



MINUTES
OAK BAY COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION
WORKING GROUP
TO BE HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2020 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
Christine Currie, Building and Planning Clerk

Dan Horan, Director of Engineering Services
Chris Hyde-Lay, Manager of Parks Services

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:57 pm.

2. Adoption of Minutes from December 3, 2019

It was moved and seconded that the minutes from December 3, 2019 be adopted.

The motion was carried.
None opposed.

3. Approval of Agenda and Late Items

The agenda was approved as amended for an update on the upcoming workshop under Item 6(c).

The motion was carried.
None opposed.

4. Public Participation

Irene Cockayne, Oak Bay resident, stated the municipality should help people borrow money from divested fossil fuel funds to update their homes to future environmental standards.

David Blakefield, Oak Bay resident, recommended that the solution summary set out by Project Drawdown (drawdown.org), which provides a list of ideas for reducing greenhouse gases, should be adopted and used at the municipal level. He also recommended that Oak Bay endorse the Blue Dot Initiative.

Gary MacDougall, Oak Bay resident, stated it should be recognized that threats other than CO₂ exist, and should consider the global impacts our suggestions will have. He pointed out that indigenous cultures have lived in sustainable and regenerative ways for thousands of years and we can learn a lot from them.

5. Presentations

a) Oak Bay Engineering Services Department – Dan Horan

D. Horan, Director of Engineering Services, provided an overview of the Engineering and Public Works Departments, noting those items that are directly related to climate impacts. Some of the comments included:

- Engineering and Public Works Departments are responsible for developing and renewing infrastructure and utilities, such as water distribution, wastewater collection and transportation systems in sustainable ways to meet the community's needs.
- Asset management program looks at infrastructure renewal and maintaining levels of service in a sustainable manner, and managing environmental impact; the water, storm and sewer systems are estimated at \$206 million.
- Considered an environmental utility that provides clean water, protects the natural environment by collecting and conveying sanitary sewage, minimizing cross connections, backups and leaks.
- District has no specific position to focus on the environmental lens, is currently split between departments.
- Have to consider current priorities, resources and current level of service when planning for future environmental or climate change initiatives.
- Currently focussing on a number of initiatives, including Bowker Creek, stormwater management, and other natural assets such as the urban forest and foreshore, for example, McNeil Bay erosion, and facilities planning.
- Transportation planning focusses on a complete streets concept, with a pedestrian focus, and will continue to work on active transportation.

CCAWG members commented on that naturalizing of Bowker Creek, including further removal of rock walls and daylighting of the creek. They also noted the need for additional bike lane infrastructure and other active transportation modes, and emphasized the need to consider the environment and climate change when expanding or maintaining the District's infrastructure and services.

CCAWG members noted that their recommendations should have deliverable outcomes to offer the most flexibility and be easier to execute.

b) Oak Bay Parks Department – Chris Hyde-Lay

C. Hyde-Lay, Manager of Parks provided an overview of the Parks Department. Some of the comments included:

- Staff of approximately 25 are responsible for maintenance of 59 park areas, several sports fields, a golf course and allotment garden, and public garbage receptacles and facilities, as well as work in Uplands Park and irrigated boulevards.
- The Urban Forest Management Strategy and Tree Protection Bylaw were implemented to protect, enhance and monitor the urban forest.
- Looking at Grow Your Own Oak in Oak Bay and Citizen's Coolkit as initiatives to encourage community engagement and support.
- Need to consider the urban forest as part of our infrastructure.

CCAWG members commented on the possibility of putting utilities underground with Garry oak trees planted over top, and on opportunities to include alternative canopy forms such as green roofs to meet tree canopy cover targets. They also commented on the need to educate homeowners about tree care, and recommended the use of the Coolkit program.

6. New Business

a) Confirm Guiding Principles

CCA WG members confirmed their seven guiding principles, with some revisions to guiding principles numbers 3 and 7.

b) Climate Action Categories

D. Jensen provided an outline of climate action categories that CCA WG members could consider in forming their recommendations, including: climate action planning; protect / enhance natural environment; protect / restore watercourses/ infrastructure (services, active transportation); energy; waste; water conservation; municipal asset management; buildings; complete compact communities; human health and wellbeing / food security; and education and public participation.

CCA WG members considered echoing the six categories set out in the Saanich Climate Plan, noting that the categories provide a framework for discussion of possible recommendations. CCA WG members requested staff provide a revised framework that incorporates both sets of climate categories.

7. Old Business

a) Speakers

D. Jensen noted the workshop agenda provides for two speakers at the start of the day.

b) Working Group Workshop Session

D. Jensen advised the upcoming workshop is scheduled for Saturday, January 18, 2020, beginning at 9:00 am.

8. Information Items

a) Correspondence

Correspondence received from M. Wilmut.

9. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the CCA WG is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4, 2020.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Certified as fair and accurate:

Chair

Recorder