

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 11, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 7:01 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

**Indicated Virtual Attendance*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Brent Asmundson, Chair
Councillor Steve Kim, Vice Chair
Mark Ashton, Citizen Representative
Grayson Barke, Citizen Representative
Reza Berry, Citizen Representative*
Craig Busch, Citizen Representative*
Daryoush M. Hassani, Citizen Representative
Edward Lau, Citizen Representative
Hasina Razafimahefa, Citizen Representative
Nadia Springle, Citizen Representative

ABSENT: Linton Chokie, Citizen Representative (Regrets)
Sarah Ramji, Citizen Representative (Regrets)
Azar Varasteh, Citizen Representative (Regrets)

STAFF: Caresse Selk, Senior Manager Environment
Jenny Tough, Manager Environmental Education and Enforcement
Jennifer Mills, Manager Legislative Services
Thomas Thivener, Manager Transportation Planning
Natasha Lock, Planner 3
Kerry Thompson, Planner 2
Tara Slater, Planner 1
Madeleine Lemaire, Acting Solid Waste Programs Specialist
Meghan Malkowich, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

The Chair conducted roundtable introductions of Committee members and attending Staff.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, November 26, 2024

The Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Committee Welcome

The Committee Clerk gave a presentation entitled “2025 Advisory Committee Orientation Session” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

3. Review and Adoption of the 2025 Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Work Plan

The Senior Manager Environment provided introductory comments relative to the 2025 Draft Work Plan.

The Chair thanked the Staff Leads for their work on the 2025 Draft Work Plan and discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Including an Educational Awareness Presentation on Urban Wildlife Management in relation to animal migration through Coquitlam and Item 6 on the Work Plan.
- The possibility of a new hiking pathway to connect Lafarge Lake to the new North East Community Centre and Park.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the 2025 Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Work Plan.

4. 2025 Environmental Volunteer Celebration – Establish Event Planning and Implementation Sub-committee

The Manager Environmental Education and Enforcement gave introductory comments and the Solid Waste Programs Specialist gave a presentation entitled “2025 Environmental Volunteer Celebration” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

The following Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee members volunteered to for the 2025 Environmental Volunteer Celebration Sub-committee:

- Mark Ashton
- Grayson Barke
- Reza Berry
- Daryoush M. Hassani

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Entertainment and food options for the event.
- Inviting stewardship groups to the event and space restrictions at the venue that may impact the number of possible attendees.

The Solid Waste Programs Specialist advised that a Sub-committee meeting will be convened in late-April.

5. Active Transportation Project Engagement

The Manager Transportation Planning gave a presentation entitled “Transportation Updates” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Guildford Way and Nelson Street active transportation and road safety improvements, including information about improved micromobility and cycling facilities that physically separates users from vehicles and pedestrians.
- Opportunities for connectivity of Coquitlam’s existing and planned trails with neighbouring municipalities trail systems.
- Incorporating pollinator gardens along construction roads and corridors and creating a program for residents to care for the gardens and potentially reduce maintenance costs.
- Integrating stormwater management projects in road construction and upgrades to provide opportunities for research and experiments.
- The existing infrastructure and pathways that can be accessed by users to get over Highway 1 when traversing Nelson Street.
- Different methods of communication that are available for the City to update

citizens on new bicycle paths and infrastructure throughout Coquitlam and encourage the use of cycling as a transportation method.

- The need for signage and other information systems to assist cyclists in wayfinding and route planning.
- The availability of data related to an increase in use due to construction and upgrades of streets and multi-use pathways.
- The feasibility of the use of permeable pavement for planned new construction and upgrades to streets and corridors.

The Manager Transportation left the meeting at this point and did not return – 7:57 p.m.

6. Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing Implementation and Transit-Oriented Areas Update

Planner 1, Planner 2 and Planner 3, Community Planning gave a presentation entitled “Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing Implementation and Transit-Oriented Areas Update” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The impact of Provincial housing legislation on urban forests, resulting in increasing urban heat effects and flooding and the role of an adequate urban tree canopy in climate change mitigation.
- Potential creative solutions that adhere to the Provincial housing legislation, such as the reduction of small-scale multi-unit housing sizes in the City to increase green spaces.
- Incorporating green and blue roofs in new construction and ensuring new building plans have considered the necessary infrastructure to support roof gardens.
- Utilizing existing infrastructure, such as high-rise apartment buildings, to provide shade to shorter buildings and public spaces.
- Adding trees and other vegetation to bare parking lots to increase the tree canopy and assist with heat reflection.
- Exploring financial incentives for green infrastructure and environmentally friendly practices, like tree planting.
- The potential population increase from small-scale multi-unit housing and its impact on municipal infrastructure and planning.
- Possible ways to demonstrate the risks that the Provincial housing legislation may have on the City of Coquitlam to Provincial Legislators.
- The effects small-scale multi-unit housing may have on drainage infrastructure and integrated watershed management plans,
- The effects small-scale multi-unit housing may have on drinking water demand and available fire flow.

- Opportunities for new construction to support the sewage, inflow and infiltration, and stormwater management issues in older residential areas.
- Interest in Metro Vancouver’s sanitary sewer system planning and how it may assist the City of Coquitlam to address stormwater concerns.
- The effectiveness of the City of Coquitlam’s new stormwater treatment facility (often referred to as “The Jellyfish”) which treats stormwater in the Stoney Creek drainage catchment.
- The role of the City’s Stormwater Management Policy and Design Manual in guiding how developers determine infrastructure size and how parameters utilized in the intensity-duration-frequency curve are reviewed to include climate change.

Planners 1, 2 and 3 left this meeting at this point and do not return - 8:43 p.m.

7. Committee Members’ Roundtable / Emerging Accessibility Issues

The Chair invited Committee members to share emerging sustainability and environmental issues and events in their communities.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- World Bee Day on May 20, 2025 and the opportunity to highlight the bee at Town Centre Park’s Inspiration Garden and educate the public on pollinators.
- Concern about how foreign politics may impact environmental and sustainability issues going forward.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, April 8, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Minutes – Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee
Tuesday, February 11, 2025

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Councillor Brent Asmundson, Chair

Meghan Malkowich, Committee Clerk