



City of Port Moody

Minutes

Environmental Protection Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee held on Monday, April 25, 2022 via Zoom.

Present

Councillor Diana Dilworth, Chair
Margaret Birch (arrived at 7:02pm)
Damian Regan
Jutta Rickers-Hauerland
Kevin Ryan
Judy Taylor-Atkinson
Koy Tayler
Jeremy Wong

Absent

Councillor Amy Lubik, Vice-Chair
Connie Smith

In Attendance

Karen Devitt – Environmental Coordinator
Esin Gozukara – Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Call to Order

1.1 The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

2.1 EPC22/010

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the agenda of the Environmental Protection Committee meeting held on Monday, April 25, 2022 be adopted.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes

3.1 EPC22/011

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the minutes of the Environmental Protection Committee meeting held on Monday, March 21, 2022 be adopted.

4. Unfinished Business

5. New Business

Climate Resilient Landscaping Strategies

5.1 Presentation: Karen Devitt, Environmental Coordinator Attachment: Climate Resilient Landscaping Standards

The Environmental Coordinator gave a presentation on Climate Resilient Landscaping Strategies, and noted the following:

- climate change has broad level ecosystem impacts, and some of them are impacting or will impact the work staff does for urban landscapes;
- the Climate Action Plan called for developing landscaping strategies for public lands in the City with specific priorities;
- the tools for tree species selection, planting and management developed by Metro Vancouver are helpful for urban forest and street trees, but a plan was still needed for other landscaped areas;
- the landscaping standards were developed with consultants to remain resilient to climate change impacts;
- standards will be used internally, and made available to large developers that are required to make street improvements or include public park space as part of their projects;
- standards address each general asset type, and offer general guidance for all landscaped areas;
- native and non-native plants are carefully integrated to attract pollinators, keeping the potential for non-native species becoming invasive in mind;
- planting pallets suitable for different scenarios were designed to create interest and wildlife values and help pollinators;
- bear attractants were screened out to avoid creating additional human wildlife conflicts;
- selecting plants that can handle harsh conditions and have salt and drought tolerance is necessary for streetscapes, and native species do not do well in these areas;
- leaving some leaf litter to support soil health, pollinators, and other insects is good practice for streetscapes;
- raingardens help with managing and filtering stormwater and preventing polluted waters from entering aquatic and marine environments;
- deep rooted shrubs, grasses, and forbs could help with filtering and slowing down the water;

- a plant list is generated to suggest substitutions when a particular plant is not available;
- next steps include implementation of the landscaping standards, and completion of an inventory of the City's horticultural assets; and
- education and outreach efforts will be key for the community to adopt and accept these new landscapes.

The Committee noted that benefits of leaf litter are not widely known by residents, stratas, or landscapers and that these standards could be communicated to residents who have gardens to provide ideas about what to plant.

The Environmental Coordinator noted the following in response to the Committee's questions:

- these standards are intended to be shared with the development community and the residents;
- the City's Naturescape Policy principles are incorporated into the standards, and inclusion of non-native plants is a departure from this Policy;
- pests are carefully observed, and, if necessary, interventions will be done;
- engineered soils are specifically designed for raingardens;
- the pollinator garden on Murray Street was observed through last summer, a watering truck had to be used during the heat dome, and it appears to be low maintenance;
- information about leaf litter could be added when the standards are posted on the City's website;
- as part of this project, certain areas will be identified to be retrofitted, and the process requires careful planning and consideration;
- the City's tree policy requires retaining City trees wherever possible, and anytime a development proposes tree removal, several options are explored to prevent removal or mitigate the effects of it; and
- residents are supported when necessary, as part of invasive species management efforts.

The Chair noted that these standards could be shared in Port Moody's quarterly newsletter, the Focus. The Chair also noted that the City does acquisitions on the north side of Murray Street to make additions to Shoreline Trail and is working on creating more green spaces.

Green Infrastructure

5.2 Presentation: Karen Devitt, Environmental Coordinator Attachment: Green Infrastructure

The Environmental Coordinator gave a presentation on Green Infrastructure, and noted the following:

- it is important to think of Green Infrastructure through an asset management perspective;
- Green Infrastructure was initially used to plan networks of open spaces and manage natural resources in the 1990s, and the term shifted towards stormwater management in the 2000s;
- this shift occurred due to amendments made to the *Clean Water Act* in the U.S., and Green Infrastructure started to be used to manage combined sewer overflows;
- in combined sewer systems, when it rains, high volumes of stormwater can exceed the capacity of the system, and the untreated water may overflow into waterways;
- separating combined sewers is cost and time prohibitive, and as a result, Green Infrastructure can be used to prevent overflowing events;
- there are no combined sewers in Port Moody, and backups sometimes happen in sanitary sewers;
- Metro Vancouver has a sanitary sewer outfall that enters Burrard Inlet, and it has been only used twice in the past decade during extreme events in the system;
- stormwater runoff can pick up pollutants that are considered toxic to aquatic life, and the temperature of stormwater can be considered as a pollutant;
- pre-spawning Coho salmon were observed by researchers in the U.S. displaying odd behaviour and eventually dying, and it was determined that adult Coho spawner mortality syndrome occurs due to stormwater runoff;
- researchers also identified a chemical called 6PPD-Quinone that leaches out from tires when exposed to water, and it is argued that this chemical causes toxic and lethal effects on some types of salmon;
- to address this problem, source controls are needed and working with tire manufacturers and implementing Green Infrastructure solutions would be ideal;
- source control through Green Infrastructure is effective at reducing pollutant loads in stormwater, and one of the methods is Green Streets;
- Green Streets are designed to capture rainwater at the source, and to filter the water before entering the receiving environment;

- Green Streets policies in North America feed into their Green Infrastructure programs, and provide a long-term funding mechanism to support integration and adoption;
- Port Moody's approach to Green Infrastructure has been opportunistic and driven by development, and there are several assets in Rocky Point Park, College Way Park, and the Recreation Complex;
- daylighting projects in several creeks in the city involve transforming grey infrastructure into natural assets;
- Green Infrastructure implementation is currently done in collaboration with large development projects, and an inventory of all horticultural and Green Infrastructure assets is being prepared; and
- the goal is to integrate Green Infrastructure as part of the Official Community Plan (OCP) update and to develop a policy and program of Green Infrastructure.

Damian Regan left the meeting at this point and did not return.

The Committee noted the following in discussion:

- the City could benefit from more interaction and collaboration on environmental research with the universities in the Lower Mainland;
- the Green Infrastructure Subcommittee could play a role in public outreach efforts;
- the invasive plants were removed by the City at Pigeon Creek;
- several dead conifers have been observed around Dallas Creek;
- considering the relatively higher costs, initial Green Infrastructure projects should be carefully planned and financed; and
- Green Infrastructure should be integrated with the OCP.

The Environmental Coordinator noted the following in response to the Committee's questions:

- there is an asset management program in place for all the City's grey infrastructure assets, and Green Infrastructure and natural areas also need an asset management program;
- annual status reports are obtained for locations that are managed in collaboration with developers;
- certain options, like a green roof or a raingarden, are discussed with developers to determine the most suitable options for their projects; and
- the City's Sustainability Report Card was recently updated, and it now includes more Green Infrastructure solutions.

The Chair noted that by incorporating the items listed in the Sustainability Report Card, developers get extra points for their projects. The Chair also noted that the Green Infrastructure Subcommittee can bring back some recommendations for the Committee to put forward at the June 2022 meeting.

6. Information

Staff Updates

6.1 Presentation: Karen Devitt, Environmental Coordinator
Attachment: Staff Updates

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

- there is a number of events organized in the city for the Tri-City Nature Challenge, and Committee members are encouraged to participate and share these events with their networks;
- the North Shore Integrated Stormwater Management Plan Survey can be found on Engage Port Moody; and
- the Fingerling Festival will take place on May 7, 2022 at Noons Creek Hatchery and the Recreation Complex.

7. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:56pm.



Councillor Diana Dilworth,
Chair



Esin Gozukara,
Committee Coordinator