



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

An Open meeting of the Environment Committee was held in the Clerk's Committee Room, City Hall, 4949 Canada Way, Burnaby, B.C. on **Wednesday, 2020 January 29** at 6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT:	Councillor Joe Keithley, Chair Councillor Colleen Jordan, Vice Chair Councillor James Wang, Member Mr. Joel Gibbs, Citizen Representative Ms. Mary Lumby, Citizen Representative Mr. Andrei Zawadzki, Citizen Representative Trustee Peter Cech, Burnaby School Board
ADVISORY ORGANIZATIONS:	Mr. Jerry Muir, BC Hydro Mr. Darin Wong, FortisBC
ABSENT:	Ms. Tessa Vanderkop, Burnaby Board of Trade Ms. Deborah Harford, Simon Fraser University
STAFF:	Mr. Dipak Dattani, Director Corporate Services Ms. Lee-Ann Garnett, Assistant Director Long Range Planning Ms. Heather Edwards, Manager Parks Planning Design & Development Ms. Simone Rousseau, Manager Environmental Services Mr. Erik Schmidt, Manager Solid Waste and Recycling Mr. Mark Sloat, Environmental Planner Ms. Eva Prior, Administrative Officer

The Chair called the Open meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Chair, Councillor Joe Keithley, recognized the ancestral and unceded homelands of the hə́n̓qə́mí̓nə́m̓ and Skwxwú7mesh speaking peoples, and extended appreciation for the opportunity to hold a meeting on this shared territory.

The Chair welcomed Mr. Darin Wong, advisory representative for FortisBC. Mr. Wong replaced Ms. Dana Wong who was the previous representative for FortisBC.

2. MINUTES

a) **Minutes of the Environment and Social Planning Committee Open meeting held on 2019 November 05**

MOVED BY TRUSTEE CECH
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR JORDAN

THAT the minutes of the Environment and Social Planning Committee Open meeting held on 2019 November 05 be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. CORRESPONDENCE

a) **Correspondence from Judith Matthews Re: Request for Ban on Plastic Straws**

Correspondence was received from Ms. Judith Matthews requesting a ban on plastic straws and other plastic articles.

Ms. Matthews cited a proposed bylaw by the City of Vancouver which will ban plastic straws by 2020 April. The ban requires that all accessible (bendable) straws be handed out only on request.

Staff advised a report and proposed regional strategy will be provided through Metro Vancouver in the near future.

b) **Correspondence from Metro Vancouver Re: Amending Metro Vancouver 2040: Shaping our Future**

Correspondence was received from Metro Vancouver advising that at the Regional District meeting held on 2019 November 02, they adopted a report recommending a Type 3 minor amendment to *Metro Vancouver 2040: Shaping our Future* and invited local governments to submit comments.

c) **Memorandum from the Deputy City Clerk Re: BC Benchmarking Pilot Program to Reduce Energy Use and Emissions From Buildings**

A memorandum was received from the Deputy City Clerk advising that Council, at the Open Council meeting held on 2019 December 16, adopted the above noted report regarding the British Columbia Benchmarking Pilot Program (BCBPP), and endorsed the City's participation.

The BCBPP promotes energy benchmarking and disclosure to improve the operating performance of existing buildings and reduce greenhouse gas

emissions. The pilot program will include approximately 30 civic buildings and up to 20 privately-owned buildings in Burnaby.

Staff advised that the pilot program supports the Climate Emergency Declaration made by Council and also supports the upcoming Climate Action Framework report.

**d) Correspondence from Environment Assessment Revitalization,
Environmental Assessment Office
Re: Environmental Assessment Revitalization Update:
Environmental Assessment Act**

Correspondence was received from the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) advising that the *Environmental Assessment Act, 2018* (the Act) is now in force.

The Act addresses the three major objectives of Environmental Assessment (EA) revitalization: advancing reconciliation with Indigenous nations, enhancing public confidence in the EA process, and protecting the environment while offering pathways to sustainable project approvals.

**e) Correspondence from Environment and Climate Change Canada
Re: Species at Risk Public Registry**

Correspondence was received from Environment and Climate Change Canada advising that the following recovery documents have been posted as final on the Species at Risk Public Registry:

- Recovery Strategy for the Western Rattlesnake;
- Recovery Strategy for the Bent Spike-rush;
- Recovery Strategy for the Batwing Vinyl Lichen; and
- Action Plan for the Porsild's Bryum.

The Committee requested information regarding any species at risk in Burnaby.

Staff advised that the City receive regular postings from Environment and Climate Change Canada regarding the Species at Risk Public Registry. Any postings that pertain to the City, will be brought forward to the Committee.

**f) Correspondence from George Clulow
Re: Plastic Pollution in Eagle Creek**

Correspondence was received from Mr. George Clulow expressing concerns regarding golf balls at the mouth of Eagle Creek, where it enters Burnaby Lake.

Staff response regarding this item was received under item 3(g).

g) Memorandum from David O'Connor, Assistant Director Golf
Re: Environmental Concerns – Burnaby Lake

A memorandum was received from Mr. David O'Connor, Assistant Director Golf advising that both the City Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department and the Engineering Department will investigate developing a capture system at the mouth of the main culvert system at Broadway to mitigate golf balls from entering Eagle Creek.

The Committee queried if the capture system would adversely affect wildlife in and around the stream and further inquired regarding the golf ball clean-up.

Staff advised that Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services and the Engineering Departments will work together to ensure that the capture system does not affect the ecosystem in the area.

Staff undertook to ensure the golf balls are removed from Eagle Creek.

h) Correspondence from Georgia Straight Alliance and
West Coast Environmental Law
Re: Invitation to Collaborate on Accountability for Climate Change

Correspondence was received from Ms. Anna Barford, Community Organizer, Georgia Straight Alliance, and Mr. Andrew Gage, Staff Lawyer, West Coast Environmental Law, inviting the City to collaborate with other local governments on accountability for climate change.

The writers encouraged the City to join the Cities of Victoria and Vancouver in an effort to explore joint legal strategies to hold fossil fuel companies accountable for climate costs.

The Committee advised that the City has endorsed the concept in the past; however, feel that legal strategies are best undertaken by higher levels of government.

i) Memorandum from Director Planning and Building
Re: 2020 Environmental Awards Program

A memorandum was received from the Director Planning and Building providing information regarding the City's Environmental Awards Program.

Staff provided the following timeline:

- 2020 April 03 – nomination deadline;
- Week of 2020 April 06 – a small group of Committee members to meet with staff to vet nominees and provide recommendations;
- 2020 April 15 – Closed Environment Committee meeting for discussion and adoption;
- 2020 April 27 – Closed Council Meeting;

- 2020 May 11 – Open Council Meeting; and
- 2020 June 22 - Environment Awards Ceremony.

j) Correspondence from Nick Kvenich
Re: Planting of Deciduous Trees

Correspondence was received from Mr. Nick Kvenich requesting that the City plant coniferous trees as opposed to deciduous trees.

Mr. Kvenich advised that deciduous trees are dormant once they lose their leaves in the fall, resulting in an inability to absorb carbon dioxide and oxygen. The author also raised concerns regarding the effort that is required to clear sidewalks and drains of the fallen leaves.

In conclusion, Mr. Kvenich also queried the installation of Palm trees on Lougheed, west of Willingdon Avenue.

Staff advised that the Forestry Department have a very well defined list of preferred tree species to be planted along boulevards and in other areas of the City. The City has developed a strategy of mixed tree species in the urban environment and have extensively reviewed what is appropriate for the area.

Further, in some instances trees, such as the palm trees referred to by Mr. Kvenich, are used for beautification purposes and planted by outside organizations.

Arising from discussion, the following motion was introduced:

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR JORDAN
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR WANG

THAT staff send a letter in response to Mr. Kvenich's correspondence.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. REPORTS

a) Report from the Director Planning and Building
2020 Environment Week Program

A report was received from the Director Planning and Building seeking approval for the proposed approach for the 2020 Environment Week program.

Staff provided a summary of the report and advised that Environment Week is planned for 2020 June 06 to June 14. The Burnaby Environment Week corresponds with the Canadian Environment Week and World Environment Day.

The City has incorporated two new program elements into the 2020 Environment Week:

- Environmentally themed digital content has been developed for distribution on City social media channels to promote and engage the event to a broader segment of residents; and
- A Repair Café pilot project has also been proposed, pending Council authorization.

Staff advised that a full program of activities will be provided to the Committee at the 2020 March 18 meeting.

The Director Planning and Building recommended:

1. THAT the Environment Committee recommend that Council approve the proposed approach for the 2020 Environment Week.
2. THAT the Environment Committee recommend that Council approve an expenditure of \$4,500 from the Boards, Committees and Commissions' operating budget for promoting and advertising Environment Week.
3. THAT the Environment Committee recommend that Council approve expenditures of \$3,400 and \$5,900 from the Boards, Committees and Commissions' operating budget to support one Repair Café organized for Environment Week and two additional Repair Cafes in the summer and fall of 2020, as a pilot project.

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR JORDAN
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR WANG

THAT the recommendations of the Director Planning and Building be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b) Report from the Director Engineering
Re: Impact of Tobacco Products on the Environment

A report was received from the Director of Engineering reviewing the feasibility and advisability of banning the sale of tobacco products in the City. The report arose from a presentation by Ms. Claire Preston regarding the impact of tobacco products on the environment.

The Director Engineering recommended:

1. THAT the Environment Committee receive this report for information.

MOVED BY MR. ZAWADZKI
SECONDED BY MS. LUMBY

THAT the recommendation of the Director Engineering be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Arising from discussion, the Committee introduced the following motion:

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR JORDAN
SECONDED BY TRUSTEE CECH

THAT a copy of the report be sent to Ms. Claire Preston.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**c) Report from the Director Engineering and the
Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Re: Elimination of Single Use Plastic Bags, Straws, Utensils
and Containers at City Facilities**

A report was received from the Director of Engineering and the Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services regarding the feasibility and advisability for the elimination of single use plastic bags, straws, utensils and containers at City facilities.

The Director Engineering and the Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services recommended:

1. THAT the Environment Committee request that Council continue with the current practice to eliminate single use plastic bags, straws and utensils at City civic facilities.
2. THAT the Environment Committee direct staff to continue to evaluate and phase out single-use plastic containers at City facilities as suitable alternate products become available.

MOVED BY MR. GIBBS
SECONDED BY TRUSTEE CECH

THAT the recommendations of the Director Engineering and the Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee queried if straws would still be available for special user groups. In regard to the use of single use plastic cups at outdoor events, the Committee suggested a deposit based re-usable cup system. Patrons would provide a deposit for the use of the cup during the event with the ability to receive their deposit upon the returning it.

Arising from discussion, staff advised that a report addressing a proposed regional strategy will be forthcoming.

d) **Report from the Director Engineering**
Re: Textile Diversion Programs at the City of Burnaby

A report was received from the Director of Engineering regarding the advisability and feasibility of embarking on new initiatives to support textile diversion.

Staff provided a summary of the report and advised that the City presently partners with charitable organizations by hosting donation bins at the Eco-Centre. In addition, five Return-It Depots in Burnaby have also launched a Textiles Recycling Pilot Program. Waste stream audits indicated that clothing textiles composed approximately 2.2% of the single family waste stream and 3.1% of the multi-family waste stream.

The City will continue to support and participate in education and outreach programs such as the Metro Vancouver 'Think Thrice About Your Clothes'.

The Director Engineering recommended:

1. THAT the Committee receive this report for information.

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR JORDAN
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR WANG

THAT the recommendation of the Director Engineering be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items of new business brought forward at this time.

6. **INQUIRIES**

There were no inquiries brought forward at this time.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR JORDAN
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR WANG

THAT this Open Committee meeting do now adjourn.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Open meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.


Eva Prior
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER


Councillor Joe Keithley
CHAIR