

DATE OF MEETING October 7, 2020

AUTHORED BY ROB LAWRANCE, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER

SUBJECT ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY FRAMEWORK

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report:

To provide background on a presentation to the Environment Committee on Environmental Responsibility Frameworks to be presented by Councillors Brown and Geselbracht.

BACKGROUND

The 2020 Workplan for the Environment Committee, which was adopted by Council in January 2020, includes developing an environmental framework for Nanaimo.

The framework is described as providing the public with an overview of the City's environmental priorities and goals, which are implemented through various policies, programs and regulations that the City of Nanaimo is responsible for.

In March 2020, the Environment Committee met to review a draft environmental framework. The draft Environmental Framework was built around a set of core principles that staff felt could be monitored over time.

The core principles of the City's draft Environmental Framework centers on:

- **Climate Action:** Meeting our Green House Gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets as a community and showing climate leadership corporately.
- **Protection and Restoration of Natural Spaces:** Protecting and enhancing the ecological diversity found within the City through the purchase and restoration of our parks. Through the development process on private land, and by working with the community to provide opportunities to learn about these spaces.
- **Zero Waste and Energy Management:** In coordination with the Regional District of Nanaimo, providing services to work towards a zero waste future for the City, and demonstrate corporate leadership through energy and waste management practice.
- **Community Health and Food Security:** Community health covers the role the City plays in protecting the public from potential environmental harm and provide healthier options for getting out and enjoying the environment.

During the review of the draft framework, it was anticipated that core principles can be reviewed and adjusted going forward. In addition, environmental policy, program gaps and target setting are expected to be addressed as part of the REIMAGINE Nanaimo process. The committee accepted the report and recommended the environmental framework be on the City of Nanaimo webpage with links to existing environmental policy and program webpages.

DISCUSSION

The presentation is prepared by Councillors Geselbracht and Brown, which provide additional information and insight for consideration on environment frameworks. The presentation also introduces the 'Environmental Responsibility Framework' for consideration.

Recommendations are presented for the Committee to consider endorsing:

- a) That Council, as part of its Strategic Plan review process, consider revising the Key Focus Area, under the strategic theme of Environmental Responsibility, to include: "Taking responsibility to build a city and community that operates within planetary boundaries necessary to maintain core life sustaining ecological functions"
- b) That the Environment Committee Workplan be amended to include the development of a 'holistic, complete and objective-based' Environmental Responsibility Framework, to be included for consideration within the REIMAGINE Nanaimo process.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The 2020 Workplan for the Environment Committee, which was adopted by Council in January 2020, includes developing an environmental framework for Nanaimo
- The presentation is prepared by Councillor Geselbracht and Brown, which provide additional information and insight for consideration on environment frameworks. The presentation introduces the 'Environmental Responsibility Framework' for consideration.
- Recommendations are presented for the Committee to revise the City's Council Strategic Plan to include consideration of a revised environmental framework within the REIMAGINE Nanaimo process.

Submitted by:

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