours through School District 68
- Involvement of Nanaimo Area Land Trust, Nanaimo Food Share, Regional District of Nanaimo regarding Transit and community involvement
- Integration with Wild Food Festival
- City representative sits on planning committee as a liaison and will take on a larger role this year

6. REPORTS:

(a) 2020 Environment Committee Workplan

Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner, introduced the report and advised the work plan provides high level, major focus areas for the committee, shows how the committee is meeting its mandate and gives a general sense of timing of initiatives.

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Residential building retrofit initiative and support for whitening rooftops, ensuring new buildings have vegetation on roofs and developer driven initiatives other than those listed in the City's green building policy
- Regulations in bylaws encourage higher levels of efficiency and many new buildings have green roofs which originate from the requirements for storm water management
- Retrofitting existing buildings is a challenge
- The number of active environmental programs the City has such as grants for rainwater collection, woodstove change out programs and if those would be worth highlighting at Earth Day
- Tree voucher program has been successful at Earth Day
- Connecting the City's tree vouchers program and School District 68

- City currently works with volunteer groups now and restoration includes tree planting on various park sites with work primarily on public land
- Funds from violations of the tree bylaw are used to plant trees
- Potentially have a presentation and discussion early in the workplan regarding communications and engagement around the environment
- Natural Connections Newsletter showcases what's upcoming
- Supporting urban agriculture and potentially developing a strategy to be more aware of how the City addresses urban agriculture
- Committee can have discussion to reprioritize or add/remove items from workplan
- Order of some items tie into timelines for projects that are already underway

D. Beck vacated the HR Training Room at 5:40 p.m.

- Challenges regarding the hierarchy of plans and where items fit within a broader strategy
- Sustainability items in Official Community Plan (OCP) don't specifically relate to environment
- Community Sustainability Action Plan:
 - Provides key focus areas with targets related to the environment
 - Plan wraps up strategy around environment
 - Focus to lower Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions through various initiatives
 - Can be adjusted to give a broad view of what the City is doing around environment
- Urban forestry program and planting more trees to increase forest cover
- Review of OCP and significant documents will include work on climate resiliency strategy
- City relied on Community Energy and Emissions Inventory which was stopped by the Province in 2012
- Differences in scale and combining corporate and community emissions together
- Develop a plan with a consultant to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions
- Clarification needed regarding where the City's targets are at and in order for those targets to be met the City needs to resource appropriately
- Understanding where emissions are coming from is key
- Consultant will develop methodology and give end report
- Potentially narrowing and defining focus of committee workplan
- Suggestion that the following items be removed from the workplan:
 - Draft East Wellington Park Management Plan
 - Regional Air Quality Mapping Project
 - Natural Asset Inventory and Strategy
 - Wildlife Management Initiatives
- Prioritization of green house gas reduction
- Committees involvement and awareness of Transportation Master Plan

It was moved and seconded that the Environment Committee refer the 2020 Environment Committee Workplan to Staff to return with a revised plan. The motion carried unanimously.

(b) Draft Scope of Work: 2050 Nanaimo Climate Action Plan

Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner, introduced the report and advised:

- Two separate plans (City Corporate Climate Change Plan and Community Sustainability Action Plan) are not necessary
- Two scenarios are proposed:
 - Business as usual GHG emissions reductions by 2030 and 2050
 - 58% GHG emissions reduction below 2010 levels by 2030 and 107% GHG emission reduction below 2010 levels by 2050
- Consultant will look at energy data available and a model will be made for projections in the future
- A range of stakeholders will be invited from large emitters in the community to neighbourhood representatives to identify actions, plans and programs
- Conversation needs to be had on how to address aggressive targets

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Targets set by Council through climate emergency declaration
- Confusion based on poor data
- General consensus to err on conservative side
- Unrealistic targets result in losing people along the way
- Idealized versus realistic targets
- Emissions from road traffic
- Motivating community to reach targets
- The City being transparent and vocal about achievements in order to maintain resiliency
- Quantifiable modeling for increases in temperature

J. Rudolph vacated the HR Training Room at 6:43 p.m.

- Put onus on consultant to advise how they would solve the problem
- Result of consultants work would help inform the 2021 budget
- Relationship with the 2050 Nanaimo climate action plan, and the OCP, as Staff try to bring policy documents together

It was moved and seconded that the Environment Committee recommend the Request for Proposals for a consultant be endorsed with minor amendments to allow for flexibility for the consultant to provide options for achieving alternative emissions targets. The motion carried unanimously.

(c) Approved 2020 Environment Committee Key Date Calendar

Introduced by Councillor Geselbracht, Chair.

5. DELEGATIONS: (continued)

(a) Delegation from Christopher Brown re: Earth Day

It was moved and seconded that the Environment Committee recommend Lisa Frey work with Staff and the organizers of Earth Day to provide recommendations to enhance City participation in Earth Day. The motion carried unanimously.

7. QUESTION PERIOD:

No one in attendance wished to ask questions.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 7:00 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER