



MINUTES
OAK BAY COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION
WORKING GROUP
TO BE HELD SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2020 AT 9:00 AM
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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 am.

2. Public Participation

Irene Cockayne, Oak Bay resident, noted that advancements are being made in climate change. She advised of a study where subjects are monitored for brain activity, and if a person is focussed on themselves a large portion of their brain lights up; but if they are focussed on others, a smaller portion of their brain lights up, and this explains why people have not responded to climate action.

Andrea Careless, Oak Bay resident, stated she previously worked with the Ministry of Environment, where they were trying to educate the public about climate change and industry back to 1992, but they did not have the public understanding or political will. She noted that we have to focus on public engagement, that the most important component of reducing greenhouse gas emissions is through home heating and transportation.

Pamela Woodland, Oak Bay resident, advised that the community's Garry oak trees are at an age where they need to be replaced, and she worries about monoculture of oak trees and a lack of resiliency. She noted that we should look to other drought resistant trees and encourage urban agriculture, for example, boulevard gardens, markets, and little pantries like little libraries.

Gary MacDougall, Oak Bay resident, stated we need to be focussing on greenhouse gas emissions and working with nature, noting insect decline, water and air pollution. He suggested the Working Group should focus on natural solutions such as green roofs and urban agriculture.

Kathy Simas, Oak Bay resident, advised the ocean and Willows Beach is being impacted by climate change, with plastic regularly washing up on the beach, and the Working Group needs to give attention to these issues.

Gary MacDougall, Oak Bay resident, suggested the community needs education and encouragement, making action fun to remove barriers.

Pamela Woodland, Oak Bay resident, suggested there should be more opportunities for people to get together to make a difference, for example, community associations. She also noted that parks are being overused, the bird sanctuary and beaches are being impacted, and we need to use plantings to increase insects and help birds.

CCAWG members discussed that half of their recommendations should focus on adaptation for climate impacts that are on their way.

3. Speaker Series

a) Nikki Elliott – Capital Regional District

D. Jensen introduced Nikki Elliott, Climate Action Program Coordinator with the Capital Regional District. Nikki Elliott delivered a PowerPoint presentation, providing information on climate action underway at the Capital Regional District, and climate impacts for Oak Bay. Some of the comments included:

- Work with the Province and municipalities on initiatives such as the Energy Step Code, cleanBC, incentive programs, EV charging, data indicators, climate action kits.
- 2010 emissions data shows 55% comes from transportation, 36% from buildings, and 9% from waste.
- Oak Bay indicators for 2012 show 70% of emissions are from natural gas, 18% from oil.
- CRD produced climate projections in 2017 that show how temperature and precipitation will change, including increased frequency in storm events, warmer summers and drought, all of which have impacts on, for example, flooding, stormwater management, biodiversity and drinking water.
- New sea level rise study will provide results in late spring.
- BC Hydro can accommodate electrical demand to 2030, and could support to 50% of demand if everything was electric; and even at neighbourhood scale, everything needs to be upgraded if we are fully electric, for example, upgrades to street utilities.
- Sea level rise data will be used to consider next steps, such as impacts to critical infrastructure including outfalls and pump stations.
- Senior levels of government provide some funding for infrastructure, local governments can require infrastructure such as EV charging ready for buildings.

b) Hannah Teicher – Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions

D. Jensen introduced Hannah Teicher, the first Researcher in Residence with the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions. Hannah Teicher delivered a PowerPoint presentation, providing information on climate research and decision making processes. Some of the comments included:

- Local governments are working on climate solutions, for example, Vancouver has their 'big moves', Victoria looking at low carbon buildings and transportation, and Climate Leaders playbook developed by the Community Energy Association.
- The scope of what local governments can do is limited by scale and legal considerations, but movement is underway to try and increase municipal powers for climate action, for example climate specific development cost charges.
- Some organizations incorporate climate into all aspects of operations, but be careful this does not become a box checking exercise where action does not really happen; need to have local capacity, internal leadership, and staff focussed on action.

- Essential to develop targets and a vision, and to assign and track responsibilities for implementation. Have long term solutions in mind, but can start with low hanging fruit.
- Adaptation is difficult to track through indicators / metrics.
- Need to focus on decision making and the process
 - 1) Apply a climate lens to existing priorities, for example, OCP reference to *integrate consideration related to climate change and energy into* should say ALL; asset management is important and should also look at natural assets.
 - 2) Actions set out in the District's Corporate Plan could all incorporate climate.
 - 3) Need to have dedicated staff capacity within the District so that climate stays a priority, offer training and support, take advantage of external resources.
 - 4) Revise financial planning to consider full life cycle, interdependencies, and externalities; and consider a strategic energy management plan.
 - 5) Tackle community mitigation and adaptation, not just corporate, by undertaking baseline assessments for mitigation and adaptation, developing a risk assessment, and developing a portfolio of core actions, for example, incentivizing heat pumps.
 - 6) Convene adaptation dialogues to develop an understanding of risk assessment, for example, use ground truthing or crowd sourcing to ask *what do you see when it's flooding? or what do you see when it's hot?*; and evaluate adaptation options.
- Need to look to residents that can play a leadership role, for example, a climate champion program, to change the norms around home heating; this won't accommodate everyone, for example, older homes, but can consider financing mechanism for people on limited incomes.

c) Working Group Comments

- Discussions for greenhouse gas reductions and heat pumps can be difficult for the older housing stock.
- Important to focus on asset management and mainstreaming climate action, how to value climate risk.
- Victoria is undertaking a study on the uptake of cycling, need to focus on this at 50% of emissions are coming from transportation.
- Important to have champions within the community.
- Don't reinvent the wheel, there is much work already out there.

Moved and seconded that the presentations made to the Community Climate Action Working Group be forwarded to Council by Councillor Appleton for information purposes.

The motion was carried.

None opposed.

4. Workshop

CCAWG members participated in a working session to produce 14 draft recommendations through visioning and consideration of climate categories.

Vision

- An empowered community that is supported through municipal resources and policies.
- More transit, smaller buses, cycling and walking.
- Corporate leadership advancing dialogue and education.
- Gentle diverse density throughout the community, with incentives to encourage multifamily development resulting in fewer requirements for vehicle parking.
- Enhance boulevards through food production and native plants.
- A balanced program to achieve net zero for both new construction and retrofit.

- Demolition fees should address the true cost of deconstruction, but not impact the goal of general densification.
- Improve waste reduction and recycling options.
- Increase tree plantings and food production.
- Improve waterfront.
- Strive for Oak Bay energy independence.
- Improve rainwater management and retention.

Climate Categories

- Complete Compact Communities
- Buildings and GHG / Energy Reductions
- Vehicles / Reduce GHG Emissions
- Protect / Enhance Natural Environment
- Education
- Public Participation
- Municipal Asset Management

Draft Recommendations

- Initiate five pilot projects to exemplify missing middle housing types in neighbourhoods.
- Create a retrofit and renovation strategy for existing buildings, including for example, a staff liaison, matching grants, character conversions, facilitated / expedited processes, full cost demolition fees.
- Create a program to encourage net zero buildings and compact housing forms through, for example, expedited process – rezoning, building, development, permit, building permit fee reductions.
- Within 5 years, build out an active transportation network in Oak Bay, ensuring partnership and integration with adjacent municipalities and the Capital Regional District.
- For the 2020 budget year, coordinate with City of Victoria to provide free bus passes to youth.
- Evaluate parking regulations to reduce overall vehicle parking, implement revenue models for village parking areas, and incentivize alternatives to incentivize action transportation.
- Implement a program to double transit usage within the next five years.
- Undertake a program to redesign the Elgin Road facility to incorporate re-use and upcycling, education and energy generation.
- Develop a neighbourhood engagement program to undertake measurable grassroots initiatives, and specifically the Coolkit program.
- Establish a specific fund to provide community grants to groups undertaking direct climate action.
- Establish education program for urban agriculture that can be measured and communicated, for example, food gardens, tree planting, no irrigation.
- Develop matching grant programs for reducing GHG emissions including, for example, ebikes, heating, electric garden equipment.
- Incorporate a climate lens to all corporate planning and operations, including asset management and full life cycle analysis, financial plan, budget documents, and corporate plan.
- Hire climate coordinator to inspire and facilitate the municipality and community initiatives.

5. Next Meeting

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

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 pm.

Certified as fair and accurate:

Chair

Recorder