



MINUTES
OAK BAY COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION
WORKING GROUP
TO BE HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020 AT 5:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL HALL, 2167 OAK BAY AVENUE

MEMBERS PRESENT

Pam Copley
Patrick Frey
Kristina Leach
Michael Low

Caroline Smart
Tim Taddy
Councillor Andrew Appleton

MEMBERS ABSENT

Virginia Holden
Kris Nichols

STAFF PRESENT

Deborah Jensen, Manager of Planning
Krista Mitchell, Building and Planning Clerk
Bruce Anderson, Director of Building & Planning
Dan Horan, Director of Engineering Services
Chris Hyde-Lay, Manager of Parks Services

OTHER

Councillor T. Ney

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm.

2. Adoption of Minutes from January 7, 2020

It was moved and seconded that the minutes from January 7, 2020 be adopted.

The motion was carried.
None opposed.

3. Adoption of Minutes from January 18, 2020

It was moved and seconded that the minutes from January 18, 2020 be adopted.

The motion was carried.
None opposed.

4. Approval of Agenda and Late Items

The agenda was approved as amended for an update on matters under Item 8 (b).

The motion was carried.
None opposed.

5. Public Participation

Stephen Bowker, Oak Bay resident, stated that the objective of the group is to supply a short list of five climate action recommendations to Council, and suggested the Group read his short list of five recommendations that he submitted at the meeting.

David Blacoe, Oak Bay resident, suggested that his top five recommendations include greenhouse gas reductions (3, 12) and climate change mitigation strategy (13, 5, 7), and noted an additional recommendation of phasing out fossil fuels by 2025. He stated the three core beliefs of the Blue Dot program are the right to breathe fresh air, the right to drink fresh water, and the right to healthy foods.

Gary MacDougall, Oak Bay resident, stated that it is important to enhance the natural environment by planting trees, and supporting a more diverse species to bring back pollinators and insects. He noted that urban agriculture is important, including eating locally grown food, and supporting diversity.

Pamela Woodland, Oak Bay resident, thanked the Group for laying the groundwork for future action, reminding the Group about the migratory bird sanctuary, and the compaction and overuse of the parks as they are an important part of the environment. She noted concern about dogs and cats for the bird population, and suggested construction of a boardwalk through Uplands Park, Cattle Point and Anderson Park to protect ecosystems.

Andrea Careless, Oak Bay resident, stated she previously worked in communications, and suggested a strong communications plan is needed for climate action work.

David Blacoe, Oak Bay resident, stated that the recommendations are too open ended, and need a target date.

Gary MacDougall, Oak Bay resident, stated that he attended the Indigenous Food Conference. He noted that Indigenous cultures have lived in sustainable and regenerative ways for thousands of years and we can learn a lot from them.

6. New Business

None.

7. Old Business

a) Climate Action Recommendations

C Appleton advised the CCAWG now needs to select the five priority recommendations from the 14 draft recommendations, which will then be communicated to Council as per the CCAWG terms of reference. He also noted the draft financial plan includes funds for active transportation, with a projected amount of \$200,000 per year for five years beginning in 2021.

D. Jensen clarified that the January CCAWG workshop resulted in an overall future vision for Oak Bay, select climate action categories on which to focus, and a draft list of 14 recommendations; noting that the goal of this evening's agenda is to further refine and develop a set of up to five recommendations.

CCAWG Comments

CCAWG members noted their intent to begin with the recommendations which they felt were the highest priority, and asked for clarification on the proposed active transportation program, as well as the Elgin Road facility.

D. Horan advised of Council's intent to invest in an active transportation system through their strategic priorities and upcoming budget, noting that the full network could not be built out in the next five years with the proposed \$200,000 per year budget. He also noted that other communities have measured and tracked ridership before and after improvements to active transportation, and have shown that some of the more controversial projects did have a significant increase in ridership.

D Horan also noted that the suggestion to redesign the Elgin Road facility to incorporate re-use and upcycling and create an educational facility is an excellent idea, however, as a multifunctional site now and its primary purpose as a transfer station, this would prove challenging as it is a very crowded site.

CCAWG members asked for additional information on the scope of the Coolkit program, and on opportunities to address parking in Oak Bay.

C. Hyde-Lay advised the Coolkit program is run through the University of British Columbia School of Urban Forestry, and that the program is a method for engaging property owners on numerous activities including tree planting to improve the urban forest and urban agriculture; noting that the overall program includes actions to address climate change.

D. Jensen noted that staffing would be required to implement the Coolkit program, as local residents are provided with educational opportunities to undertake action through the program and continue work in the community.

B. Anderson commented that there is a cash in lieu bylaw for village parking, where funds are collected through development to help fund active transportation. He also noted that there are limited opportunities to collect cash in lieu funds, and that a larger multiyear process is underway to consider missing middle housing types and development within the village areas.

CCAWG members recommended that, in order to measurably reduce vehicular traffic in Oak Bay, the recommendation to build out an active transportation network in Oak Bay be moved forward as a priority recommendation, with the specific wording of the recommendation to be confirmed.

CCAWG members recommended that, in order to directly engage the community in climate action, that the recommendations to undertake the Coolkit program, and to establish educational programs for urban agriculture, be moved forward as a priority recommendation, with the specific wording of the recommendation to be confirmed.

CCAWG members recommended that funding programs be moved forward as a priority recommendation, to provide community grants for climate action initiatives and for rebate programs that reduce GHG emissions, and that are measurable, scientific based and result in direct community action.

CCAWG members discussed the ability to incorporate funds into the 2020 budget cycle, to participate in the City of Victoria free bus passes to youth, as well as implementing a program to double transit usage within the next five years. They also stated the importance of addressing housing stock and their emissions through a retrofit program or new build program, including consideration of expedited processes and increased demolition fees.

CCAWG members noted that a sustainability coordinator to manage the climate initiatives could be an overarching guiding principle of the recommendations given that, in the longer term, work needs to be underway to fully implement climate action into all aspects of municipal operations.

8. Information Items

a) Correspondence

Correspondence received from S. Bowker.

b) No report.

9. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the CCAWG is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Certified as fair and accurate:

Chair

Recorder

