



MINUTES
OAK BAY COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION
WORKING GROUP
TO BE HELD TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2019 AT 5:00 PM
(Immediately following Advisory Planning Commission Meeting)
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL HALL, 2167 OAK BAY AVENUE

MEMBERS PRESENT

Pam Copley
Patrick Frey
Virginia Holden
Michael Low
Kristina Leach

Kris Nichols
Caroline Smart
Tim Taddy
Councillor Andrew Appleton

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Deborah Jensen, Manager of Planning
Graeme Buffett, Planner
Krista Mitchell, Building and Planning Clerk

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:50 pm.

2. Adoption of Minutes from November 19, 2019

It was moved and seconded that the minutes from November 19, 2019 be adopted.

The motion was carried.

None opposed.

3. Approval of Agenda and Late Items

The agenda was approved as amended by moving Item 7 to be before Item 5(c).

4. Old Business

None.

T. Taddy joined the meeting at 5:55 pm.

5. New Business

a) Climate Action – Leaf Blowers

Councillor Appleton advised that Council referred the Leaf Blower discussion to the Working Group for their consideration. Some of the comments from the CCAWG were:

- The role of the Working Group is to endorse up to five recommendations for climate change actions that are specific to the community, which can be incorporated in the 2020 strategic plan within a constrained timeline.
- Leaf blowers should be considered when looking at broader categories, with the guiding principles first solidified.

- Principles and values should be dealt with first, and look at broader issues. Leaf blowers might be able to be lumped into broader categories.

It was moved and seconded that the Leaf Blower discussion be deferred to a future meeting where CCAWG is considering individual recommendations.

The motion was carried.

None opposed.

b) Speaker Discussion

Councillor Appleton noted the CCAWG members should forward ideas for guest speakers to staff or the Chair so a day long workshop can be organized in January 2020.

CCA WG members identified areas of interest for speakers, including:

- Indigenous
- Adaptation and Mitigation
- Using Existing Built Form
- Circular Economy
- Climate Justice and Equity
- Energy Step Code
- Oak Bay High Climate Group

7. Public Participation

Patricia Lane, Oak Bay resident, stated she was a member of the 2008 Climate Change Task Force Committee that provided a number of recommendations to Council and nothing happened. She encouraged the CCAWG members to take their role seriously as it can bring hope to this community; and believes densification is important for reducing carbon footprint, and addressing housing affordability and the housing crisis.

Tom Oakey, Victoria resident, noted he is an adjunct associate professor in climate studies at the University of Victoria. He encouraged establishment of a cycling route on McNeill Avenue, and addresses the climate issue of transportation.

Rick Lee, Oak Bay resident, stated the District first needs to know the magnitude of impact and understand what they are dealing with, noting that ideas such as secondary housing, transportation, and feel good issues of plastic bags are out of place. He noted that looking at climate science is the first step.

Marion Cumming, Oak Bay resident, spoke in support of putting an emphasis on planting trees, respecting soil, and being more actively involved in food gardens. She also noted that leaf blowers are a health hazard, and leaves should be left on site for mulch.

Gary MacDougall, Oak Bay resident, stated that we are in a climate emergency where our soil is disappearing, pesticides are having an impact, and our food is coming from somewhere else. He advised leaf blowers should be banned, and he encouraged the growing of fruits and vegetables on resident's front lawns.

Rick Lee, Oak Bay resident, clarified with the Chair the content of the Terms of Reference where five recommendations will lead to actionable items for Council to consider, and that the role of the Working Group is not to consider larger scale items beyond the scope of the group, but to act on the best information available.

Rick Lee, Oak Bay resident, stated that if recommendations lead to resource expenditures and infrastructure considerations, then we need to know what we're dealing with and how it relates to climate extremes.

c) Guiding Principles Working Session

CCAWG members participated in a working session to produce guiding principles that would be used to steer the discussion for developing the five recommendations and include:

- inspire, create hope and educate the community;
- municipal leadership;
- timely actionable items;
- informed decisions;
- equality / equitability - with global /indigenous perspectives;
- impactful;
- leveraging current assets.

CCAWG members also identified:

- actions need to address mitigation and adaptation;
- actions should do nothing that will impact other jurisdictions;
- climate initiatives should be publicly communicated pre and post the initiatives for measurability and reporting out to the community;
- all municipal operations should be subject to a full carbon accounting; and
- all council meetings should include a statement speaking to climate change, and all staff reports should include a climate lens.

<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Date By</i>	<i>Who</i>
1. Confirm January 2020 date for one day workshop	asap	Staff
2. Provide speaker ideas to District Staff	ongoing	CCAWG
3. Leaf Blower Review for Council Recommendation	Future	CCAWG

6. Information Items

a) Correspondence

1. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the CCAWG is scheduled for Tuesday, January 7, 2020.

2. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.