



MINUTES
OAK BAY COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION
WORKING GROUP
HELD TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020 AT 5:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL HALL, 2167 OAK BAY AVENUE

MEMBERS PRESENT

Pam Copley
Patrick Frey
Virginia Holden
Michael Low

Kris Nichols
Caroline Smart
Councillor Andrew Appleton

MEMBERS ABSENT

Kristina Leach
Tim Taddy

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

OTHER

Councillor Tara Ney

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm.

2. Adoption of Minutes from February 4, 2020

It was moved and seconded that the minutes from February 4, 2020 be adopted.

The motion was carried.
None opposed.

3. Approval of Agenda and Late Items

The agenda was approved as presented.

The motion was carried.
None opposed.

4. Public Participation

David Blacoe, Oak Bay resident, stated that he hoped the two remaining recommendations have a stronger message to the community about reducing GHG emissions, such as building codes, EV charging, solar power and improved insulation.

Andrea Careless, Oak Bay resident, stated that the first three recommendations are great, however they are missing strong GHG reduction recommendations, which can be noted in the final two recommendations. She also referenced the Oak Bay Climate Force Facebook group.

Pam Woodland, Oak Bay resident, thanked the CCAWG members for their hard work and persistence. She read from a message from Gary MacDougall that Council should adopt the one planet living guidelines that would align with the Coolkit initiative program, and the need to regenerate the planet if we want a future for our children.

Pam Woodland, Oak Bay resident, stated that the Coolkit program would provide resilience in the community, allowing a connection between food and community members, and would like to see Council embrace Earth Day on April 22, 2020.

CCAWG members commended the residents who have attended their meetings, as they are part of a broader regional initiative named South Island Community Action Network, and are committed to climate action.

5. New Business

None.

6. Old Business

a) Finalize Climate Action Recommendations

A. Appleton, Chair, advised the Group needs to select the final two recommendations, and that the first three draft recommendations were brought forward to the Committee of the Whole. He noted that Council asked for additional information on the Coolkit program, which will be presented at the March 9th Council meeting, and that the first three recommendations have been included in the 2020 draft budget process.

CCAWG Comments

CCAWG members clarified that Council has received and included the first three recommendations in the draft budget process as presented, and if they are not finalized in this cycle, they could be brought forward for the next budget cycle. They also stated that some of the recommendations are not short term items, but are intended to reflect OCP policy and climate priorities in the long term.

D. Horan confirmed that the five year financial plan, starting in 2021, is to include an annual \$200,000 for active transportation initiatives, and staff will be reviewing the active transportation program to determine what is achievable.

D. Jensen commented that Dr. Sheppard, a professor at the University of British Columbia, will be in attendance at the March 9th Council meeting to discuss the Coolkit program. She also advised that tonight's CCAWG meeting is to develop the final two recommendations from the initial 14 recommendations.

CCAWG members noted that the parking bylaw has been troublesome for years, and out of alignment with the OCP vision and policy. They noted the importance of existing and new housing stock, with strategies to effectively retrofit, and the necessity for a leadership model that works toward greater sustainability; and commented that GHG emissions from buildings represent 40% of GHG emissions from the community.

B. Anderson advised the District has implemented the Energy Step Code, which is currently at Step 3, and Step 5 would achieve net zero for new buildings.

D. Jensen noted that, through the CleanBC program, the Province will introduce a program for retrofitting existing buildings by 2024 to achieve greater energy efficiency.

CCAWG members recommended that two separate programs and associated policies be created to accelerate greenhouse gas and energy reductions for the retrofit and adaptation of existing buildings, and for new building construction.

A. Appleton commented that the fifth recommendation pertains to increase transit usage in the next 5 years, as personal transportation is a major GHG contributor.

CCAWG member noted the need for staff resources to provide an advocacy role on behalf of the District to work with BC Transit to improve transit in the community, and to gather data from BC Transit to provide measurable. They also noted, that in order to achieve the goal of increased transit usage in the community, the following strategies could be utilized:

- housing density needs to be built to maintain and increase transit users;
- housing density should be located around transit corridors;
- need to build compact transit oriented communities;
- partner with BC Transit;
- act on policy transit as it links to OCP policy for complete streets;
- consider a pilot program to share the cost of bus passes for youth.

D. Horan noted that, if advocacy with BC Transit is a priority, it could be challenging for District staff given existing resources and capacity.

D. Jensen reconfirmed that mandate of the Working Group with respect to consideration of staff resources and budget. She also advised the City of Victoria has had limited success for their free youth bus program, and there would be a cost of approximately \$88,000 to the District to fund a partial program for youth.

CCAWG members recommended the District implement programs and policies to double transit usage within the next five years through initiatives that connect to the housing framework and housing policy; and through a four month trial period to provide free bus passes to youth in partnership with other agencies.

CCAWG members noted that introducing a climate lens to the District and employing 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 and the community. District leadership and staff resourcing should be foundational elements that guide future work on climate action.

7. Information Items

None

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Certified as fair and accurate:

Chair

Recorder