City of Port Moody

Minutes

Environmental Protection Committee

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

Present

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

Absent

Councillor Megan Lahti, Vice-Chair
Connie Smith (Regrets)

In Attendance

Karen Devitt – Environmental Coordinator
Jennifer Mills – Committee Coordinator
Julie Pavey-Tomlinson – Director of Environment and Parks

Also in Attendance

Camille Lefrancois, Diamond Head Consulting
Steve Litke, Senior Program Manager, Watersheds and Water Resources, Fraser Basin Council

1. Call to Order

Call to Order

1.1 The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes

2.1 *EPC21/020*
Moved, seconded, and CARRIED
THAT the minutes of the Environmental Protection Committee meeting held Monday, October 18, 2021 be approved.

EPC21/021
Moved, seconded, and CARRIED
THAT Green Infrastructure Subcommittee Update be added to the agenda as item 4.5.

3. Unfinished Business

4. New Business

Regional Flood Mapping and Coastal Flooding (Sea Level Rise)

4.1 Presentation: Steve Litke, Senior Program Manager, Watersheds and Water Resources, Fraser Basin Council
Attachment: Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy
Links:

- Fraser Basin Council – Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy
- Community Mapping Network – Lower Mainland Flood and Environment Atlas

Steve Litke, Senior Program Manager, Watersheds and Water Resources, Fraser Basin Council, gave a presentation on Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy (LMFMS), and the following was noted:

- there are three dimensions that combine to create risk: hazard, exposure, and vulnerability;
- the impacts of climate change are expected to affect the frequency, magnitude, and timing of floods;
- an investment in growth and development and designing infrastructure, homes, and buildings to be less vulnerable to future risk can reduce the overall risk in communities;
- an integrated approach to flood management is important and includes: understanding hazard and risk, policy implementation, parcel-level measures, flood protection infrastructure, and emergency management planning;
- the LMFMS is a multi-interest initiative focussing on the area from Hope to the Salish Sea and the USA border to Squamish;
- the LMFMS is a collaborative approach that aims to add value by addressing gaps and limitations at the regional scale through broad regional input and support;
- there is a need for dedicated and secured long-term funding to reduce flood risk across the region;
- the main regional flood hazards modelled are the Fraser River Freshet and Coastal Storm Surge;
- the occurrence of floods are a natural process and are critical to forming habitats;
- there is potential for flood water to mobilize numerous environmental contaminants;
- there are adverse impacts related to flood mitigation efforts, such as negative impacts to the quality of

riparian habitats and biodiversity, and fish migration and spawning habitats;
- the impacts of coastal habitat squeeze in areas built right up to water's edge cause there to be no room for intertidal habitat to migrate inland as water levels rise; and
- the online atlas provides environmental information about flood scenarios, potential adverse consequences resulting from floods, and habitat considerations.

Mr. Litke noted the following in response to the Committee's questions:

- the LMFMS will continue to be developed over the next few years and will include more engagement, technical analysis, feedback incorporation, and a redraft of the Strategy;
- the freeboard area is the additional amount of elevation above the waterline that is an extra measure of caution and takes into account the uncertainty of the conditions;
- the Committee can receive an update on the LMFMS after the new draft is completed; and
- there is a need for First Nations and local governments to come together and explore their shared and diverse values as they relate to the LMFMS, crown land, resource planning, and water sustainability.

Mr. Litke left the meeting at this point and did not return.

Urban Forest Management Strategy

4.2 Presentation: Amelia Needoba, Project Manager, Diamond Head Consulting
Attachment: Urban Forest Management Strategy Overview

Camille Lafrancois, Urban Planner, Diamond Head Consulting, gave a presentation on the Urban Forest Management Strategy (UFMS), and the following was noted:

- the urban forest includes all trees, vegetation, and soil, and all the processes that link them;
- the practice of urban forest planning includes managing trees in a way that benefits the community and understanding how trees can be natural assets;
- the benefits of urban forests include: carbon sequestration, cooling and shading, stormwater management, stress reduction, improved concentration, and improved wildlife habitats and biodiversity;
- the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that parks and natural areas are assets in the community and has increased awareness around the preservation and

enhancement of parks through the management of urban forests;
- the value of trees increases over time and they are a high-value asset if they reach maturity;
- the average urban tree survives about 20-30 years without proper planning and the financial breakeven point of an urban street tree is about 50 years of age;
- there should be long-term maintenance and landscaping plans in place to ensure these assets mature to their full potential and the community receives the most benefits from them;
- the Strategy's four tasks include: background research and review; community engagement; inventory, mapping and analysis, and recommendations; and an action plan which is expected to be complete by end of 2022;
- the canopy cover data can be summarized by an area or boundary, or can be used to compare the percentage of canopy cover between neighbourhoods or land uses;
- the tree equity data can provide information about the population's vulnerability to extreme heat events during summer months and can help identify and prioritize areas that could benefit from more canopy cover;
- the canopy forecasting can provide data about the growth or decline of canopy cover and help plan for the resources and policies that would be required to reach the canopy cover targets;
- the inventory analysis will create a tree inventory to identify the diversity of trees planted and the current urban forest resiliency in the city;
- the ecosystems services will identify how the urban forest is distributed in the city and the total values of those services that are being provided to the city; and
- the process is currently in the beginning stages of the background review.

The Committee noted the following in response:

- the public's perception of hiring a consultant for this work may be negatively viewed due to the recent Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) Update concerns;
- the City should provide more information about what property owners are allowed to do with trees located on public property; the City of Burnaby was noted as a good reference;
- the public consultation efforts should go beyond the Environmental Protection Committee and environmental stewardship groups and include the general public; and

- the City's Tree Protection Bylaw does not include information about trees on private property, tree canopy protection, replacement planting and spacing, or upkeep following the maintenance period; the City of Surrey was noted as a good reference.

Ms. Lafrancois noted the following in response to the Committee's questions:

- the public consultation may include a survey on Engage Port Moody and an in-person event;
- the regional data on sensitive ecosystems and forest integrity will be used in inventory, mapping, and analysis;
- the value of the urban forest will not include all the quantifying data about service delivery but may provide baseline information about stormwater value and other benefits in i-Tree; and
- the rapid and competitive development in communities and the increasing expense of land and trees being planted in insufficient soil have been challenges experienced in the past for other urban forest management plans.

Staff noted the following in response to the Committee's questions:

- the public consultation about the Tree Protection Bylaw update is included as part of the UFMS but the Bylaw update itself is not part of the UFMS;
- the public consultation could include the general public and school groups;
- the engagement plan requires Council approval;
- the UFMS engagement differs from the ESA Update because the UFMS is a new initiative and the ESA Update was part of an ongoing initiative; and
- the project budget for the UFMS, including the consultant and project management, is approximately $82,500.00.

Ms. LeFrancois left the meeting at this point and did not return.

2021 Environmental Protection Committee Annual Report

4.3 Attachment: 2021 Annual Report – Environmental Protection Committee

The Chair provided an overview of the 2021 Environmental Protection Committee Annual Report, and the following was noted:

- add the following to the Suggested Focus Areas for Next Year:
    - continuation of the green infrastructure work;
    - update on the Tree Bylaw;
    - presentation about Flow Link; and
    - Bat-Friendly certification.

EPC21/022
Moved, seconded, and CARRIED
THAT the 2021 Environmental Protection Committee Annual Report be approved as amended.

Green Infrastructure Subcommittee Update

4.4 The Green Infrastructure Subcommittee provided an update, and the following was noted:

- the Subcommittee has reviewed the last three years of green infrastructure work completed to ensure no duplication of work is occurring;
- the research has highlighted the health and economic benefits that motivate green infrastructure and the associated challenges;
- there are many different definitions of green infrastructure found in the research and defining the term for the city will help with stakeholder engagement; and
- there is research indicating that green infrastructure can benefit certain socioeconomic classes and create inequities.

EPC21/023
Moved, seconded, and CARRIED
THAT the meeting be extended for up to 15 minutes.

5. Information

ESC Updates

5.1 Karen Devitt, Environmental Coordinator

The Environmental Coordinator gave a presentation on Staff Updates, and the following was noted:

- the ESC procedures update will include modernizing standards to include submittal guidelines, drawings, and specifications, and will include individual guidelines for the different types of developments;
- the Rocky Point Park boat ramp and wharf require maintenance that must be approved by various senior authorities;
- the dredging at Rocky Point Park includes sediment sampling to determine how to deposit the dredged materials;
- the sampling commenced in November 2021 and the dredging is scheduled for February 2022, dependent on the results of the sediment sampling and approval timing;
- there are some floating docks that bottom out on the mudflats which could be addressed with the update; and
- the dredged material is disposed of following the ocean disposal protocol and future disposal will be determined by Environment Canada and the results of the sediment sampling.

The Committee noted that if the dredging occurs in September 2022 the purple martins breeding season should be considered in scheduling.

Green Bylaws Toolkit 101

5.2 Stewardship Centre for BC Upcoming Webinar: Green Bylaws Toolkit 101

The webinar will introduce the 2021 edition of the Green Bylaws Toolkit for Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure, a key resource for citizens, planners, and local governments that helps to protect and restore ecological systems.

This item was provided for information only.

6. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:12pm.

Councillor Amy Lubik,
Chair

Jennifer Mills,
Committee Coordinator