



City of Port Moody

Minutes

Environmental Protection Committee

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

Present

Councillor Amy Lubik, Chair
Margaret Birch
Elaine Golds
Andrew MacLellan
Javney Mohr
Gregory Pepler
Damian Regan
Jutta Rickers-Haunerland
Connie Smith
Judy Taylor-Atkinson

Absent

Councillor Meghan Lahti, Vice-Chair
Don McKendrick

In Attendance

Karen Devitt – Environmental Coordinator
Lesley Douglas – General Manager of Environment and Parks
Kurt Frei – Environmental Technician
Philip Lo – Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes

- 2.1 EPC20/012
Moved, seconded, and CARRIED
THAT the minutes of the Environmental Protection Committee meeting held on Monday, June 15, 2020 be adopted.

3. Unfinished Business

4. New Business

Bear Management Strategy Update

4.1 Kurt Frei, Environmental Technician

Staff provided a presentation on the Bear Management Strategy Update, noting the following:

- the City has proceeded very quickly with the Bear Management strategy; the process typical takes a number of years, while the City has only taken two years;
- only eight communities have achieved the Bear Smart status so far;
- there is evidence that the Bear Smart Community status is effective in reducing the number of human-bear conflicts per year;
- the available data for Port Moody indicates high bear activity in the Summer months, with equal sighting frequency in all City neighbourhoods;
- the Bear Management Strategy includes an expanded and updated education program (Bear Essentials); rapid collection of attractants; supply of bear-resistant garbage can clips; and solid waste bylaw enforcement;
- staff resources for ticketing and Bylaw enforcement are currently limited due to COVID-19, and the Spring ticketing blitz has not yet been done;
- The Strategy includes partnerships with other organizations such as WildSafe BC, local non-governmental organizations, the Conservation Officer Service, and neighbouring municipalities to address human-bear conflicts;
- bear incursion into neighbourhoods isn't correlated with waste collection days; the general trend is that waste storage during non-collection days are the issue;
- the City's current bear-smart actions far reduces the number of human-bear conflicts in comparison to other areas; the City will continue to monitor and track data and provide information to Council; and
- the City's application to the Province to become a Bear Smart Community is expected around Fall 2020.

The Committee noted the following in discussion:

- the new simplified handout captures information clearly and is easy to read;
- garbage can enclosures are expensive; look for local suppliers who can supply them at a lower cost; and
- the ticketing blitz is based on budget and enforcement resources, and a lot of bear activity happens after the Spring blitz.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) Strategy Update

4.2 Karen Devitt, Environmental Coordinator

Staff gave a presentation on the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) Strategy update, noting the following:

- the original ESA strategy was adopted into the Official Community Plan in 2011;
- the ESA strategy is strongly connected to a number of other City policies and tools, such as the Parks Acquisition Strategy, the Zoning Bylaw, and the Official Community Plan;
- the ESA strategy update aims to Improve mapping, meet regulatory requirements and best management practices, and address new threats and opportunities;
- LiDAR aerial imagery and mapping was employed in Spring 2019 to provide more accurate mapping for the update;
- more detailed forest habitat units and watercourses have been identified as part of this update;
- the new ESA identifies marine ESA and delineates the high water mark, above which the City has jurisdiction;
- the new ESA classes are Forest, Marine, and Riparian, replacing the original categories of high, medium, and low;
- an Environmental Development Permit Area (DPA) focuses on the protection of ESAs through the development permitting process;
- assessment areas around the ESA would be established to help protect adjacent park land and to identify opportunities for restoration of forest edges;
- there are different requirements depending on the project's proximity and impact to the ESA;
- a canopy cover analysis was also conducted as part of the update; the analysis indicated that the City has a healthy canopy cover due to extensive park areas;
- next steps include stakeholder consultation and a public information session;
- a tiered review process could be developed which recognizes different scales and impacts of developments; and
- staff are looking for photo submissions to be included as part of the new strategy;

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

- the timeline for Council review of the ESA Strategy update is likely late Fall or the fourth quarter of 2020; staff are currently working on a timeline for informing the public of the updates;
- the buffer zones are based on contextual and impact considerations;
- a climate change lens is being applied to all policies;
- green infrastructure is part of the development guidelines, and can be focused in the transition area if it is adjacent to an ESA to retain hydrology of area; for bigger developments, green infrastructure can be used for such functions as capturing rainwater runoff, etc.;
- the City will review the new guidelines and Development Permit Area with the development

- community; a website will be created to highlight the changes; staff will reach out to relevant organizations;
- the City is limited in its authority in the marine foreshore areas; for other areas, the City could embed requirements into Bylaws;
- the City's parkland acquisition strategy allows the City to be opportunistic, and targets areas for conservation; remediation and removal of invasives are also prioritized in the workflow; and
- the City's urban forestry strategy will speak to how canopy cover can be improved, and will also encourage retention of trees through development.

Sustainability Report Card Review

4.3 Laura Sampliner, Sustainability and Energy Coordinator

Attachments:

- a) Sustainability Report Card – Mixed Use
- b) Sustainability Report Card Presentation

The Sustainability and Energy Coordinator gave a presentation on the Sustainability Report Card review, noting the following:

- the Report Card is based on four pillars of sustainability (environmental, social, cultural, and economic), and focuses on sustainable design principles;
- copies of the report card and score are submitted to the Community Planning Advisory Committee and Council for their review;
- the Report Card is continuously updated based on the need to adapt to changes to requirements, priorities, and the development approval process;
- concerns expressed by development applicants and planners regarding the Report Card include: fairness and accuracy of scoring and weighting, reflection of current policy, and the need to provide clarity on how to complete the report card; and
- suggestions to improve the Report Card include providing an alternate grading system, simplifying questions, removing required initiatives, distributing of weighting, and automatic calculation of scores.

The Committee noted the following:

- the Report Card is a good tool for communicating to developers what is important from City's perspective;
- a lot of resources are required to keep the Report Card up-to-date, and it is currently not up-to-date with new City policies;
- other municipalities use a variety of formats for this same purpose; review the effectiveness of these other methods and look for best practices;
- the Report Card needs to be in alignment with the City's Climate Emergency declaration;

- the Report Card's scoring and weighting process, as well as how the items are prioritized, are unclear;
- the Report Card should encourage planting of native vegetation that are natural to this area, whenever possible;
- the Environmental Sustainability section currently captures a large variety of components; re-balance the weighting to clarify the priorities and what the City is trying to achieve;
- the City should provide a previously submitted development Report Card as an example to future applicants, to demonstrate how balance can be achieved;
- emphasize wildlife and biodiversity existing on-site on the Report Card, and consider including a requirement to conduct a bio-inventory on a project site through the seasons;
- the Report Card should encourage developers to use high performance energy systems and construction methods;
- the Report Card should include guidelines on minimizing the urban heat island effect;
- the Report Card can include selected requirements from the Tree Protection bylaw, and in some cases the City could consider requesting for more than the minimum requirements, or for a net gain in tree canopy cover; and
- the Report Card can be an opportunity for developers to request for more details from an arborist, as arborists can provide more information than what is currently requested by the City.

EPC20/013

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the meeting be extended by 15 minutes.

2020 Environmental Award

- 4.4 The General Manager of Environment and Parks noted that nominations for the 2020 Environmental award are due on July 31, 2020.

Wildlife and Project Updates

- 4.5 The General Manager of Environment and Parks provided the following update:
- the Bear Management strategy will be reviewed by Council this Fall;
 - the beavers have not been spotted in some time and could be in hiding or are nocturnal; increased pedestrian traffic near their habitat during COVID-19 could be cause; even if the colony has relocated, at least one of the beavers could return to the area; and
 - an orca was spotted near Burnaby in April 2020; the large quantity of anchovies in the Inlet this year could be drawing in orcas.

Heron Update

*Amended by resolution
EPC20/014*

*Amended by resolution
EPC20/014*

4.6 Judy Atkinson provided the following update:

- ~~herons defended their territory from eagles;~~
- there were 16 successful fledges, which is a 300% increase from last year;
- the fledglings all learned to fly within three-day period;
- one nest fell from the trees, and two fledglings died in the fall; the parents fed the remaining juveniles even without a nest.


5. Information

Staff Updates

5.1 There were no staff updates.

6. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:09pm.


Councillor Amy Lubik,
Chair


Philip Lo,
Committee Coordinator