

Considered at November 14, 2017 Regular Council Meeting

Council Agenda Information

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City of Port Moody Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: October 30, 2017

File No. 01-0530-01/2017

Submitted by: Councillor Rob Vagramov

Subject: A Call to End the Plastic Bag – Bring Your Own Bag Bylaw

Purpose / Introduction

The purpose of this report is to get the ball rolling on eliminating an environmental menace—the single use plastic bag—in the City of Port Moody.

Recommended Resolutions

WHEREAS single-use, disposable plastic bags are a menace to the environment, specifically marine ecosystems to which Port Moody belongs; and

WHEREAS other, less-expected jurisdictions have already embraced the idea while the Port Moody Council Strategic Plan specifically mentions *Courage to lead and embrace new ideas*;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff report back with options and the feasibility of a Bring Your Own Bag Bylaw, banning single-use plastic bags in the City of Port Moody as recommended in the report dated October 30, 2017 from Councillor Rob Vagramov regarding A Call to End the Plastic Bag – Bring Your Own Bag Bylaw;

AND THAT staff report back with options and costs for plastic bag recycling as part of solid waste pickup;

AND THAT the following motion be forwarded to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA), to push the issue regionally and provincially:

THAT Metro Vancouver and the Province of British Columbia move towards banning the use and manufacture of single-use disposable plastic bags.

Background

In early 2017, Council approved the Youth Focus Committee's Work Plan, which includes the following line item:

- Organize initiatives to ban plastic bags in Port Moody.

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As such, in April, Rebecca Lyon – a member of the Youth Focus Committee – gave an informative presentation to the Youth Focus Committee on the issue, and was subsequently given suggestions on how to move the issue forward.

Ms. Lyon made the presentation again at the Environmental Protection Committee (EPC) meeting on June 19. On July 17, 2017, the EPC received another presentation and further information on plastic bags, their impact on the environment, initiatives that various municipalities have taken to discourage the use of plastic bags, and possible next steps for Port Moody.

After the presentations were received, the EPC passed the following resolution:

EPC17/017

THAT staff monitor the work being done by the City of Victoria and the Capital Regional District to ban plastic bags and report back to Council by October 30, 2017 on the progress.

At the September 12, 2017 Regular Council meeting, Council considered a report dated September 1, 2017 from the Environmental Protection Committee regarding Plastic Bag Ban (**Attachment 1**). Council received this report for information and no other action was taken:

RC17/311 (Consent)

THAT the report dated September 1, 2017 from Environmental Protection Committee regarding Plastic Bag Ban be received for information.

Discussion

Canadian action has been limited on this front, as mentioned in the EPC report. Our neighbours down south, however—although culturally portrayed as being less environmentally conscious than Canadians—have made significant strides in banning plastic bags that should put us to shame:

City of Austin, Texas

Since March 2013, no person may provide single-use carryout bags at any City facility, City-sponsored event, or any event held on City property. A business establishment within the City limits may not provide single-use carryout bags to its customers or to any person.

State of California

As of July 1, 2015, certain large stores are prohibited from providing a single-use plastic carryout bag to a customer, unless the retailer makes that bag available for \$0.10 and certain conditions are met. Retail stores must adopt an at-store recycling program. Plastic bags used at retailers must have clearly printed "Please Return to a Participating Store for Recycling" on the bag. More than 150 communities in the state have issued plastic bag legislation (some listed below), making it a global leader in the fight over this issue.

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City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

As of 2016, complete single-use disposable plastic bag ban.

City of Chicago, Illinois

The second phase of the city's disposable plastic bag ban came into force August 2016, with a few exceptions for small businesses and takeout eateries.

District of Columbia

Protects the aquatic and environmental assets of the District of Columbia, bans the use of disposable non-recyclable plastic carryout bags, establishes a fee on all other disposable carryout bags provided by certain retail stores, and establishes a recurring Anacostia River Cleanup and Protection Fund.

City of Coral Gables, Florida

Banned plastic bags in May 2017, giving retailers a year of warning-citations to get used to the new ordinance. This put Coral Gables as first in the State of Florida in banning plastic bags.

State of Hawaii

Plastic bags are banned by every county in the State.

County of Los Angeles, California

The entire county has banned disposable plastic bags in all unincorporated areas of the county. Within the county's incorporated municipalities, there have been 13 cities who adopted bag ordinances: Beverly Hills, Calabasas, Culver City, Glendale, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Malibu, Manhattan Beach, Monrovia, Pasadena, Santa Monica, South Pasadena, and West Hollywood.

State of Maine

Retailers may only provide customers with plastic bags if there is a receptacle to collect used plastic bags within 20 feet of the entrance and all plastic bags collected are then recycled.

County of Sacramento, California

Banned free checkout plastic bags in grocery stores, pharmacies and convenience stores across unincorporated Sacramento County in 2016. The City of Sacramento also banned use of plastic bags in 2016.

City of San Francisco, California

First bag ban in the United States occurred in 2007; since then, has been amended to improve its effectiveness. The law cited bag impacts including felling of 14 million trees, use of 12 million barrels of oil, and annual deaths of 100,000 marine animals. It is expected to produce a drop in bag use by 70% to 90%.

City of San Jose, California

'Bring Your Own Bag' Ordinance has been in effect since 2012, banning disposable plastic bags.

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City of Santa Cruz, California

Their ordinance received final approval on July 24, 2012, making Santa Cruz the 51st California community to banish the single-use plastic bags. The ban went into effect by April 2013.

City of Seattle, Washington

Prohibits all Seattle retail stores from providing customers with single-use plastic carryout bags since July 2017.

It should be noted that the City of Port Moody does not currently accept plastic bags as part of our solid waste collection. This is an avenue that should be explored as part of a ban, as disposing of these bags properly while our neighbours continue to allow them is an integral part of protecting the environment during the transition process.

Other Options

THAT the report dated October 30, 2017 from Councillor Rob Vagramov regarding A Call to End the Plastic Bag – Bring Your Own Bag Bylaw be received for information.

Financial Implications

Cost of staff time compiling the aforementioned reports.

Council Strategic Plan Objectives

The discussion and proposed action on plastic bags aligns with the Council Strategic Plan goal of Preserving the Environment.

Attachment:

1. Report dated September 1, 2017 from Environmental Protection Committee regarding Plastic Bag Ban.

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