

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARDROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE, 411 DUNSMUIR STREET
WEDNESDAY, 2022-SEP-28, AT 5:02 P.M.

Present: Councillor B. Geselbracht, Chair
Councillor D. Bonner (joined electronically)
L. Frey, At Large Member (joined electronically)
J. Lesemann, At Large Member (joined electronically)
L. McCunn, At Large Member (joined electronically)

Absent: D. Chen, At Large Member
E. Boulanger, At Large Member
H. DesRoches, At Large Member
W. Wells, At Large Member

Staff: L. Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development
J. Holm, Director, Development Approvals
T. Pan, Manager, Sustainability
D. Stewart, Environmental Planner (joined electronically)
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services
K. Lundgren, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Environment Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:02 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, Wednesday, 2022-JUL-27 at 5:00 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Review of the Environment Committee's Work and Accomplishments

Introduced by Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development.

Presentation:

1. David Stewart, Environmental Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the accomplishments of the Environment Committee (Committee) over the last term. Highlights included:
 - The first Committee meeting was held on October 16, 2019
 - The Committee provided support for over 15 environmental projects
 - A significant project that the Committee provided input on was the City Plan: Nanaimo Reimagined; 18 Committee motions guided the City Plan policies
 - The Doughnut Economic Framework Model was presented to the Committee at the 2020-NOV-04 meeting and adopted by Council on 2022-DEC-14
 - The Committee provided input on Development Permit Area 1 (DPA1) and Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA)
 - There have been community engagement and outreach programs such as the Nanaimo Night Market and Cool It! Program
 - Agents of Change Project, tentatively titled “Acting for Climate Together (ACT)”, is set to launch in October
 - Provided an overview of some upcoming and past environmental events including Rivers Day, Bike Film Festival, Fall GoByBike Weeks, Earth Day, and Sustainability event
 - The City of Nanaimo and the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) are participating in the Agents of Change program, and Staff are seeking input from the Committee on the name for the program

Committee discussion took place regarding the naming of the Agents of Change program and support was expressed for the names “Acting for Climate Together (ACT)” and “Communities for Climate (C4C)”.

David Stewart, Environmental Planner, continued the presentation and spoke regarding the Community Watershed Restoration Grant Program. Highlights included:

- The Committee reviewed and supported the grant guidelines and criteria
- The grant application closes on 2022-OCT-17 and will be awarded in early 2023

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- An update on the status of the Nanaimo Waterfront Walkway Project
 - Council has given Staff direction to move forward with the project; however, there are complexities such as cost
 - Some of the next steps include navigating archeological and environmental concerns
- Cool It! Program received approval from School Board to conduct the survey

5. REPORTS:

(a) Feedback re: Future Committee Operations

Councillor Geselbracht requested feedback regarding the Committee structure over the term.

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Addressing how the action items coming out of the Official Community Plan (OCP) will be implemented
- Increasing the number of members on the Committee to better represent the broader community
- Having a strategic approach to addressing the OCP action items
- Would like to see the next committee go through the list of action items and establish a priority list; otherwise, there is a risk that the more difficult actions do not get addressed, and often the more difficult actions potentially have the greatest impact
- At times, some of the topics discussed at the Committee meetings were slightly too technical for all the members to contribute
- The number of committee members diminishing throughout the term, and discussions become more difficult with a smaller, less well-rounded group
- Some projects may require less technical expertise and more expertise related to community engagement
- This Committee has served a strong function in initiating different actions and policy movements
- Assumption at the start of the term that the Committee would be dealing with actions/measurements; however, the focus has been on broader frameworks; addressing actions is now just starting to come to fruition
- Since the City Plan is meant to be integrated, the Committee meetings should be integrated as well, for example having collaboration between the different committees as opposed to keeping them separate
- Committee structures need to reflect integration and coherence, and that discussion will need to be had by the upcoming Council
- The Chairs expressed thanks to both the Committee members and Staff who have been involved

6. QUESTION PERIOD:

The Committee received no questions from the public regarding agenda items.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:54 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER