

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
ELECTRONIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 2022-MAR-30, AT 5:01 P.M.

Present: Councillor B. Geselbracht, Chair
Councillor D. Bonner
E. Boulanger, At Large Member
H. DesRoches, At Large Member (joined electronically 5:10 p.m.)
L. Frey, At Large Member
J. Lesemann, At Large Member (vacated 6:24 p.m.)
L. McCunn, At Large Member (vacated 7:05 p.m.)
W. Wells, At Large Member

Absent: D. Chen, At Large Member

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services/Deputy Chief
Administrative Officer
R. Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
L. Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development
T. Pan, Manager, Sustainability
M. Elliott, Project Manager, Engineering
D. Beck, Parks and Open Space Planner
K. MacDonald, Park and Open Space Planner
D. Stewart, Environmental Planner
S. Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer
A. Mac Coll, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Environment Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:01 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 Special Environment Committee Meeting held electronically Wednesday, 2022-MAR-09 at 5:01 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) CleanBC Roadmap to 2030

Presentation:

1. Ting Pan, Manager Sustainability, provided a presentation. Highlights included:
 - The CleanBC plan was launched in 2018 and it was recognized this plan would only get three quarters of the way to the 2030 climate change targets set by the Province and this project is to close the gap
 - There are 8 pathways across BC's economy where the province can find solutions to Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions
 - Examples of pathways that have mature technologies and a ready market are transportation and building sectors for reduction of GHG emissions
 - Pathways with the most impact on local governments are transportation, building, low-carbon energy and community
 - The Province has committed to stronger pricing on carbon pollution
 - New legislation is being developed to cap natural gas utility customers in BC which includes Fortis BC and Pacific Northern Gas
 - Zero carbon new buildings will have an impact on local governments as they are under municipal jurisdiction
 - The Province will provide increased funds to local governments for the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program to support local climate action plans
 - BC's transportation policy proposals align with the City of Nanaimo's (City) plan direction with focusing on land use and reducing residents necessity to drive
 - Go Electric program in BC and the "right to charge" legislation will support low and medium income residents
 - The BC building code and the BC energy step code focus on energy efficiency with the new standards focused toward reducing pollution
 - Local governments do not have a lot of tools to influence the existing housing market
 - The Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program will be created to help residents achieve energy efficiency and remove the barrier of upfront investments
 - PACE will create enabling legislation for local governments to aide residents through a property tax mechanism to reduce costs
 - The BC Roadmap to 2030 was developed with indigenous engagement and the policies are designed to support reconciliation outcomes

H. DesRoches joined the electronic meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The wording "near elimination" used by the Province and the City's ability to use similar language in the City Plan to strengthen it
- Language is important to reflect the community and Council's direction in the City Plan

- The *Local Government Act* is clear that land use has to be consistent with zoning but city plans do not tie local governments to completing all of the policies
- The baseline measurement for GHG emissions in BC are the 2007 levels, the pandemic raised GHG emissions
- 40% below the 2007 baseline is the target for 2030 with the Province using the Clean BC Roadmap to close the emissions gap
- Stopping and reducing coal powered energy is captured in the low carbon energy policies
- Lowering accepted imports of coal powered energy
- Numbers should be included in the City plan when discussing GHG reductions and emissions

(b) REIMAGINE Policy Review and Update

Introduced by Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development.

Presentation:

1. Ting Pan, Manager Sustainability, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:
 - Policy actions are hard to place in the City Plan as they might meet multiple objectives at once using the doughnut concept framework
 - Policy actions will be referenced in each chapter by directing readers to where else it would be included in the City Plan
 - Integrated Policy Areas (IPA) are noted at the bottom of each chapter to show related policies
 - Some actions designated in a Connected Nanaimo support emission reductions in the transportation section, so it is referenced in the IPA to show the relationship between both
 - Staff have added an extra layer of communication for the community by using visual layers and representation to be accessible in an intuitive way
 - Staff are encouraging feedback and opinion from residents and ask that Committee members share the link with their networks
 - Phase 3 Draft City Plan Review survey closes April 8, 2022 and public engagement will end
 - Staff are encouraging feedback and opinions from residents and asked Committee members to share the survey with their networks
 - The special public hearing has to be determined by Council, and Staff are aiming for Council to adopt the plan in July
 - The public can formally submit their opinion to Council at the special public hearing
 - Staff are aiming for 500 participants for the statistically valid survey for the Phase 3 Draft City Plan Review

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Engagement was completed with neighbourhood associations

- Staff have been using distribution lists for contacting service clubs, Lions, Rotaries, Newcomers Club and others in Nanaimo and have also presented in person to receive feedback
- Vancouver Island University and School District 68 (SD68) received presentations in some classes about REIMAGINE NANAIMO

Committee and Staff discussion took place on feedback received regarding the Phase 3 Draft Plan structure. Highlights included:

- Wording of policies in the Plan should be edited to clarify policies and actions
- Many policy statements in the Plan contain actions or can be considered actions
- The aim of the policy and its intention could become a structural error in the plan if it is not clearly defined
- Supreme court of Canada has a current case that could have policy implications for municipalities
- Overarching goals are set by Council based on doughnut economics, desired outcomes (objectives), and strategies (policies)
- Policies that may seem like an action are broad in their direction and specific actions would be listed in the action plan
- Staff hosted a target and indicators workshop for Committee members in 2021 to frame and monitor success in meeting the Plan's goals
- The Draft City Plan Phase 3 is currently with the solicitor for review as it must meet a number of tests
- Staff will be doing an overall edit of the entire document using verbatim comments from the steering committee
- Staff will present policies and actions to Council who have the ability to prioritize actions in the plan as they review each year
- Every action should be tied back to a policy
- The strategic document is adopted by bylaw with the actions separated out from it, allowing Council to pivot easily instead of changing the bylaw each year
- The integration of a City plan of this magnitude is likely the first time it has been attempted in Canada
- Language used by each department can have different meanings or definitions based on the use in their department

J. Lesemann disconnected from the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

By unanimous consent, the Environment Committee agreed to move Agenda Item 5(d) Community Engagement and Outreach on Climate and Sustainability to precede Agenda Item 5(C) Public Engagement Summary and Phased Concept Plan for Westwood Lake Park Amenity Improvement Implementation.

(c) Community Engagement and Outreach on Climate and Sustainability

Introduced by Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development.

Presentation:

1. Ting Pan, Manager, Sustainability, provided a presentation. Highlights included:
 - Engagement is important for the Draft City Plan to achieve and meet the City's goals
 - Canada project supports climate and sustainability projects with federal funding to support local governments initiatives through the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)
 - Agents of change is a program under ICLEI to support local volunteer programs for climate change mitigation
 - The City has partnered with the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) and has submitted a successful application
 - 6 volunteer organizations in Nanaimo are in support of this application with the project to continue until 2023
 - Cool it! Program will create the opportunity for climate education workshops in Nanaimo for grades 4-7 and grades 8-12 with a contest for an incentive
 - Ecohack is an Earth Day Canada program that runs Earth Day celebrations as well as unique initiatives like public panel events and leadership training
 - Engagement ideas were requested from each member on how to engage the community on environmental sustainability

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- SD68 has an environmentally focused committee meeting where programs and initiatives could be discussed
- SD68 has a full-time learning coordinator that has an environmental piece in their portfolio, and they could be invited to a meeting with City staff
- Collecting empirical data on the families and children in the Cool it! Program to see if there is statistical change to measure behaviour
- BC Sustainable Energy Association has estimates on their expectations of lower GHG emissions from the program
- The Rotary Club cleans up the City on the 1st and the 3rd of each month with a large Clean-up event on April 23, 2022
- The City could have someone do a social media take over of the City of Nanaimo social accounts showing effective environmental changes that are low barrier, easy to do and accessible
- The City could have a contest for residents to reward good environmental behaviours to provide an incentive
- Asset management must be done with resiliency and climate change in mind
- The power of visual communicative arts and visual signs make it easy and accessible for people to see the impacts of climate change in the community
- Personalizing stories so that residents can relate to them and relate to climate change

- Bringing awareness to how messages are framed and using the guidance of social psychology when speaking about climate change, literature can be provided

(d) Public Engagement Summary and Phased Concept Plan for Westwood Lake Park Amenity Improvement Implementation

Introduced by Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture.
Highlights included:

- Westwood Lake Park has not been updated since the 1950's and is a popular recreation area for many user groups
- The proposed beach enhancement will bring the cars farther away from the beach front and enhance the trail around the beach
- An engagement update was undertaken from summer 2020 until fall 2021
- 600 responses were received through the engagement
- Feedback and outreach was also received through REIMAGINE phase 1
- Current design impacts 36 trees and only 1 significant tree with Staff planting trees in a 4 to 1 ratio
- Parking in the concept plan is in the already disturbed areas of the park and will increase the total stalls to 95
- The ability to encourage buses to use the loop at Westwood Lake by creating a larger area for the bus to drop off and turn around

L. McCunn disconnected from the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

- Permeable parking areas, although environmentally friendly, won't allow Staff to plow in a timely manner due to the surface type
- Not putting any lights at the park and keeping with the dark skies goals in the REIMAGINE NANAIMO City Plan
- The conduit for the bathroom will purposefully not have lights to encourage the park to be shut down at dark creating a dawn to dusk park area
- The Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness (ACAI) has reviewed different accessibility stall formats as well as updating the ramps for access into the water to meet all abilities in the community
- Phase two of the Westwood Lake update will address beachfront and how to add more vegetation as well as a new bathroom featuring environmental attributes when built, such as a green roof
- This project will be the first to use the REIMAGINE NANAIMO's process
- Designs for Phase two will be completed in the spring or summer of 2022

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Council has asked Staff to show how each new project going forward fits into the REIMAGINE Plan
- Consideration of adding glow stones on the pathways at the park
- Invasive plant canisters along the trail for residents to help remove invasive plants from the trail

5. QUESTION PERIOD:

There were no members of the public in attendance to ask questions.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 7:14 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CHAIR

DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER