



ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

An Open meeting of the Environment and Social Planning Committee was held in the Clerk's Committee Room, City Hall, 4949 Canada Way, Burnaby, B.C. on **Tuesday, 2019 November 05** at 6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT:

Councillor Colleen Jordan, Chair
Councillor Joe Keithley, Vice Chair
Councillor James Wang, Member
Mr. Joel Gibbs, Citizen Representative
Mr. Frank Huang, Citizen Representative
Mr. Elie Lubendo, Citizen Representative (*arrived at 6:11 p.m.*)
Ms. Doris Mah, Citizen Representative
Mr. Andrei Zawadzki, Citizen Representative
Ms. Tessa Vanderkop, Burnaby Board of Trade
Trustee Peter Cech, Burnaby School Board

ADVISORY

Ms. Deborah Harford, Simon Fraser University (*arrived at 6:15 p.m.*)

ORGANIZATIONS:

Ms. Dana Wong, FortisBC

ABSENT:

Ms. Mary Lumby, Citizen Representative
Mr. Jerry Muir, BC Hydro

STAFF:

Mr. Dipak Dattani, Director Corporate Services
Ms. Lee-Ann Garnett, Assistant Director Long Range Planning
Ms. Heather Edwards, Manager Parks Planning Design & Dev.
Ms. Simone Rousseau, Manager Environmental Services
Ms. Margaret Manifold, Senior Social Planner
Mr. Mark Sloat, Environmental Planner
Ms. Monica Macdonald, Administrative Officer

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

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

With no objection by any member, the Committee **AMENDED** the order of the agenda to hear the delegation at this time.

3. **DELEGATION**

- a) **Diabetes Canada**
Re: Textile Diversion Program for Burnaby
Speakers: Simon Langer, National Manager Government and Strategic Partnerships, Diabetes Canada
Dr. Calvin Lakhan, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, York University

Mr. Simon Langer, National Manager Government and Strategic Partnerships, Diabetes Canada, and **Dr. Calvin Lakhan**, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, York University appeared before the Committee by teleconference seeking a partnership with Burnaby to participate in York University's National Textile Diversion Study and create a formal textile diversion program.

Mr. Langer advised that he is also speaking on behalf of the National Association for Charitable Textile Recycling (NACTR), a group of not-for-profit and charitable textile collectors from across Canada whose purpose is to create a positive social and environmental impact with textile reuse and recycling. Some of the members include Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Salvation Army Thrift Stores, and Diabetes Canada.

The delegation asserted that the City would benefit from participating in the national research study and textile diversion program, estimating that more than 4.7 million kilograms of used textiles are being generated in Burnaby each year, with 85% of these materials ending up in landfills. This represents a missed opportunity to increase waste diversion and generate revenue for diabetes research or other local charitable causes and programs that serve the community.

Mr. Lubendo arrived at 6:11 p.m.

Mr. Langer provided the following information about the research and program:

- national study to identify the economic, social & environmental impacts on municipalities of using charitable collectors to divert textiles from landfills;
- no cost to municipality to participate in the research, which will be used to inform new legislation and encourage public participation;
- York University will provide Burnaby with textile diversion data along with a quarterly analysis;
- materials collected are managed in a socially & environmentally manner, with 95% of what is collected by Diabetes Canada diverted from landfills;
- clothing bins are located on public sites with appropriate City branding, and include a contractual Service Agreement outlining service commitment;

- will provide \$5 million liability insurance for each placement and ensure bins are reviewed by a 3rd party engineer for public safety;
- over 100 municipalities and organizations from across Canada (including the City of Vancouver and the Recycling Council of British Columbia) are participating in the study and program, with over 1000 textile recycling bins placed on city sites.

Ms. Harford arrived at 6:15 p.m.

The Committee inquired regarding the expected time frame for a response from the City; bin safety; how Diabetes Canada generates money from donated clothing, and what percentage of its operating capital comes from donated clothing; and what percentage of donated clothing goes to overseas markets.

The delegation provided the following information in response:

- Mr. Langer – hopes for a reply sometime in 2020. However, Dr. Lakhan noted that this is an open-ended research question, a living research project with no definitive end date, so there is no specific time requirement;
- Diabetes Canada has retrofitted all bins in Burnaby in 2019 January to ensure they are safe and easy to get out of, and further noted that new ones are designed to prevent people from entering or scavenging the bin. The bins would be serviced daily at the minimum;
- Diabetes Canada generates revenue by selling donated clothing to a number of partners, such as Value Village. Approximately 100 million pounds of textiles are collected every year, with 25-30 million pounds reused or recirculated in the Canadian market. Approximately \$10 million is received through clothing donations, making up 25% of the total revenue generated by Diabetes Canada; and,
- approximately 25% is sold at retail in Canada and 75% is sorted and graded. Of the 75%: 30% is sold through retail channels in other markets, 25% is cycled into other textile products (e.g. bags), 15% is turned into new products (e.g. insulation), and 5% is sent to landfills.

Arising from discussion, the Committee introduced the following motion:

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KEITHLEY
SECONDED BY TRUSTEE CECH

THAT the request from Diabetes Canada be **REFERRED** to staff for a report on the advisability and feasibility of embarking on the program.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The normal order of the meeting resumed.

2. **MINUTES**

a) **Minutes of the Environment and Social Planning Committee Open meeting held on 2019 October 10**

MOVED BY MR. HUANG
SECONDED BY MR. LUBENDO

THAT the minutes of the Environment and Social Planning Committee Open meeting held on 2019 October 10 be adopted.

CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY

3. **DELEGATION**

- a) **Diabetes Canada**
Re: Textile Diversion Program for Burnaby
Speakers: Simon Langer, National Manager Government and Strategic Partnerships, Diabetes Canada
Dr. Calvin Lakhan, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, York University

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

With no objection by any member, the Committee added an item of correspondence from Matthew Burrows, as item 4g).

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) **Correspondence from Beth Ross**
Re: Zero Waste and Consumer Packaging

Correspondence was received from Ms. Beth Ross concerning excessive packaging on grocery produce, and the need for the City to enact a levy on plastics and foam to further reduce waste emissions.

Staff advised that the National Zero Waste Council (NZWC), a leadership initiative of Metro Vancouver to advance waste prevention in Canada, has partnered with Recycle Quebec to conduct a survey to determine what kind of packaging is being used and what approaches can be taken to reduce or eliminate packaging. It is anticipated that the survey and its analysis would be completed by the end of 2020 January, with a report and proposed regional strategy provided through Metro Vancouver.

Arising from discussion, the Committee introduced the following motion:

MOVED BY MR. GIBBS
SECONDED BY MS. MAH

THAT staff send a letter to Ms. Ross informing her on action and the approach being taken by the City on this matter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Arising from further discussion, the Committee concluded that, as the matter is complex and involves many cities, the City would not pursue this issue independently but in cooperation with other municipalities in the region.

b) Correspondence from Bruce Gibbons
Re: Request for Action to Prohibit Bottling of Groundwater in Burnaby

Correspondence was received from Mr. Bruce Gibbons requesting the City to amend its bylaws to prohibit the bottling of groundwater.

The Committee inquired regarding bylaws that regulate ground water extraction such as wells on private property.

Staff advised that ground water extraction is provincially regulated, and further noted that the City no longer has any wells.

c) Correspondence from Residents for Responsible Renewables
Re: 2019 UBCM Session on Hydrogen

Correspondence was received from Mr. Jim Henshaw, Residents for Responsible Renewables, referring to the 2019 UBCM session entitled *Hydrogen 101* warning against unsupported claims about the efficacy of hydrogen for roadway transportation purposes to reduce GHG emissions. The writer advised that hydrogen vehicles, fuel, and infrastructure, continue to show no prospects of being commercially or environmentally viable.

Ms. Wong advised of *The BC Hydrogen Study*, recently completed by Zen and the Art of Clean Energy Solutions, which provides options for hydrogen use.

Arising from discussion, the Committee requested a copy of the study.

Staff undertook to circulate a copy.

d) Memorandum from the Administrative Officer 2

**Re: Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada -
Update on 'Calls to Action' for Local Government**

A memorandum was received from the Administrative Officer advising that Council, at the Open Council meeting held on 2019 October 07, adopted the above noted report requesting an annual expenditure of up to \$10,000 from the Boards, Committees and Commissions budget, and authorize staff to pursue the approach and process regarding acknowledging Indigenous territory in written documents.

The Committee advised of some of the corporate reconciliation efforts, including facilitating a workshop lead by Dr. Patrick Kelly on Truth and Reconciliation, and Indigenous issues which was held for Council and senior staff on 2019 November 04.

e) Memorandum from the Administrative Officer 2
Re: City-Owned Child Care Centres License and Operating
Agreements Renewals

A memorandum was received from the Administrative Officer advising that Council, at the Open Council meeting held on 2019 October 07, adopted the above noted report requesting the renewal of the license and operating agreements with the Burnaby Children's Centres Society for the Hanna Court and Taylor Park Children's Centres, and the renewal of the license and operating agreements with the Lower Mainland Purpose Society for Madison, Yukon Crescent and Cameron Children's Centres.

f) Memorandum from the Administrative Officer
Re: Proposed Zoning Bylaw Text Amendments - 2019 September

A memorandum was received from the Administrative Officer advising that Council, at the Open Council meeting held on 2019 October 07, adopted the above noted report seeking authorization to renew the license and operating agreements for City-owned child care centres.

The Committee inquired regarding the number of additional childcare centres expected arising from these changes, as well which areas lack the most childcare facilities.

Staff advised that it is difficult to find sites that meet Fraser Health Authority requirements in the Commercial District. As such, these changes may not result many more places; however, they will make it easier for applicants who find appropriate sites, as they will no longer need to worry about rezoning.

Staff stated that the City needs more centres in all quadrants. The need for spaces varies depending on the age group and is particularly challenging for infant care.

Further, staff advised that the City is in the process of a childcare needs

assessment review which will consider geographies and determine where the greatest inventory of space is.

School Trustee Cech advised that, at last School District Board meeting, the Board approved a report that will create 773 childcare spaces on school properties.

Staff further advised that they have been working with the District and, although most of the new spaces are for school-age children, have identified four sites that will include spaces for children under five.

**g) Correspondence from Matthew Burrows
Re: Suggestions for Garbage Reduction**

Correspondence was received from Mr. Matthew Burrows urging the City to take action regarding the amount of recycled material in residential garbage bins, reducing pick-up to one black bin fortnightly, and banning plastic.

The Committee inquired regarding fines for recyclables going into garbage bins, contamination frequency, and the follow up process.

Staff advised that fines are imposed for contamination infractions. The enforcement process includes the following escalating action as necessary: follow up with residents for compliance, as part of the education process; "tagging" and collecting data; and finally, issuing fines. The data is available to the public.

With respect to the second issue raised by Mr. Burrows, staff noted that the City separates waste at the site and receives better pricing. With a commingling stream, such as what Surrey has, the recyclable rate received is lower due to higher contamination levels; as well, penalties for contamination are high and are about \$5,000 per truck. The data may show that reducing waste pick-up to once every two weeks results in a reduction in tonnage; however, contamination rates are extremely high.

Staff stated that the City provides its residents with an incentive to reduce waste by structuring black bin fees according to size used by residents, with the smallest bin being charged the lowest fee.

Arising from discussion, the following motion was introduced:

MOVED BY MS. VANDERKOP
SECONDED BY MR. ZAWADZKI

THAT staff respond to Mr. Burrows and provide an update on this matter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. NEW BUSINESS

Councillor Jordan – Changes to 2020 Council Committee Structure

Councillor Jordan advised that, at the Open Council meeting held on 2019 October 28, Council adopted a motion to dissolve the Environment and Social Planning Committee effective 2019 December 31, and create the Environment Committee (EC) and Social Planning Committee (SPC) as of 2020 January 01.

Councillor Jordan outlined the new Committees' appointments, and noted that the EC will be chaired by Councillor Keithley and the SPC by Councillor Jordan.

Councillor Jordan – Repair Café Delegation from October Meeting

Councillor Jordan referred to a presentation on 2019 October 10 regarding a proposal for a Repair Café Program in Burnaby, and recommended that, after consulting with staff, the delegation be invited to host a Repair Café event during 2020 Environment Week as a pilot project.

Arising from discussion and without objection by any member, the Committee requested that staff contact the delegation and arrange for a Repair Café event during 2020 Environment Week.

Staff undertook to follow up.

Trustee Cech – Fortis BC 2019 Efficiency in Action Awards

Trustee Cech advised that Burnaby School District No. 41 has received an *Efficiency in Action* award from Fortis BC. The awards highlight the positive work underway to lower emissions through energy efficiency. The District received the Large Commercial Customer award for a decade of continual focus on energy efficiency, which includes identifying, planning, and managing energy conservation projects on a day-to-day basis building and upgrading its schools to high-efficiency standards, and promoting energy efficiency with its staff and students.

Joel Gibbs – Three Resolutions for Consideration

Mr. Gibbs brought forward the following three resolutions (Motions A, B and C) for consideration:

MOTION A: Feasibility of Removing Gas Stations and At-Grade Parking Lots

WHEREAS the City of Burnaby has declared a Climate Emergency and has set goals to significantly reduce GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS GHG emissions from transportation accounts for close to one-third of community-wide GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS increasing the amount of infrastructure dedicated to vehicles powered by fossil fuels further incentivizes more GHG emissions;

WHEREAS incentivizing further GHG emissions in our transportation system works against the City's stated goal of reducing GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS Burnaby's Social Sustainability Strategy includes focusing on walking and bicycle-friendly development (action #23), healthy built environments (action #24) and sustainable transportation planning to encourage walking, cycling, and transit use (action #100);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff report back on the feasibility of removing gas stations and at-grade parking lots as new permitted uses, while grandfathering existing locations, and prepare an implementation plan to do so.

MOTION B: Life-Cycle Assessment of GHG Emissions and Fees

WHEREAS the City of Burnaby has declared a Climate Emergency and has set goals to significantly reduce GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS the City has moved to require Energy Step code compliance for new buildings in order to reduce operating GHG emissions for new buildings; and

WHEREAS embodied emissions constitute a significant part of life-cycle emissions of buildings;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. Staff report back on a recommended timeline and implementation plan to require a life-cycle assessment of GHG emissions, including embodied, operating and induced emissions, for all new buildings during the planning process.
- B. Staff report back on the feasibility and advisability of linking building and development charges or fees to life-cycle GHG emissions from the project.

MOTION C: Community Land Trust and Prohibiting Future Sale of City Land

WHEREAS affordable housing is an integral element of Burnaby's Social Sustainability Strategy; and

WHEREAS affordable housing can most easily be provided with land held in public ownership; and

WHEREAS community land trusts have shown to be an effective means to guarantee long-term affordable housing for communities; and

WHEREAS at the open council meeting on November 4th, 2019 there was significant stated opposition to selling city land in the future;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. Staff report back on the advisability of the city creating a community land trust, or partnering with an existing land trust, to which the city would commit land.
- B. Staff report back with an implementation plan to prohibit the future sale of city-owned land.

The Chair advised that Motions A and C are not in order as they fall under the purview of the Planning and Development Committee.

The Chair further advised that the City has no legal authority to undertake part B of Motion B and, as such, would not consider it. Part A, however, may be referred to staff to be included with their work on "climate action".

With unanimous consent to waive notice, Mr. Gibbs brought forward part A of Motion B Life-Cycle Assessment of GHG Emissions for consideration:

WHEREAS the City of Burnaby has declared a Climate Emergency and has set goals to significantly reduce GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS the City has moved to require Energy Step code compliance for new buildings in order to reduce operating GHG emissions for new buildings; and

WHEREAS embodied emissions constitute a significant part of life-cycle emissions of buildings;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. Staff report back on a recommended timeline and implementation plan to require a life-cycle assessment (LCA) of GHG emissions, including embodied, operating and induced emissions, for all new buildings during the planning process.

Arising from discussion, the Committee introduced the following motion:

MOVED BY MR. GIBBS
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR KEITHLEY

THAT the part A of the Resolution be **REFERRED** to staff to be included in the *Climate Action Framework* report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Staff advised that they are preparing two comprehensive *Climate Action Framework* (CAF) reports, targeting the following deadlines:

- 2020 Q1 CAF community related; and,
- 2020 Q2 CAF corporate related

Further, staff emphasized that these reports represent a significant body of work, and considers and aligns with work being done regarding the *Transportation Plan*, *OCP*, and housing initiatives.

Councillor Jordan – Appreciation of Service for Frank Huang

Councillor Jordan recognized that tonight was Mr. Huang's last Committee meeting, and extended appreciation to him for his service as a citizen representative on the Environment and Social Planning Committee.

6. INQUIRIES

Deborah Harford – Interaction Between the Two New Committees

Ms. Harford noted that there are many connections between social planning and the environment, and inquired regarding how the new Environment Committee and the Social Planning Committee will communicate on common issues.

The Committee advised that the same three Councillors are members of the two new Committees.

Staff provided an overview of the communication strategies and standard practices used between Committees.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY MR. HUANG
SECONDED BY MR. LUBENDO

THAT this Open Committee meeting do now adjourn.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Open meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Monica Macdonald
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Councillor Colleen Jordan
CHAIR