



CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting – Wednesday, October 9, 2024
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Committee Room
In-Person

Members: Ken Ashley, Keegan Casidy, Eleanor Gill, Diana Leung, Irwin Oostindie, Lorna Pelly, Councillor Jordan Back

Regrets: Jennifer Johnson, Mariko Michasiw, Oliver Ng

Staff: Caroline Jackson, Director, Climate Action, Natural Systems and Biodiversity; Matt MacKinnon, Biodiversity Policy & Projects Manager; Bo Ocampo, Environmental Sustainability Specialist; Adam Vasilevich, Section Manager, Parks Planning, Design, and Development; Mary Jukich, Committee Clerk

1. Welcome and Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Territorial Acknowledgement

The Chair provided the land acknowledgement.

Adoption of the Agenda

Moved, seconded and resolved
To adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

Adoption of the Minutes

Moved, seconded and resolved
To adopt the June 12, 2024 minutes.

CARRIED

2. Whey-ah-Wichen/Cates Park shoreline Restoration Project

Caroline Jackson, Director, Climate Action, Natural Systems and Biodiversity provided an introduction to the Whey-ah-Wichen/Cates Park Shoreline Restoration Project, highlighting its ties to reconciliation, biodiversity protection, and sea level rise.

Adam Vasilevich, Section Manager, Parks Planning, Design, and Development provided a general overview of the project and progress to date. He noted that the District co-manages the park with the səilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nation and that they are working collaboratively on the restoration initiative which encompasses approximately 1,500 metres of shoreline. The project is currently in the detailed design phase and a site assessment is currently underway that includes terrestrial mapping and sediment studies. Next steps for the project

include applying for permits from the Port of Vancouver, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and BC Environmental Assessment Office. It is anticipated construction will start in 2025.

The shoreline restoration objectives are as follows:

- Protect/preserve cultural artifacts
- Stop/slow bank erosion
- Improve beach while liming beach access
- Replace invasive plants with native species
- Nature based solutions to add and retain beach sediments
- Upland improvements – planting, interpretive signage, drainage
- Work collaboratively with the Nation through all phases of the project

On completion of the presentation, the following comments were provided by the committee members:

- Beach access should be managed carefully with considerations for both parking and public transit. Information was provided that as of September, pay parking has been in effect and will be used to manage car access.
- A question was raised about the current event infrastructure at the park and future opportunities for expansion. It was explained that there are two washroom buildings at the park and new washrooms could be built. The Tsleil-Waututh Nation is also considering a ceremonial space that could be rented out and made into a centre for events. Lastly, the District is working on creating better access to the beach and picnic shelters.
- Incorporate Tsleil-Waututh Nation messaging around wayfinding and more cultural elements through signage which could also connect to the climate change story.
- In terms of climate education, it may be beneficial to have a resident artist or Elder residence to do interactive, land-based learning.
- The shoreline restoration project could provide opportunities for partnerships with local artists and present opportunities for high school students to feel involved by participating in various environmental experiments during the shoreline project.

3. Biodiversity Strategy Update and Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping Project

Matt MacKinnon, Biodiversity Policy and Projects Manager provided an update on the Biodiversity Strategy Project. A consultant has been hired to work on the Biodiversity Strategy. The consultant's scope of work consists of a technical analysis, community engagement, and a draft of the strategy. The technical analysis will include a review of existing data and an assessment to identify biodiversity hot spots in the District. Once complete, the technical outcome of the project will be shared with the committee. Public engagement is planned to begin in May 2025 and will include a survey, pop up information sessions, and attendance at community events. It is anticipated that a draft strategy will be completed by September 2025. As part of a separate scope, the District has also engaged

with Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nation to ask how they would like to participate in the engagement process.

During the discussion, a question was raised regarding the possible impact that this work may have on private development and anticipated actions that might arise from the research. Information was provided that a review of existing District data on biodiversity is currently being undertaken by the consultant and possible suggested outcomes of the project include an evaluation of the District's tree canopy or review of the streamside development permit areas. Part of the project will also identify green infrastructure networks that allow for wildlife movement through North Vancouver.

4. Break

Committee members did not take a break.

5. Nature & Biodiversity in the District – Library Speaker Event Nov 6th (Lynn Valley)

Bo Ocampo, Environmental Sustainability Specialist provided an overview of this year's Library Speaker Event on November 6th, at the Lynn Valley Public Library.

6. Climate Action Committee Summary Report Review

Bo Ocampo, Environmental Sustainability Specialist provided an overview of the 2024 Information Report to Council. This document summarizes the committee meetings throughout the year and key themes covered during discussions.

During the discussion, a suggestion was provided to include more detailed committee member input into the report. It was noted that the report to Council contains the highlights of the committee's work and that more detailed feedback could be found in the meeting minutes.

7. Committee Member Updates

Committee Members provided the following updates:

- Approximately 150 metres of Mosquito Creek has been restored and a new source for logs has been found.
- West Coast Environmental Law has been trying to organize a group of municipalities to take a class action lawsuit against several of the world's largest fossil fuel polluters related to the costs of the climate crisis and the impact on local communities.
- Related to active transportation, it was raised that pedestrian safety continues to be a very important challenge – especially in high traffic areas near schools.
- Some of the recent projects at Maplewood Flats include land-based education programs where approximately 100 residents are trained to be champions around biodiversity and decolonization and allow them to undertake more complex work around biodiversity.
- There is currently work underway related to the McCartney Creek land use planning process which involves several key groups of interest. This work will involve planning

around the impact of the Spirit Trail and discussions about how to protect the wildlife crossing corridor and increase recreational access across McCartney Creek.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.