



# City of Port Moody

## Minutes

### Environmental Protection Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee held on Monday, March 15, 2021 via Zoom.

#### Present

Councillor Amy Lubik, Chair  
Kyle Demes  
Damian Regan  
Jutta Rickers-Haunerland (arrived at 7:14pm)  
Connie Smith  
Koy Tayler  
Judy Taylor-Atkinson  
Jeremy Wong

#### Absent

Councillor Meghan Lahti, Vice-Chair  
Margaret Birch  
Andrew MacLellan  
Javney Mohr

#### In Attendance

Kurt Frei – Environmental Technician  
Jennifer Mills – Committee Coordinator  
Julie Pavey-Tomlinson – Director of Environment and Parks

#### 1. Call to Order

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

#### 2. Adoption of Minutes

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#### Minutes

##### 2.1 EPC21/006

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

**THAT the minutes of the Environmental Protection Committee meeting held on Thursday, February 18, 2021 be adopted.**

#### 3. Unfinished Business

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#### 4. New Business

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##### **Bear Update**

##### 4.1 Kurt Frei, Environmental Technician, and Alicia Stark, Acting Sergeant, Conservation Officer Service

The Environmental Technician gave a presentation on the Wildlife Update and the following was noted:

- the City has received feedback from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy regarding the Bear Smart Community program application; the feedback will be incorporated into the final application which is scheduled to be submitted by the end of April;
- the City has begun tracking waste cart replacements due to damage from bears; this will provide a database to address opportunities for improvements related to the storage of waste carts;
- the City continues to collaborate with the Tri-Cities Bear Aware Community Group to assist in educating, managing, and reducing human-bear conflicts;
- there were approximately 360 black bears sightings and/or encounters in 2020; the pandemic may have impacted the above-average volume of reports by creating more opportunities for sightings; and
- there has been a decrease in Solid Waste Bylaw contraventions during the pandemic; the pandemic may have impacted the decrease by creating more opportunities for residents to ensure their waste carts are secured as outlined in the Bylaw.

##### **Wildlife in Parks**

##### 4.2 Presentation: Kurt Frei, Environmental Technician, and Alicia Stark, Acting Sergeant, Conservation Officer Service Attachment: Wildlife Update File: 01-0360-20-04-02

The Environmental Technician gave a presentation on Park Wildlife Update and the following was noted:

- the annual Tri-Cities cougar sightings increase in January, February, and March due to the cougars moving down to sea level to hunt black tail deer;
- there has recently been several conflicts with cougars involving small pets;
- the Conservation Officer Service (COS) has advised that the incidents involve family units of a mother with cubs who are being taught to hunt pets as a food source;
- the normal diet of a cougar includes deer, and small mammals such as racoons, bobcats, and foxes;
- the reporting of sightings is critical in monitoring the activities of bears and cougars in the Tri-Cities and preventing human-animal conflicts; animals that are permitted in human-use areas will return and be

- unafraid of humans, creating a risk to the public and resulting in the animal being euthanized; and
- the sightings can be reported to the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) Conservation Officer 24-Hour Hotline at 1-877-952-RAPP(7277); the data collected generates mapping that is used by the City and other agencies.

The Director of Environment and Parks advised that the City supports the COS efforts in parkland areas and is posting additional cougar warning signage to educate and alert visitors.

The Committee noted the following:

- there is public reluctance to report sightings as many believe that calling the COS will result in the death of the animal;
- the public education could include information regarding the importance and beneficial impacts of reporting wildlife sightings; and
- the “Caution Cougar in Area” signage could be revised in the future to reflect the wording “report conflicts” to “report sightings and conflicts” and include “this helps track wildlife activity”.

## **Rodenticide Update**

### **4.3 Presentation: Kurt Frei, Environmental Technician Attachments:**

- a) Rodenticide Policy Update
  - b) Corporate Policy, City's Rodenticide Use Policy
- File: 01-0360-20-04-02

The Environmental Technician gave a presentation on the Rodenticide Policy Update and the following was noted:

- the City is developing a Rodenticide Use Corporate Policy for application to City-owned property, and education outreach regarding the harmful side effects of rodenticide use;
- the rodenticide action items include the creation of a Rodenticide Use Policy, the ongoing monitoring and transition to more humane rodent traps, and municipal rodenticide roundtable meetings;
- the Policy prohibits the use of anticoagulated rodenticide on all City-owned properties and discourages the use on private properties; the authority to prohibit the use on private properties falls under Provincial authority;
- there are two types of rodenticides; first generation, or multiple dose, requires the rodent to ingest the poison multiple times over a longer period of time to acquire a lethal dose; second generation, or single dose, requires the rodent to ingest only one dose to acquire a lethal dose;

- the second generation rodenticide causes secondary poisoning in animals that ingest the rodent, such as owls and hawks;
- the rodent traps at City-owned properties are being transitioned to Good Nature traps which offer the opportunity to track activity;
- the *Integrated Pest Management Act* states that rodenticide should only be used once all exclusion and attraction reduction attempts have been completed;
- the municipal roundtables include discussion related to best management practices, lessons learned, draft policies, monitoring practices, education materials, and partnership opportunities;
- the education related to humane traps and rodenticide use will be critical in discouraging the use on private property; and
- a reporting line could be developed to report offenses and prompt an investigation.

The Committee noted that discouraging the use of rodenticide on private property and strata buildings will be challenging.

The Director of Environment and Parks noted that vegetation and attractant management mitigation efforts and Integrated Pest Management practices have been implemented at many City-owned facilities, and that the roundtable meetings will help in streamlining the messaging and language for the pest management industry.

#### **Balloons in Parks and ESAs Update**

#### **4.4 Balloons in Parks and ESAs Working Group**

The Balloons in Parks and ESAs Working Group gave a presentation on Balloons in Our Environments and the following was noted:

- there has been a shift to more outdoor gathering during the pandemic, resulting in more balloons in parks;
- the City includes information on balloon prohibitions when renting City-owned facilities; reservations have been suspended during the pandemic and has created challenges for messaging related to balloon in parks for the Park Hosts;
- the majority of researched municipal littering bylaws do not include specific information on balloon litter or related definitions;
- the balloon debris can mimic prey items and be mistaken for typical food sources leading to harmful side-effects in wildlife;
- the balloon litter can block the animal's gastrointestinal tract causing internal injury, loss of nutrition, starvation, and death;

- the Port Moody Festivals and Special Events Handbook outlines the environmental impacts of balloons in parks and makes references to a ban on the “release” of balloons where the Littering and Dumping Prohibition Bylaw only references “leaving” balloons.

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

The Balloons in Parks and ESAs Working Group requested feedback from the Committee regarding:

- Do you think a ban/prohibition on balloons would be effective?
- What type of interventions do you think would be most successful?
- What impacts do you think it would have on the community?

The Committee noted the following:

- the authority to restrict balloons on private and public areas must be explored;
- a list of environmentally-friendly alternative celebratory methods could be developed; [www.balloonsblow.org](http://www.balloonsblow.org) could be researched for application to Port Moody's efforts;
- the use of images related to the harmful impacts of balloons on wildlife could be included to create an emotional connection and provide an education and awareness opportunity;
- there will be challenges associated with communicating the messaging to visitors who reside outside of Port Moody;
- the education materials should be completed prior to the consultation with businesses so that they may be distributed at the time of consultation; and
- the City could explore opportunities for partnership with other local municipalities and the regional district.

The Chair noted that the impacts to local business should be considered and consultation with affected businesses could be undertaken. The Chair further noted that a City-hosted celebration could use an environmentally-friendly alternative to balloons and create an opportunity to communicate Port Moody's updated information on balloons and littering.

The Director of Environment and Parks noted that the Communications Department could assist with the development of education materials and communication resources.

**Action:** The Balloons in Parks and ESAs Working Group to email questions regarding the communication plan for balloons in parks to the Director of Environment and Parks at [jpavey-tomlinson@portmoody.ca](mailto:jpavey-tomlinson@portmoody.ca).

5. Information

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**Staff Updates**

5.1 There were no staff updates at this time.

6. Adjournment

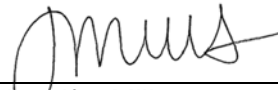
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The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:00pm.



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Councillor Amy Lubik,  
Chair



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Jennifer Mills,  
Committee Coordinator