

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD ROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
WEDNESDAY, 2020-JUN-03, AT 3:00 P.M.

Present: Councillor B. Geselbracht, Chair
Councillor T. Brown (joined electronically)
E. Boulanger (joined electronically 3:50 p.m.)
D. Chen
H. DesRoches (joined electronically)
J. Lesemann (joined electronically)
L. McCunn (joined electronically)
W. Wells (joined electronically)

Absent: L. Frey

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
D. Mousseau, Manager, Engineering & Environment (joined electronically)
R. Lawrence, Environmental Planner
C. Sholberg, Community Heritage Planner (joined electronically)
S. Snelgrove, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE SPECIAL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Special Environment Committee Meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Agenda Item 5(a) Climate Action Integration within the Reimagine Nanaimo Process
– change presenter to David Reid, Lanarc.

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 Open Meeting of the Environment Committee held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2020-MAR-11 at 5:00 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. REPORTS:

(a) Climate Action Integration within the Reimagine Nanaimo Process

Introduced by Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner.

Presentation:

1. David Reid, Lanarc, provided a presentation regarding the integration of climate action within the Reimagine Nanaimo process. Highlights included:
 - Rebranding “City Spark” to “Reimagine Nanaimo”
 - Six integrated plans will be reviewed including the Official Community Plan; Parks, Recreation and Culture Plan Update; Active Transportation Plan; Climate Action Plan; Economic Development Plan and Water Supply Strategic Plan
 - Adapting to unexpected changes such as climate change and economic changes related to COVID-19
 - C2MP consulting team are specialists in climate action and will participate in future meetings
 - C2MP has developed a web based, integrated tool for exploring and evaluating municipal climate action scenarios and will evaluate what mix of options are the best for Nanaimo
 - The engagement program builds off of the work completed by the Community Engagement Task Force final report
 - Timeline:
 - Options to achieve climate targets and other objectives will be addressed in the Fall
 - Options will be technically evaluated and shared with the community in the late Fall to Winter
 - Draft recommendations will be brought forward in the Spring
 - Phase two will be to explore options
 - Phase three is to develop plans
 - Will have a range of participation from stakeholders and the general public
 - Engagement will be balanced between print and digital with a primary reliance on digital
 - Engagement tools to be used include: webpages, moderated social media, video shorts, media releases, photo contest, Get involved Nanaimo site, e-notifications, mail outs of statistically valid and community questionnaires, Vancouver Island University and School District 68
 - Encouraging this group to use their networks and word of mouth for engagement
 - Climate action integrated with land use, active transportation, transit and technology

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Focus on green house gas emissions and broadening the focus beyond Green House Gases (GHG)
- Core functions of water supply and waste management through the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN)
- Importance of understanding governance role of the City as some aspects do not fall within the control of the City of Nanaimo
- A fundamental piece of the Official Community Plan (OCP) Update is sustainable service delivery
- Council's strategic plan includes consideration of completing a natural asset inventory
- Current OCP has climate change aspects addressed throughout the document
- Information presented to the public discussing targets and the consequences of targets
- Defining the indicators to measure success
- Having climate reduction targets in addition to GHG emission reductions and not solely focused on GHGs

E. Boulanger joined the meeting electronically at 3:50 p.m.

- Regional Growth Strategy including targets and indicators
- Climate change adaptation and resilience underpinning the Official Community Plan review process
- "15 minute Neighbourhood" where residents can recreate, work and have service needs met all within a fifteen minute walk
- Using terms that resonate with the public and how they are presented
- Communication of indicators over time and opportunity to have discussions to make sure the City is addressing the broad spectrum of sustainability within the framework

It was moved and seconded that the Environment Committee receive the report titled "Climate Action Integration within the Reimagine Nanaimo Process" dated 2020-JUN-03. The motion carried unanimously.

(b) Climate Resiliency Public Engagement Working Group

Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner, spoke regarding:

- The City has been working on a Climate Resiliency Strategy for the last two years which was centred around City staff, departments and infrastructure
- The working group will review how to prepare for climate change in the future
- Staff have a number of actions and recommendations prepared to take to Council
- Questions remain regarding how the City engages with the community and the communication the City is proposing
- Working group must be limited membership as it cannot have a quorum of committee members
- Determine how to work with stakeholders, build capacity and move forward

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Importance of receiving input from the community
- Previous communication and how to communicate issues to the public
- Coordination with the OCP engagement process
- Working group to determine if there are specific environmental events to coordinate responses for, such as high heat events, localized forest fires and if the services the City offers can be better coordinated
- Methods to share foundational environmental information with the public to avoid being alarming but to translate science based data into understandable information
- Avoiding consultation burnout with the public
- Empowering residents and sharing ideas of what a family unit can do to take action and make an environmental difference
- Committee members interested in joining the working group can email Councillors Brown and Geselbracht

E. Boulanger disconnected at 4:25 p.m.

It was moved and seconded that the Environment Committee recommend that Council support establishing a working group in order to prepare a plan on how the City can communicate and engage with the public on the issue of climate resiliency. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Boulanger reconnected at 4:26 p.m.

(c) BC Energy Step Code Rezoning Policy

Jeremy Holm, Director, Development Approvals, spoke regarding:

- The BC Energy Step Code Rezoning Policy was adopted in July 2018
- The Step Code is developed by the Province and is a voluntary incremental incentive program municipalities can either require or use as an incentive to augment requirements of the BC Building Code for increased building efficiency
- Province adopted timeline for implementation of step code
- Net zero for new builds by 2032
- Council introduced incentives into the Zoning Bylaw
- If adopted by Council the policy would require a property to exceed minimum requirements in the building bylaw by one step
- Policy allows for incremental increase in energy efficiency requirements in the building bylaw
- Options for the committee include endorsing the policy or providing recommendations and revisions

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Acceleration of adoption time
- Energy that could be generated from the design of buildings

- Minimizing the amount of energy needed to function through better building design
- Energy consumed is offset by production
- Many approaches available to use to achieve net zero buildings
- Idea to incrementally build up capacity in buildings to reach net zero by 2032
- Costs of buildings increasing due to Step Code

It was moved and seconded that the Environment Committee endorse the draft BC Energy Step Code Rezoning Policy. The motion carried unanimously.

(d) Green Fleet Strategy

Introduced by Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works.

Presentation:

1. Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, advised:
 - Transportation accounts for large majority of City's GHG emissions
 - Demonstrating leadership by greening the fleet
 - Designed to reduce emissions, manage costs and expenses and improve efficiency
 - Council directed a fleet review in June 2019
 - The City has approximately 450 pieces of equipment
 - Fleet rating of silver as a benchmark for City's fleet
 - Promotes lower fuel use, emissions and downtime
 - Cornerstone of strategy- reducing fuel consumption, use of alternative fuels, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure
 - Overview of City's GHG targets vs. actuals
 - Co2 emission distribution across City vehicles with 22% of fleet using alternative fuels and 29% using bio diesel

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vs. Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and LNG distribution network

It was moved and seconded that the Environment Committee receive the Green Fleet Strategy Presentation for information. The motion carried unanimously.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Councillor Geselbracht re: Performance Indicators

Discussion took place regarding:

- Opportunity for the committee to have input and discussion on performance indicators for each category of the Environmental Framework
- Determining indicators

It was moved and seconded that draft environmental indicators for each category of the Environmental Framework be brought forward to the committee for review and comment. The motion carried unanimously.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:00 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER