

City of Port Moody

Minutes

Environmental Protection Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee held on Monday, May 17, 2021 via Zoom.

Present

Councillor Amy Lubik, Chair
Margaret Birch
Kyle Demes
Javney Mohr
Damian Regan
Jutta Rickers-Haunerland
Connie Smith
Koy Tayler
Judy Taylor-Atkinson
Jeremy Wong

Absent

Councillor Meghan Lahti, Vice-Chair

In Attendance

Theresa Cochran – General Manager of Community Services
Jess Daniels – Policy Planner
Mary De Paoli – Manager of Policy Planning
Karen Devitt – Environmental Coordinator
Jennifer Mills – Committee Coordinator
Robbie Nall – Superintendent of Parks (arrived at 8:27pm)
Julie Pavey-Tomlinson – Director of Environment and Parks

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes

2.1 EPC21/008

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the minutes of the Environmental Protection Committee meeting held on Monday, April 19, 2021 be adopted.

3. Unfinished Business

4. New Business

Official Community Plan Consultation

- 4.1 Presentation: Jess Daniels, Policy Planner, and Mary De Paoli, Manager of Policy Planning
Attachment: Official Community Plan Update
File: 01-0360-20-04-02

The Policy Planner and the Manager of Policy Planning gave a presentation on the Official Community Plan Update, including information regarding the definition of an official community plan (OCP); why the City is updating the OCP; why the City needs community input; public engagement timelines; feedback received from Community Survey #1; the key themes and topics of Community Survey #2; chapters in the Official Community plan that include environmental policies; the process for updating environmental related OCP content; opportunities for the Committee to participate in part of the OCP update; and land use scenarios and priorities for the neighbourhood areas Moody Centre Station Transit-Oriented Development, Murray Street Boulevard, Oceanfront District, and the Seaview neighbourhood.

The Manager of Policy Planning requested Committee members' feedback on land use considerations and priorities for Moody Centre Station Transit-Oriented Development, Murray Street Boulevard, Oceanfront District, and the Seaview neighbourhood, and the following was noted:

- Moody Centre Station Transit-Oriented Development: increased greenspace, heat island effect concerns, daylighting of creeks, improved pedestrian connectivity including an overpass to access Rocky Point Park, job creation, protection of existing industrial space, improved amenities and services, including a grocer, and consultation with First Nations on land use initiatives;
- Murray Street Boulevard: updates to traffic patterns should be considered if the area becomes an entertainment district; and
- Oceanfront District: the potential of foreshore flooding and shoreline's integrity as well as soil stability/geotechnical considerations for high-rise development should be researched, climate change and resiliency could be embedded into the OCP, active transportation and pedestrian friendly design with accessible amenities and services and a diverse range of services should be encouraged, and current OCP vision includes too much density;
- Seaview Neighbourhood: with respect to the Woodland Park proposal, concerns with components falling to the City for future maintenance.

The Manager of Policy Planning encouraged all Committee members to complete Community Survey #2 at www.engageportmoody.ca and advised that any further feedback regarding updating the OCP can be emailed to portmoody2050@portmoody.ca.

The Policy Planner and the Manager of Policy Planning left the meeting at this point and did not return.

Green Infrastructure

4.2 Presentation: Karen Devitt, Environmental Coordinator, and Robbie Nall, Superintendent of Parks
Attachment: Green Infrastructure
File: 01-0360-20-04-02

The Environmental Coordinator and the Superintendent of Parks gave a presentation on Green Infrastructure and the following was noted:

- green infrastructure improves the built environment and supports healthier, more livable, and sustainable communities through the integration of natural ecosystems and engineered systems which are designed to mimic the natural functions and services provided by healthy ecosystems;
- green infrastructure can also be referenced as natural asset infrastructure, low-impact development, or blue-green infrastructure;
- grey infrastructure systems are expensive to upgrade and may be unable to meet the capacity requirements associated with climate change; green infrastructure is often incorporated into cities when aging and undersized grey water management infrastructure requires replacement;
- grey infrastructure design changes the hydrological functions of watersheds and is detrimental to the surrounding environment as the stormwater carries pollutants and contributes to thermal pollution; green infrastructure provides an opportunity to improve water quality by reducing stormwater entering systems through infiltration and biological remediation by using specific plants and soils to remove pollutants;
- green infrastructure has been identified by UN-Water and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as essential to climate change, supporting community resiliency, and promoting global water security;
- green infrastructure can help ensure that existing urban infrastructure and the built environment do not become overwhelmed from the impacts of climate change and that the community is able to cope with the challenges;
- green infrastructure can improve the health and wellness of communities by creating access to nature, improving air quality, and creating a sense of place;
- cities with a higher concentration of visible minorities and lower income areas often have limited access to

green space and poorly maintained infrastructure;
green infrastructure can be used to start to address
some of these historical inequities;

- wide-spread adoption of green infrastructure has been challenging due to the financial limitations, such as high cost of land and translating the benefits into dollar values for comparison to grey infrastructure; traditional practices and a lack of long-term planning; lack of education and awareness about the long-term environmental, social, and economic investment benefits; lack of clarity on compliance with existing policies and regulator requirements; and lack of physical space for larger initiatives;
- green infrastructure adoption will require the development of strategies and policies with clear goals and objectives that will foster a shared sense of responsibility in the community;
- fiscal incentives can include tax rebates for stormwater services or green roof rebates for new developments or retrofits;
- non-fiscal incentives can include guidelines and performance standards, public property retrofit projects, neighbourhood demonstration projects, cost-benefit calculators, education modules for schools, and volunteer programs;
- green infrastructure adoption will require a multidisciplinary approach to design, implement and maintain; collaboration with private land owners and developers is a key part of the solution;
- Port Moody does not have any policies or strategies related to green infrastructure; the Climate Action Plan includes an action item related to the development of a green infrastructure policy which is scheduled to begin in the next few years; and
- examples of existing City projects related to green infrastructure include, raingardens at the Boathouse, Rocky Point Park parking lot and overpass, greenroof at the Recreation Complex, and creek daylighting at a number of locations.

EPC20/009

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the meeting be extended for up to 10 minutes.

The Superintendent of Parks noted that a walking tour of the green infrastructure at Olympic Village in Vancouver can be found on the City of Vancouver's website.

The Committee noted that a subcommittee regarding green infrastructure could be formed to research policies and programs for application in Port Moody and could include members from the Climate Action Committee.

5. Information

Staff Updates

- 5.1 The Environmental Coordinator advised that the month-long Bioblitz of Metro Regional Parks is under way, noting that it's a great opportunity to explore the regional parks and provide input as citizen scientists.

Action: The Committee Coordinator to email the Metro Regional Parks Bioblitz information to the Committee.

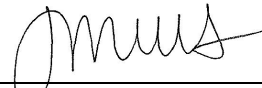
The Director of Environment and Parks advised that Council has stopped work related to the proposed Environmentally Sensitive Strategy Update and that if the Strategy is restarted the Committee will be involved again.

6. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:13pm.



Councillor Amy Lubik,
Chair



Jennifer Mills,
Committee Coordinator