

City of Port Moody

Minutes

Environmental Protection Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee held on Thursday, February 18, 2021 via Zoom.

Present

Councillor Amy Lubik, Chair
Margaret Birch
Kyle Demes
Jutta Rickers-Haunerland
Javney Mohr
Damian Regan (arrived at 7:05pm)
Connie Smith
Koy Tayler
Judy Taylor-Atkinson
Jeremy Wong

Absent

Councillor Meghan Lahti, Vice-Chair
Andrew MacLellan
Elizabeth Philips (Regrets)

In Attendance

Karen Devitt – Environmental Technician
Jennifer Mills – Committee Coordinator
Robbie Nall – Superintendent Parks (arrived at 7:37pm)
Julie Pavey-Tomlinson – Director of Environment and Parks

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes

- 2.1 EPC21/003
Moved, seconded, and CARRIED
THAT the minutes of the Environmental Protection Committee meeting held on Monday, January 18, 2021 be adopted.

3. Unfinished Business

4. New Business

2021 Work Plan

- 4.1 Attachment: 2021 Environmental Protection Committee Work Plan Calendar
File: 01-0360-20-04-02

The Chair provided an overview of the 2021 Environmental Protection Committee Work Plan and requested Committee members' feedback.

EPC21/004

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the Draft 2021 Environmental Protection Committee Work Plan be approved.

Balloons and Plastics in Parks and ESAs

- 4.2 Julie Pavey-Tomlinson, Director of Environment and Parks, and Karen Devitt, Environmental Coordinator
Attachment: Don't Let Go!, Campaign for Responsible Balloon Use, Marine Conservation Society Overross House
File: 01-0360-20-04-02

The Environmental Coordinator gave a presentation on Balloons and Plastics in Parks and the following was noted:

- the increase in balloons and other plastic waste in parks is concerning due to the proximity of the parks to environmentally sensitive areas and the potential for litter to enter wildlife habitats;
- the biggest increase in waste is occurring at Rocky Point Park and Old Orchard Park which are direct pathways to the ocean and into wildlife's food supply chain;
- the balloons can end up in trees and land on the mudflats and cannot be retrieved by staff due to safety hazards;
- the balloons and the associated ribbons pose risks to wildlife including ingestion and entanglement; children and pets are also at risk;
- the picnic areas and event bookings include provisions related to balloons and other waste; and
- the Committee could research: environmental impacts of balloons on the natural environment; specific considerations for Port Moody parks; recommendations for ecologically friendly alternatives to balloons for celebrations; and educational content for future communications.

The Committee noted the following:

- the educational content could be more impactful if enforcement was permitted through the creation of a bylaw or inclusion in the Littering and Dumping Prohibition Bylaw; and

- the use of lighter-than-air balloons is prohibited in many cities located next to oceans.

The following Committee members volunteered for the Balloons and Plastics in Parks and ESAs working group:

- Kyle Demes;
- Koy Tayler;
- Judy Taylor-Atkinson; and
- Jeremy Wong.

Environmental Education and Outreach

4.3 Karen Devitt, Environmental Coordinator

The Environmental Coordinator gave a presentation on Environmental Education and Outreach and the following was noted:

- the City's education and outreach is linked to existing projects, work plans, or services and targets events including Earth Day, invasive plant pulls, and community events such as Fingerling Festivals, Car-Free Day, Community Fair, and Public Works Day;
- the City's website, calendar, social media accounts, and the Focus newsletter include environmental content;
- the 2020 efforts were impacted by COVID-19 and environmental content was made available online, including videos of the pollinator gardens, Earth Day activities, and instructional "how to" videos, and in collaboration with the Recreation Department by including environmental education in the summer programming; and
- the 2021 efforts continue to be impacted by COVID-19 and planning includes programming on environmental education for seniors and summer camps, undertaking small invasive removals, and highlighting environmental programs through the City's website and social media accounts.

The Environmental Coordinator requested feedback from the Committee on the following questions to assist in ensuring that the outreach and education programs continue to be effective:

- Have you participated in any of our environmental events? What do you think worked? What didn't work?
- Do you have any ideas for how we could be more effective with our environmental outreach initiatives?
- Is there a style or type of event/outreach that you think we should explore?

The Committee noted the following:

- the Stanley Park Ecological Society and the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre are providing online programming which could be researched for application to Port Moody's programming;
- the programming could include education regarding electric cars, ancient forests and the hidden language of trees, and what it means to live in a forest; and
- the use of films to provide education on the environment and environmental justice could be explored; films could be viewed and then a discussion forum could be hosted.

The Environmental Coordinator left the meeting at this point and did not return.

Climate Resilient Landscaping

- 4.4 Robbie Nall, Superintendent of Parks
Attachment: Draft Project Charter, Climate Resilient Landscaping Strategies for Public Lands
File: 01-0360-20-04-02

The Superintendent of Parks gave a presentation on Climate Resilient Landscaping Strategies and the following was noted:

- the development of climate resilient landscaping strategies for public lands stems from the Climate Action Plan which identified short-term actions to create environmental standards and procedures with an emphasis on climate change resilience;
- the Climate Action Plan Open House provided the opportunity to receive the community's feedback and identified the development of landscaping strategies for public lands in Port Moody's neighbourhoods as a top priority;
- the Metro Vancouver climate projections for 2050 estimate: a 5% increase of total annual precipitation including an 11% increase in fall and 19% decrease in summer precipitation; an increase in shoreline erosion effecting natural environments and public amenities with a 0.5m sea level rise; an increase in frequency and intensity of storms and weather extremes; and hotter, drier summers with more heat waves;
- the City's policies and projects include policy related to planting resilient plants that are drought and salt tolerant, increased tree planting activities, creating pollinator habitats, and the removal of invasive plants and replanting of native species;
- the implementation of naturalist planting has increased in Europe where visually beautiful and abundant landscapes are created which mitigate climate change and create ecological activity; and
- the Shoreline Trail sign bed is a pilot project for climate resilient landscaping strategies and includes soil

moisture and temperature sensors for monitoring, and three different soil types.

The Committee noted that climate resilient landscaping could be considered for inclusion in the Sustainability Report Card.

EPC21/005

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the draft Project Charter for Climate Resilient Landscaping Strategies for Public Lands be approved.

The Superintendent of Parks left the meeting at this point and did not return.

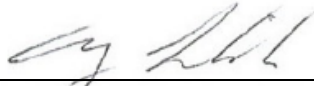
5. Information

Staff Updates

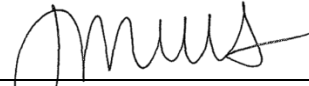
5.1 There were no staff updates provided at this time.

6. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:46pm.



Councillor Amy Lubik,
Chair



Jennifer Mills,
Committee Coordinator