



City of Port Moody

Minutes

Environmental Protection Committee

Minutes of the electronic meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee held on Monday, April 20, 2020 via Zoom.

Present

Councillor Amy Lubik, Chair
Margaret Birch
Andrew MacLellan
Javney Mohr
Gregory Pepler
Damian Regan
Jutta Rickers-Haunerland (joined at 7:25pm)
Connie Smith
Judy Taylor-Atkinson

Absent

Councillor Meghan Lahti, Vice-Chair (Regrets)
Elaine Golds
Don McKendrick (Regrets)

In Attendance

Shashi Bandara – Project Engineer
Lesley Douglas – General Manager of Environment and Parks
Philip Lo – Committee Coordinator
Laura Sampliner – Sustainability and Energy Coordinator

Also In Attendance

Daniel Brown – Kerr Wood Leidal Consulting
Patrick Lilley – Kerr Wood Leidal Consulting
Colleen O'Toole – Kerr Wood Leidal Consulting

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:18pm.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes

2.1 EPC20/007

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the minutes of the Environmental Protection Committee meeting held on Thursday, February 20, 2020 be adopted.

3. Unfinished Business

4. New Business

Climate Action Plan Survey Results

4.1 Staff Presentation: Sustainability and Energy Coordinator

Staff gave a presentation regarding the results of public engagement for the Climate Action Plan, noting the following information:

- a total of 547 actions were suggested in seven categories, which was narrowed down into a draft action list;
- the three strongest overall themes from the actions were: stronger regulations, increase the use of public transportation, and increase active transportation;
- the Climate Action Committee evaluated and prioritized the actions;
- the top three actions that received the most overall votes involve public landscaping strategies, transportation demand management for new developments, and Metro Vancouver advocacy on a number of ideas;
- the path to carbon neutrality by 2050 requires action from local governments, residents, businesses, community organizations, and institutions;
- one that has been completed and is being monitored is the adoption of the Energy Step Code; and
- the next steps involve seeking Council adoption of the Climate Action Plan, and preparing the implementation strategy.

Monofilament Fishing Lines and Other Anthropogenic Matter in Our Local Waters

4.2 Damian Regan gave a presentation on monofilament fishing line and other anthropogenic matter in local waters, noting the following:

- the State of Florida has done significant studies regarding marine debris;
- fishing and non-fishing uses of monofilament fishing line is a small part of the greater problem of marine debris;
- the most common types of marine debris are cigarette butts, plastic straws, other plastic products, and derelict fishing equipment, some of which can be recycled;
- marine debris pose the same risks to marine species and habitats locally as around the world; and
- there could be a wide range of programs to reduce marine debris, depending on the specific goal desired.

In response to questions from the Committee, the General Manager of Environment and Parks noted that dumping in local waters can be reported to a number of agencies, including the Port of Vancouver, the Coast Guard, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and that the challenge is witnessing the incidents.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Regan noted the following:

- local regulations and enforcement include regulations against leaving derelict boats in the water;
- the best and most efficient way to collect marine debris could be through volunteer collection programs;
- installation of collection bins for monofilament lines could be one part of a priority response plan, in conjunction with programs to hazards to marine wildlife.

Shoreline Sanitary Sewer

4.3 Presentation: Project Engineer and Kerr Wood Leidal (KWL) Consulting

Staff and KWL consultants gave a presentation regarding the Shoreline Sanitary Sewer Main renewal and Shoreline Trail upgrade project, noting the following:

- minimizing environmental impact is top priority for this project;
- an environmental impact assessment will be conducted as part of the project preliminary investigations;
- a biophysical inventory of fish, fish habitats, ecosystems, and species at risk, is being conducted;
- some habitat enhancement opportunities have been identified, including invasive plant management and improvements to fish passage;
- an erosion and sediment control plan, and a construction environmental management plan will be in place to protect and minimize impact to habitats.

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

- a construction schedule and starting location will be determined once the project route has been selected;
- the paved Shoreline Trail pathway will be widened in specific areas;
- a vegetation inventory will be conducted in the coming weeks, and will include identification of any invasive species found;
- there is a traffic and pedestrian management plan for this project;
- the low pressure sanitary sewer line meets future capacity; isolation valves will be installed to make the line more robust.

The Committee noted the following:

- concerns were expressed regarding the fragile state of Shoreline Park and the plan to remove more trees from the park for the purpose of expanding pathways;
- the pathway was recently repaved and is already quite a bit wider than it was; and

- fish has been found living in the rearing ponds at Turner Creek; this will need be verified.

The General Manager of Environment and Parks noted that the project consultant and project management are cognizant of the environmental sensitivities of the project.

Heron Colony Update

- 4.4 Judy Taylor-Atkinson noted that the current heron colony size has been reduced by half compared to last year, as half of the colony had relocated and not returned to the area. Ms. Taylor-Atkinson noted that there are currently 10 active and incubating heron nests incubating, and no eagle attacks have been reported.

The General Manager of Environment and Parks noted that purple martins and ospreys have also returned to the area.

5. Information


Staff Updates

5.1 Earth Week

Staff advised that COVID-19 has impacted originally planned Earth Week activities, and noted that the City will provide Earth Week content on its website and social media accounts.

6. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:31pm.


Councillor Amy Lubik,
Chair


Philip Lo,
Committee Coordinator