

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 27, 2024

TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

PLACE: Council Committee Room, Coquitlam City Hall

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 be approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Committee Welcome (Introductory Comments by the Committee Clerk)
7:05 – 7:15 p.m. (10 minutes)

3. Review and Adoption of the 2024 Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Work Plan
7:15 – 7:35 p.m. (20 minutes)

Recommendation:

That the Committee recommend to Council to approve the 2024 Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Work Plan.

4. Fraser Mills Community Centre, Parks and Public Art (Presentation by the Park Planning and Design Manager and Senior Project Manager)
7:35 – 8:05 p.m. (30 minutes)

5. Waste and Single Use Item Reduction Programs (Presentation by the Sustainability Programs Specialist and Solid Waste Programs Specialist)
8:05 – 8:30 p.m. (25 minutes)

6. 2024 Environmental Volunteer Celebration – Potential Establishment of Event Planning Sub-Committee (Introductory Comments by the Environmental Education and Enforcement Manager)
8:30 – 8:45 p.m. (15 minutes)

7. Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)
8:45 – 9:00 p.m. (15 minutes)

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, April 23, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, November 28, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Brent Asmundson, Chair
Councillor Robert Mazzarolo, Vice Chair
Mark Ashton, Citizen Representative
Grayson Barke, Citizen Representative
Reza Berry, Citizen Representative
Silvia Cojocar, Citizen Representative
Daryoush Mohammad Hassani, Citizen Representative
Edward Lau, Citizen Representative
Bonnie Razzaghi, Citizen Representative

REGRETS: Linton Chokie, Citizen Representative
Mohammad Darabi, Citizen Representative

STAFF: Caresse Selk, Manager Environment
Jenny Tough, Environmental Education and Enforcement Manager
Shannon Hadley, Solid Waste and Special Projects Manager
Erin Gorby, Urban Forestry and Parks Services Manager
Nilou Rajaei, Urban Wildlife Program Coordinator
Sergio Garcia, Utility Planning Engineer
Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023

The Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Single Family Stormwater Management

The Utility Planning Engineer provided a presentation entitled “Stormwater Detention for Low Density Developments” that covered the following topics:

- Overview of the City’s Stormwater Management Project (hereon “the Project”)

- Breakdown of current land use in Coquitlam and population growth projections
- Comparison from 2003 to 2023 regarding development conveyance implications for stormwater drainage
- Concern regarding increased water flow through City's drainage systems
- The Project's three levels of control for stormwater monitoring and management
- Example diagram of onsite engineering standards
- Public engagement opportunities with residents and other committees
- Bylaw enforcement of stormwater management standards

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Recent provincial housing legislation, Bills 44, 46 and 47, including implications for housing density, impact on City's ability to enforce stormwater standards on developers and fund capital projects, and the Committee's desire for a future presentation from staff regarding the legislation's implications
- Feasibility of applying stormwater management policies to areas in Coquitlam with significant erosion, challenging slope grades and limited space
- The Project, including whether it applies to single-family developments, comparison to other municipalities and possibility of development projects being mandated to install detention ponds that prevent excess stormwater flow
- Infiltration component of water and water quality concerns
- Impact of soil condition, construction development and neighbourhood types on stormwater flow
- Feasibility of creating rock pits and drainage challenges in Northeast Coquitlam
- Possibility of implementing more efficient stormwater infiltration features and systems along public roads and walkways
- Difference between on-site and off-site stormwater infiltration systems
- The Committee's desire for bylaw changes that mandate developers to install more efficient stormwater management technology

3. Urban Forest Management Plan

The Urban Forestry and Parks Services Manager provided a presentation entitled "Urban Forest Management Strategy" that covered the following topics:

- Overview of the City's Urban Forest Management Strategy (hereon "the Strategy")
- Health benefits and climate change mitigation effects of urban forests and greenspace
- The Strategy's synergy with other City plans such as the Climate Action Plan (CAP), community and consultant involvement in the development process and staff desire for community feedback
- The necessity of the Strategy and development's impact on Coquitlam's urban forest canopy

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- When the Strategy's first public survey on Let's Talk Coquitlam will be accessible
- Possibility of holding the Strategy's public engagement activities along the High Street near Coquitlam Centre
- Whether data exists regarding lost tree canopy in Coquitlam since 2014
- Greenfield development, or unused land, and its impact on tree canopy
- Concern regarding trees being cut down for new developments in Coquitlam
- Tree replacement plans, including current strategies, future recommendations and whether a tree replacement plan will be a core component of the Strategy
- Whether there will be a public feedback opportunity once the Strategy is drafted
- Communication mediums for community groups and individuals involved in the Strategy's drafting
- City contact person for urban forest management concerns

4. Waste Management and Recycling Update 2023

The Solid Waste and Special Projects Manager provided a presentation entitled "2023 Solid Waste Operations Update" that covered the following topics:

- Overview of updates to the City's 2023 solid waste projects and initiatives
- City garbage, recycling and green waste collection services data, focus, education and enforcement
- Recycling collection in Coquitlam provided by Recycle BC
- Removal of downsizing garbage bin fee to incentivize waste reduction
- Regional and provincial updates regarding waste collection, management and reduction

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Town Centre Recycling Depot, including capacity concerns, types of waste it accepts and whether the organic dumpster is bear-proof
- Possibility of incinerating garbage to produce electricity and health concerns of incinerating garbage
- Which City department is responsible for special solid waste projects and initiatives
- Metro Vancouver's incinerator facility and its method of operation

5. Urban Wildlife Management Update 2023

The Urban Wildlife Coordinator provided a presentation entitled "Urban Wildlife Program Update" that covered the following topics:

- Background of the City's Urban Wildlife Program (hereon "the Program")
- Data breakdown of wildlife bylaw violations from 2017 to 2023
- Crows, rodents and raccoons remaining the top wildlife concerns in Coquitlam
- The Program's 2024 priorities

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Scope of the Program's bylaws and whether they apply to strata properties

- Possible deterrence measures for bears seeking food sources in garbage and green bins
- Concern regarding rodents in Coquitlam, including whether population numbers have increased over the last few years, the Provincial Government's second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide ban and the increase in restaurants' impact on rodent population numbers
- Possibility of working with developers to incorporate wildlife friendly culvert and bridge designs for road crossings over watercourses to facilitate movement of bears within riparian areas

6. 2023 Year-End Review/Identify Potential Items for the Draft 2024 Work Plan

The Manager Environment and Environmental Education and Enforcement Manager provided a presentation entitled "SEAC 2023 Year-end Review & 2024 Work Planning" that covered the following topics:

- Review of 2023 Work Plan items and meetings
- Acknowledgement and appreciation of the Committee's feedback throughout 2023
- 2024 Work Plan drafting process and staff's desire for Committee feedback

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Committee desire for the draft 2024 Work Plan to include presentations on the impact of recent provincial housing legislation, Bills 44, 46 and 47, and impact on the City's environmental planning, the interface between levels of government for salmon habitat restoration and maintenance, Metro Vancouver's tree canopy study and Coquitlam Water Main Project's impact on greenspace and a study involving the composition of Coquitlam's tree nurseries
- Committee desire for the creation of a sub-committee in 2024 to assist with the Urban Forest Management Strategy drafting process
- Possibility of involving the Riverview Horticultural Centre Society in future river and tree canopy studies

7. Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Issues

The Chair invited Committee members to share emerging issues from their communities.

The Committee expressed appreciation for City efforts on environmental concerns and staff's consideration of community feedback.

The Chair expressed appreciation for the Committee's volunteerism and engagement throughout 2023.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE - TBD (2024)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Brent Asmundson, Chair

Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk



2024 Sustainability & Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule

Meetings are generally scheduled bi-monthly on the fourth or fifth Tuesday of the month from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
February 27, 2024 (Tuesday)	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Council Committee Room
April 23, 2024 (Tuesday)	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Council Committee Room
June 25, 2024 (Tuesday)	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Council Committee Room
No meetings in August		
September 24, 2024 (Tuesday)	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Council Committee Room
November 26, 2024 (Tuesday)	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Council Committee Room
No meetings in December		

Notes:

- Meeting dates are subject to change, as needed.

Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee

Committee Mandate

The overall mandate of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee is to provide a local perspective and advice to Council with respect to achieving the City of Coquitlam's strategic goals and accompanying strategic directions. Specific responsibilities of the Committee include, but are not limited to, the following:

- To provide advice to Council on a wide range of existing and emerging environmental issues and trends including strategic planning initiatives, bylaws, and policy development;
- To provide a local perspective on the environment while giving due consideration to the balance between social, environmental and economic aspects;
- To identify and review opportunities for environmental protection and enhancement within the City and advise Council of the same;
- To advise Council on issues of environmental importance to stakeholder groups and to the community at large;
- To identify and advise on ways to build local environmental awareness, and promote environmental stewardship within the City; and
- To celebrate environmental volunteer involvement and leadership including supporting the annual Environmental Volunteer Celebration (and its biannual Environmental Achievement Awards component).

WORK PLAN ITEMS	DEPARTMENT AND/OR PRESENTER	COMMENTS (i.e. initiated by, Priority Assignment A, B, C)
Standing Items		
1. Committee Welcome	Chair/Staff	Chair/Staff
2. Review and Approval of 2024 Work Plan	Staff Lead / Committee	Staff
3. SEAC Members' Roundtable / Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)	Committee	Committee
4. City Manager / Deputy City Manager – Committee input, as needed	CM / DCM	Staff
5. 2024 Year-End Review	E&PW (Staff Lead) / Committee	Staff
6. 2025 Work Plan	E&PW (Staff Lead) / Committee	Staff
SEAC Members' Requested Items		
7. Environmental Impacts of Bills 44, 46 and 47	E&PW / P&D	Requested by Committee members at end of 2023

DRAFT 2024 Work Plan Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee

WORK PLAN ITEMS	DEPARTMENT AND/OR PRESENTER	COMMENTS (i.e. initiated by, Priority Assignment A, B, C)
Educational Awareness Presentations		
8. Urban Wildlife Management	E&PW	Committee
9. Waste Management and Recycling	E&PW	Committee
Engineering and Public Works Initiatives: as needed, including:		
10. Climate Action Plan - Draft Strategy Consultation	Environment	Priority Item A
11. Environmental Bylaw Updates: Stream and Drainage System Protection Bylaw Amendment	Environment	Staff
12. Single Use Item Reduction Program	Environment	Staff
13. Strategic Transportation Plan	Transportation	Priority Item A
14. E-Mobility Strategy	Transportation	Staff
15. Joint Flood Mitigation Program	Utilities	Staff
16. Stormwater Treatment Facility and I&I Update	Utilities	Staff
Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities Initiatives: as needed, including:		
17. Urban Forest Management Plan	Urban Forestry	Priority Item C and Committee request
18. Northeast Community Centre and Park Design	Parks Planning	Priority Item A
19. Blue Mountain Park Master Plan	Parks Planning	Priority Item B
20. Glen Park Phase 3 Planning	Parks Planning	Priority Item C
Planning and Development: as needed, including:		
21. Hazel-Coy Neighbourhood Plan	Community Planning	Priority Item B – postponed from 2023
22. Construction Sites Impact Mitigation	Planning, Bylaws and E&PW (Environment)	Priority Item B
Environmental Achievement Awards 2024:		
23. Review of Environmental Achievement Award Nominations	Environment	Staff
24. Awards Event	Committee/Environment	Staff