



City of Port Moody

Minutes

Climate Action Committee

Minutes of the electronic meeting of the Climate Action Committee held on Monday, May 25, 2020 via Zoom.

Present

Councillor Amy Lubik, Vice-Chair
Elaine Golds
Helen Howes
Mike Kasuya
Rebecca Lyon
Shelley Moore
Derek Wilson

Absent

Councillor Meghan Lahti (Regrets)
Bryn Sadownik (Regrets)
Duncan Smith

In Attendance

Philip Lo – Committee Coordinator
Laura Sampliner – Sustainability and Energy Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:09pm.

CAC20/009

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the Climate Action Award be added to the agenda as Item 4.4.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes

2.1 CAC20/010

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the minutes of the Climate Action Committee meeting held on Monday, April 27, 2020 be adopted.

3. Unfinished Business

4. New Business

Federal Government and Tree Planting Initiative

4.1 The Sustainability and Energy Coordinator gave presentation regarding the Federal Government and Tree Planting Initiative, noting the following:

- The Federal government launched a program to plant 2 billion trees over ten years and to conserve and restore Canada's forests;
- challenges of the program include growing seedlings, tracking of trees planted, tree planters capacity, and ensuring tree survival in future climates;
- opportunities include diverse employment opportunities, sequestering carbon to reach greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets, improved air quality, temperature regulation, and improved flood management.

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

- the Ministry of Forests may have estimates of carbon storage statistics when the City was a natural forest;
- the City has a list of preferred tree species, and Metro Vancouver is also doing a study on which species would be best suited for this region; and
- the Federal government has not released any program details so far, and there is a lengthy delay in response to email inquiries.

The Committee noted the following in discussion:

- identify where in the City it would be beneficial to have the root system planted;
- it would be helpful for the urban forest consultants to do a carbon dioxide sequestration study as well, and estimate the sequestration over the lifetime of the trees;
- determine where the City's tree canopy cover is lacking and have new plantings at these areas;
- the City should aim to be ready when the Federal government moves forward with the program; have the community spur the Federal government forward on this program;
- when the City is ready, request Council to send a letter to the Federal government to move this program forward.

Action: Staff to bring back information regarding carbon sequestration in the City.

4.2 The Sustainability and Energy Coordinator gave a presentation regarding Climate Action Amid COVID-19, noting the following:

- the positive impacts to the environment include reduced emissions and the return of the ecosystem to natural states;
- the Provincial government has committed to putting CleanBC (the Provincial climate action plan) at centre of recovery plans;
- there are opportunities to rebuild while incorporating climate action priorities;
- the Federal government is shifting investment into a clean, healthier future including budgeting for a net-zero emissions by 2050 plan, oil patch remediation and job transition, and loans for clean energy solutions;
- there are opportunities for new and existing buildings to build towards zero emissions and renewable energy systems;
- there are opportunities to promote active transportation, transit investments, and zero emissions vehicles;
- there are opportunities to increase climate resilience through tree planting, green infrastructure, flooding adaptation, supporting vulnerable populations, and urban forest management and ecosystem restoration.

Staff noted the following in response to questions from Committee:

- green banks provide loans to individuals or businesses to assist in transitioning to clean energy;
- the neighbourhood resilience strategy is currently at the draft action plan stage; more scoping will be developed if it is prioritized;
- there are currently no shovel-ready projects around the environment or watershed health in the workplan; project scoping for these opportunities could begin prior to Federal funding criteria being made available; and
- the responsibility for monitoring grant funding application deadlines is spread out amongst staff, with the Finance department helping to administer the funds.

The Committee noted the following in discussion:

- concerns were expressed that Federal funding will be spent primarily on COVID-19 recovery, and that the City should look to the Provincial government or other partners and sources for grant opportunities; and
- once the Climate Action Plan is approved by Council, staff should prioritize the plan, have projects “shovel-ready”, determine the funding needed for those

projects, and actively seek out funding opportunities that are applicable to the City.

Climate Action Plan Update

4.3 The Sustainability and Energy Coordinator gave a presentation on the Climate Action Plan update, noting the following:

- staff gave a presentation to Council on May 19, 2020 on the key aspects of the Climate Action Plan, the goal of which is to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050;
- the goal of the Plan is to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, and requires a mix of tools, the support of partnerships, all levels of government, businesses, and residents;
- the Plan is currently in Phase 4 of development; phase 5 could begin in Summer 2020;
- increased interface fire risk, insurance challenges, and shoreline habitat impacts are some of the top climate risks to the City;
- the Plan is evenly distributed between mitigation and adaptation measures, and includes eight focus areas and 54 actions;
- buildings and vehicles have the highest greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in both the corporate and community categories;
- the City is reliant on Federal and Provincial initiatives to help reduce GHG emissions;
- the goal is, by 2050, to have zero carbon buildings, zero emission vehicles, active methods or public transportation, no waste sent to landfills or have wasted converted into energy source;
- staff are targeting June 2020 for Council endorsement of the Plan, and are working on prioritizing actions for the first 2 years of the Plan; and
- staff are also preparing implementation and funding strategy, and will seek Council endorsement of that strategy in Fall 2020; tracking and reporting will be initiated at that time.

Staff noted the following in response to questions from Committee:

- ongoing data collection is an issue, and staff are advocating for better data to support the City's work; 2016 was the last year when a full set of data was received;
- there are carbon calculator tools for personal vehicles, and other options for calculating individual-based targets for GHG reduction;
- the assumption for transit fuel in the model is that Skytrain is hydro-based system; the assumptions for buses will be checked;
- to assist with accountability and tracking of the Plan, and in addition to the annual update, there will be a list of indicators which will be used to track the success of

each action; regular reporting from software will also help with tracking.

- Climate Action Award** 4.4 The Climate Action Award Subcommittee noted that it has drafted an award criteria and recommendation for Council's consideration.

CAC20/011

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the attached Terms of Reference for the Climate Action Award be forwarded to Council for approval;

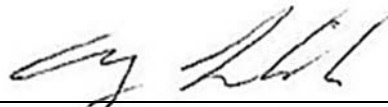
AND THAT the Environmental Award be amended to remove the following: Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction, Energy Efficiency, and Climate Change Resilience.

5. Information

- Staff Updates** 5.1 There were no staff updates.

6. Adjournment

Councillor Lubik adjourned the meeting at 8:53pm.



Councillor Amy Lubik,
Vice-Chair



Philip Lo,
Committee Coordinator