

**SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, February 22, 2022**

A Regular Meeting of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 7:01 p.m. in Council Chambers, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Teri Towner, Chair  
Councillor Brent Asmundson, Vice Chair  
Tracy Adole  
Mark Ashton (arrived at 7:55 p.m.)  
Grayson Barke  
Reza Berry  
Linton Chokie  
Christine Coles  
Mohammad Darabi  
Rich Kenny  
Edward Lau  
Bonnie Razzaghi

REGRETS: Jay Ashworth

STAFF: Caresse Selk, Manager Environment  
Britta Ng, Water Conservation Coordinator  
Jeri Hohn, Committee Clerk

## CALL TO ORDER

### 1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting. She noted that a group of Girl Guides would be joining the meeting later in the evening as part of their Association's 2022 celebration of World Thinking Day, recognizing gender equality and climate change.

The Committee members and staff participated in a roundtable of introductions.

## ADOPTION OF MINUTES

### 2. Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, November 23, 2021

The Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 were approved.

**NEW BUSINESS****3. Committee Orientation**

The Committee Clerk provided the Committee with an orientation of its structure, mandate, and responsibilities, referencing an on-screen presentation and utilizing slides titled as follows:

- 2022 Advisory Committee Orientation Session
- 2022 Advisory and Statutory Committees
- Coquitlam City Council
- City's Planning Processes and You
- Committee Mandate
- Role of the Committee
- Role of the Committee Cont'd
- Role of the Chair and Vice Chair
- Role of the Staff Lead(s)
- Role of the Committee Clerk
- Term of Appointment and Code of Conduct
- Conflict of Interest
- COVID-19 Measures
- Connect With Us
- Questions?

There were no questions. The Chair thanked the Committee Clerk for the orientation.

**4. Review and Approve 2022 SEAC Work Plan**

The draft 2022 SEAC Work Plan was presented on-screen and the Manager Environment reviewed each of the proposed work plan items.

The Chair invited comments from the Committee and there were none.

The Committee endorsed the 2022 SEAC Work Plan and a copy is attached hereto, and forms a part of, these minutes.

The Committee recommended:

**COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve the 2022 Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Work Plan.

**5. Educational Awareness Presentation: Environmental Bylaw Updates**

The Manager Environment and the Water Conservation Coordinator provided a joint

presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Environmental Bylaw Education and Enforcement
- Agenda
- Environmental Bylaw Education and Enforcement
- Wildlife and Vector Control Bylaw
- Solid Waste Management Bylaw
- Stream and Drainage System Protection Bylaw
- Pesticide Use Control Bylaw
- Vehicle Idling (Street and Traffic Bylaw) – New 2022
- Drinking Water Conservation Plan Bylaw
- Single Use Item Bylaw – Future Bylaw
- Questions

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- How to manage bird feeders so that they do not act as wildlife attractants
- Where to report pollution spills into local watercourses and stormwater catchments to the City outside of regular business hours
- Information about the City's 24-hour, 365 days per year Engineering and Public Works Customer Service and email address
- Appreciation that pesticides and herbicides are banned under the City's bylaw and an explanation from staff regarding why they may still be sold in Coquitlam
- Concern regarding a construction noise infraction that had occurred over a recent long weekend by a professional builder, and how disturbing it was for residents living in the surrounding area
- The desire that there be consequences for professional builders when they disobey the City's Noise Bylaw

The Vice Chair asked the Manager Environment to follow-up with Building Permits and Inspections staff regarding the availability of City staff to investigate construction noise infractions outside of regular business hours.

- Support for the City's Vehicle Idling Bylaw
- That the Vehicle Idling Bylaw applies to personal and commercial (construction) vehicles
- That it is acceptable for residents to warm-up their vehicles for 3 minutes during winter months
- Some considerations and educational components of the Vehicle Idling Bylaw
- The understanding that some residents had been observed idling their vehicles for long periods of time while using them as smoking and cooling places

The Chair welcomed Mark Ashton to the meeting at this time (7:55 p.m.) and at her invitation he introduced himself.

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- The suggestion that the City create a bird feed specific webpage for residents who want to feed birds, and include bird feeding options, alternatives, and other information relative to seasonal (bear) awareness as part of the page

- Acknowledgement that the City takes proactive steps to educate its residents and encourage volunteer adherence to its bylaws
- The understanding that residents are doing a good job of adhering to the City's Solid Waste Management Bylaw

In response to a question from the Chair, the Manager Environment spoke to the City's high solid waste diversion rate, noting that 71 percent is being diverted into organic composting and recycling rather than into landfills.

At this time (8:06 p.m.), the Chair acknowledged the arrival of the Girl Guide group and welcomed them to the meeting.

#### **6. 2022 Environmental Volunteer Celebration / Proposed Establishment of an Event Planning Sub-committee**

The Manager Environmental provided a presentation, referring to on-screen slides titled as follows:

- Environmental Achievement Awards and Volunteer Celebration
- Agenda
- Background
- Review of Past Years
- 2020 Environmental Achievement Award Recipients
- 2021 Environmental Volunteer Celebration
- 2022 Considerations
- Staff Recommendations
- Discussion
- Questions?

Staff recommended the following:

- Form a Sub-Committee for adjudication of nominations and event planning
- Consider delaying volunteer event to late June/early July or late fall (November)
- Could also consider holding off on awards component until 2023

The Committee considered the following focus questions:

- Do you prefer holding the volunteer celebration in late spring or late fall?
- Indoor versus outdoor?
- Are you interested in participating on a sub-committee?

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The excellence of the 2021 event
- The impressive breadth of participants' volunteer activities
- That the white tents used during the City's outdoor events are rented
- Whether the Forum at Dogwood Pavilion could be booked for the event
- The Environmental Volunteer Achievement Award application and review process, including how the City promotes and gathers nominations from the community
- The pros and cons of the proposed dates for the event
- The desire that potential COVID-19 restrictions for a summer versus a fall event be

considered by staff

- The preference for an in-person, outdoor event to be held in late spring/early summer, if possible
- Whether the event is by invitation only or open to public walk-ins
- That past event participants have had to register for activities in advance, however, in 2021, educational booths were erected on-site for public walk-ins/drop-ins
- The typical time commitment and responsibilities involved in serving as a sub-committee member

The Committee formed a 2022 Environmental Volunteer Celebration Sub-Committee and the following members offered to serve: Mark Ashton, Reza Berry, Linton Chokie, Christine Coles, and Bonnie Razzaghi.

The Chair noted that staff would follow-up with the Sub-committee volunteers regarding next steps.

#### **7. SEAC Members' Roundtable/Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)**

The Chair invited the Committee members to share items of information and emerging issues from their communities. The following questions were asked and information was shared:

- Whether the Committee could be provided with a City Centre Area Plan (CCAP) update and whether the previous Committee's suggestions regarding water features would be incorporated into the design
- Whether rodenticides were being used at City facilities
- Appreciation for the inclusion of the 'Nature Challenge' item on the 2022 Work Plan
- Belief in the pleasure and educational benefits that adults and children could experience using the iNaturalist and iSeek apps year-round
- That, as part of the Environmental Sustainability Plan and its adaption strategies, a Committee member looked forward to discussing the "urban heat island effect" and whether the City could measure it with a view to setting goals, interventions, and strategies to combat future heat domes and other extreme heat events in Coquitlam
- Whether, heading into spring and summer, the City completed regular safety and maintenance checks of its parks and playgrounds infrastructure
- Whether the developers of the City's remaining development areas, including Burke Mountain and Upper Pipeline and Quarry Roads, would be required to follow green infrastructure best practices and civil works such as Step Code 3 and those required by the City of Vancouver
- Whether developers who had submitted development applications prior to implementation of Step Code 3 requirements in Coquitlam would be required to follow Step Code 3 best practices.

The Chair noted that although the City Centre Area Plan (CCAP) update was not included on the Committee's 2022 Work Plan, much information about the (previously adopted) CCAP was available on the City's website and further information could be provided to the interested member following the meeting.

The Manager Environment noted that the rodenticide issue had been raised by previous Committees and, as a result, the City had taken steps to eliminate the use of rodenticides (rat poisons and bait stations) at City facilities and on City-owned lands. She further noted that Environment staff were participating on a Provincial rodenticide working group, updating City resources and materials regarding rodent control, and the City had moved to snap traps and had experienced no negative impacts relative to that transition.

The Manager Environment spoke to the City's involvement in, and promotion of, the global Nature Challenge initiative, including its partnership with adjacent municipalities.

The Vice Chair noted that residents with concerns about damaged infrastructure or a potentially hazardous issue in a City park or playground could contact the Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities or the Engineering and Public Works departments for assistance. He further noted that it is helpful when residents provide photographs and detailed location information regarding infrastructure issues to staff.

The Manager Environment spoke to the process that City follows to ensure that infrastructure in City parks and playgrounds are regularly inspected, assessed, maintained, and repaired.

The Chair and the Vice Chair spoke to the purpose of the agenda item. The Chair noted that members were welcome to ask questions (unrelated to agenda items) of staff and Council outside of regular Committee meetings, and thanked the Committee members for their volunteerism.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

**NEXT MEETING DATE – April 26, 2022**

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

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CHAIR



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Jeri Hohn  
Committee Clerk