



# City of Port Moody

## Minutes

### Environmental Protection Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee held on Monday, November 18, 2019 in the Brovold Room.

#### Present

Councillor Amy Lubik, Chair  
Margaret Birch (arrived at 7:05pm)  
Bryan Fitzpatrick  
Elaine Golds  
Gregory Pepler  
Damian Regan  
Jutta Rickers-Haunerland  
Connie Smith (arrived at 7:07pm)  
Judy Taylor-Atkinson

#### Absent

Councillor Meghan Lahti, Vice-Chair  
Bradley Fessenden  
Cathy Morton (Regrets)  
Russell Stairs (Regrets)

#### In Attendance

Angela Crampton – Sustainability and Energy Specialist  
Lesley Douglas – General Manager of Environment and Parks  
Philip Lo – Committee Coordinator

#### 1. Call to Order

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

##### EPC19/017

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

**THAT Old Firehall No. 1 Site: Input on Potential Interim Uses be added to the agenda as item 4.4.**

#### 2. Adoption of Minutes

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#### Minutes

##### 2.1 EPC19/018

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

**THAT the minutes of the Environmental Protection Committee meeting held on Monday, October 21, 2019 be amended as follows:**

- by replacing “Rickers-Haunderland” with “Rickers-Haunerland” in the Present section; and
- by replacing “the Natural Forest ESA will no longer use a high, medium, and low rating system in

**order to convey that all trees are equally valuable” with “the low, medium, and high rating system for ESAs will no longer be in place; all ESAs will be of equal value” in item 4.1 – Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) Management Strategy – Update on Mapping and Methodology;**

**AND THAT the minutes of the Environmental Protection Committee meeting held on Monday, October 21, 2019 be adopted as amended.**

### **3. Unfinished Business**

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### **4. New Business**

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#### **Green Space Requirements Through the Development Process**

- 4.1 Staff gave a presentation regarding the City policies and guidelines around green space and environmental protection in the development process under the Official Community Plan (OCP), noting the following:
- The OCP contains both general policies and more specific strategies;
  - the Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) management strategy utilizes a visual tool which identifies objectives and development direction for each identified ESA area, and is a part of Development Permit Area (DPA) guidelines;
  - some protective policies and bylaws also fall under provincial legislation;
  - the Zoning Bylaw includes sections which protect Riparian Protection and Enhancement Areas (RPEAs), riparian transition areas, and streamside setbacks;
  - RPEAs were previously known as Streamside Protection and Enhancement Areas (SPEAs), and are now designated as “no touch” areas for development;
  - both active parkland and riparian setback/buffer zone are often required for developments, especially in larger multi-family developments;
  - with regards to the Parkland Acquisition Strategy, the newly adopted Development Cost Charges (DCC) Bylaw sets a target of 2.5 hectares of park per 1,000 residents, compared to 2.4 hectares per 1,000 residents in the Parks Master Plan;
  - the City has been able to purchase available properties for greenspace purposes, and has also been able to acquire sensitive environmental areas through subdivision of larger lots; and
  - larger developments and rezonings with greater density on larger swaths of land provide more opportunities for the City to negotiate for greenspace and environmental protection, as there is more land that can be negotiated with.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff noted the following:

- field work was conducted to verify the RPEA setbacks identified within the Zoning Bylaw;
- the City of Richmond has achieved corporate carbon neutrality, primarily through the purchase of bogs as part of their nature plan;
- the ESA management strategy is estimated to be completed by December 2020; the Parkland Acquisition Strategy is estimated to be completed by June 2021; and the Rocky Point Park Master Plan is estimated to be completed by December 2021;
- the City utilizes various guidelines and policies to set standards and benchmarks for environmental protection through developments; and
- the Engineering department typically requests developers to conduct hydrologic modelling and monitoring in an area before any work is done on a site.

The Committee noted the following in discussion:

- it may be important to have calculations of how much carbon storage the City is achieving through policies; such calculations could be done as part of the Climate Action Plan;
- concerns were expressed regarding property owners who disrupt ESAs adjacent to their properties by removing existing vegetation or planting vegetation where they are not permitted to do so; and
- concerns were expressed regarding the City's ability to enforce bylaw violations, especially with regards to builders' activities such as tree removal and other construction activities that should not be taking place.

Angela Crampton left the meeting at this point and did not return.

## **Staff Updates**

4.2 The General Manager of Environment and Parks provided the following updates:

- Council adopted the increase to the first-offence fine bear attractant-related offences, which is now at \$500; however, warnings will first be given to offenders prior to fines being issued;
- Council adopted the new Beaver Management Plan, which includes a \$45,000 implementation budget; surplus funds would be held in reserve, similar to the snow and ice removal budget.

The Committee noted the following in discussion:

- the Beaver Management Plan is significant, as it is the first of its kind in the lower mainland and the province,

and could be used a model for other wildlife management policies;

- the new “fish lift”/fish ladder device has been successful to enable salmon to swim over the beaver dams; and
- it has not been a good year overall for fish in the city, especially with the drop in water levels.

## **2020 Work Plan**

- 4.3 The General Manager of Environment and Parks advised that the Committee has completed its 2019 Work Plan, and requested Work Plan items for 2020.

The Committee provided the following topics for consideration for the 2020 Work Plan:

- ESA strategy update;
- riparian area variance policy;
- protection of windfirm and anchor trees through development;
- Climate Action Plan survey results update;
- joint meeting with the Climate Action Committee;
- Energy Step Code implementation update;
- cigarette butt management strategy update;
- a potential forest management and tree protection strategy;
- “dark sky” policy;
- becoming a Blue Community;
- bird strikes and window treatment options; and
- Sustainability Report Card update.

## **Old Firehall No. 1 Site: Input on Potential Interim Uses**

- 4.4 The General Manager of Environment and Parks provided an overview of Council’s resolution and direction, and provided an overview of the site, including the environmental features on and adjacent to the site.

The Committee noted the following in discussion:

- interim uses on this site may not be a good idea due to the potential resources and funding required;
- the site is adjacent to a riparian wetland area with wildlife habitats and activities, including barred owl and bat activity;
- noise and lighting at night are factors for consideration;
- any potential usage of the site should ensure sufficient setback from the riparian areas;
- if the environmentally sensitive portions of the site can be partitioned and protected, the site could be used as a nature space or pop-up park with additional benches, plantings, and shade trees; and
- an on-leash dog park could be considered.

## 5. Information

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### Chair Updates

- 5.1 The Chair advised that the provincial government is currently conducting a survey to seek feedback for its climate adaptation strategy; a link to the survey will be forwarded to Committee members.

The Chair thanked Committee members for their dedication and input this year.

## 6. Adjournment

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The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:50pm.



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Councillor Amy Lubik,  
Chair



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Philip Lo,  
Committee Coordinator