



## THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

### **MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD AUGUST 30, 2023 AT 4:00 PM OKANAGAN LAKE ROOM (COUNCIL CHAMBER)**

**PRESENT:** Patrick Riley, Okanagan Indian Band  
Sid Kwakkel, Educators & Inst., Post-Secondary Rep.  
Jordan Hart, Business & Commercial Services Rep.  
Doug Johnston, Science, Technology & Environmental Rep.  
Donna Bartel, Community at Large Rep.  
Casey Neathway, Health & Social Services Rep.  
Barry Dorval, Educators & Inst., Primary and Secondary Rep., Chair  
Stephanie Hendy, Community at Large Rep.  
Councilor Brian Guy, Council Appointed  
Mayor Cumming

**ABSENT:** Fawn Ross, Community Stewardship Rep.  
Jenn Comazzetto, SD22 Rep.  
Jenna Boone, Youth Member  
Casey Bain, Youth Member

**STAFF:** Barbara Everdene, Long Range Planner  
Jennifer Pounder, Committee Clerk

**ORDER** The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

**LAND  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** As Chair of the City of Vernon's Climate Action Advisory Committee, and in the spirit of this gathering, I recognize the City of Vernon is located in the traditional territory of the Syilx people of the Okanagan Nation.

**ADOPTION OF THE  
AGENDA** Moved by S. Hendy, seconded by D. Bartel:

THAT the agenda of the August 30, 2023 Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting be adopted:

**CARRIED**

**ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

Moved by S. Kwakkel, seconded by J. Hart:

THAT the minutes of the June 28, 2023 Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting be adopted:

**CARRIED**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

There was no unfinished business

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**DRIVE-THROUGH BAN SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE**

- Jurisdictions have not yet been approached, however, they have the questions prepared. They are hoping to have enough data to ask Council to revisit the drive-through ban by the end of 2023.
- Questions will be directed to applicable Staff in the following jurisdictions: Kelowna, Central Saanich and Nelson.
- It was suggested they also talk with Kamloops as they are similar to Vernon in that they have two zones and are built around a highway.
- They will also be approaching the Chambers of Commerce in these cities as there was concern expressed from the Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce when the ban was proposed to City Council.

**STAFFING UPDATE**

A new Climate Action Specialist has been hired. His name is Kevin McCarty. His start date is September 18. He was the Senior Specialist, Sustainability a Kal Tire and has deep roots in the community. He was also one of the original members of this Committee.

**COUNCIL UPDATE**

Councillor Guy provided the following update on City Council business:

July 17, 2023 Regular meeting of Council

- Staff was directed to amend Building Bylaw 5900 to accommodate rooftop solar PV and solar hot water readiness.

August 14, 2023 Regular meeting of Council

- Solar Ready

- Council approved an amendment to Building Bylaw 5900 requiring an electrical conduit and a conduit for hot water piping from the rooftop down into the basement.
- Stormwater Bylaw
  - Following an enquiry from Council in Spring 2023, Staff brought forward a report recommending the following five improvements to the City's approach to stormwater management (all of which were approved):
    - Develop a Stormwater Bylaw;
    - Update the Master Drainage Plan;
    - Update the Subdivision Servicing Bylaw and the Development Cost Charges Bylaw; and
    - Increase the monitoring of water quality and streamflow on BX and Vernon creeks.
- E-mobility
  - The City of Vernon was chosen by the Community Energy Association (CEA) for an E-mobility pilot. BC Hydro will pay CEA to work with Vernon to implement several aspects of our plan to increase e-mobility (charging infrastructure, education, engagement, etc.).
- Densification
  - Bylaw amendments to allow secondary suite in semi-detached buildings in all residential zones in the City were passed.
  - Council approved a new five and a half storey mixed use building on 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue across the street from St. James School – adds density at the edge of downtown.
  - J. Perrott, Manager, Economic Development & Tourism, provided an update with several projects currently in the works, including a new four storey mixed use building west from the downtown parkade. This will have 75 one-bedroom units, 20 two-bedroom units. 15 of these units will be eligible for CMHC's high ratio mortgage guarantee.
- Staff
  - The new Director, Community Infrastructure & Development, Terry Barton, was introduced to Council. Also, the new Environmental Planning Assistant, Teresa Campbell, presented an excellent report to Council.
- Wildfire

- The Fire Chief, accompanied by two Deputies, presented an excellent report on SenseNet – a network of sensors and cameras to identify wildland fires.
- It was confirmed they detect in the 150-200 feet range. They are also equipped with infrared sensors for drastic temperature changes.
- It was further confirmed that OKIB currently has two monitoring stations; Goose Lake and the Rise, and two more are being installed. They are currently in talks with BC Wildfire regarding subscriptions.
- Kin Race Track
  - Staff presented four reports to Council regarding the site: environmental, stormwater, parking and archaeological. These reports indicate that there are significant challenges to develop the site and implement the concept approved by Council in 2022.
  - Staff has recommended that we design the Active Living Centre first, then design the Kin Race Track Park.
  - The site is relevant to the Climate Action Plan as it included several wetlands and provides significant storage of stormwater from Turtle Mountain, the area above and to the west of Highway 97.
  - This Committee might want to have some influence on design. Keep this in mind.
- HomeZero was successful in their request for \$500,000.00 for a pilot study in East Hill and the Foothills.
- Mayor Cumming commented that the stormwater bylaw will address concrete filling drain piping, especially in new subdivisions. Also, why only have charging stations for cars and trucks? We need ones for scooters, e-bikes, etc. We should look into putting chargers for those in houses as well.
- A Committee member stated that standard water testing isn't up to date with new standards. More testing needs to be done. Standard testing variables need to be updated. Mayor Cumming suggested this Committee ask questions to Council about the system being proposed.

**MOTION ON  
STORMWATER  
MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAM**

Moved by S. Kwakkel, seconded by P. Riley:

THAT Council direct Staff to provide them with information on the design of the Creek Sampling Program related to the Stormwater Management Improvements presented to council at their regular meeting on August 14, 2023.

CARRIED.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

The future meeting dates for this Committee are as follows:

- October 25, 2023;
- November 22, 2023; and
- December 20, 2023.

**2-STROKE ENGINE  
BAN**

The Chair provided the following information regarding a potential 2-stroke engine ban:

- There is a surprising amount of Green House Gases (GHG) generated by 2 stroke engines.
- Vancouver, Victoria and other cities have either phased out or limited their use.
- I believe it would be consistent with the Climate Action Plan to look into a future ban in Vernon.
- Mayor Cumming confirmed that Council has requested this information regarding their own equipment previously, so this would not be an unusual request.

*D. Bartel left the meeting at 5:23 p.m.*

**MOTION ON 2-  
STROKE ENGINE  
USAGE**

Moved by J. Hart, seconded by C. Neathway:

THAT Council direct Staff to provide a feasibility report on phasing out the use of 2-stroke engines for the corporation and the community.

CARRIED.

*J. Hart left the meeting at 5:35 p.m.*

**EMERGENCY  
SUPPORT  
PROGRAMS**

B. Everdene provided the following information on Emergency Support Programs:

- Our community is playing a very important role with the district and for our surrounding communities.
- Vernon has been stepping up to do the frontline work and now bring our learnings back to our community.

- Air quality is an adaptation issue and B. Dorval feels it should be added to the considerations for the Climate Action Plan. Do we have systems in place to support seniors, outside workers?
- C. Neathway informed the Committee that there is a study coming out from UBC on the benefit of Government subsidized air cleaners. The BCCDC works with municipalities on the difference pieces they can do to help with wildfire smoke specifically. Look carefully at what our recommendations are going to be moving forward.
- Before the heat dome, the City did not have a system for providing places for cooling off. It was quickly developed. It is important to identify and implement this on all future builds as a shelter from smoke and the right air quality in our public buildings. It is also important to identify a network of places to cool down.
- It has been proven that short term exposure to wildfire smoke can have long term effects.
- Have this be placed on next agenda.
- Emergency heat response plan. "Exploring Role and Framework for Air Quality Response Plan". New initiative.
- Emergency Support Services (ESS) is a special group ran by volunteers. There is one full time staff and approximately 300 volunteers. Evacuees get registered and placed.
- It was requested that "Emergency Response Plan" be added to the Agenda for the next meeting of this Committee.

## MOTION OF THANKS

Moved by S. Kwakkel, seconded by C. Neathway:

THAT the Climate Action Advisory Committee has the opportunity to monitor the implementation of the Climate Action Plan by receiving regular updates. As such, the Climate Action Advisory Committee would like to recognize both Council and Staff in the successful implementation with many aspects of the Climate Action Plan and are encouraged by the many ongoing initiatives undertaken to improve our community's resilience and emissions reductions.

In addition, the Climate Action Advisory Committee would like to thank Staff and community volunteers for their activities associated with the ESS and EOC recognizing that their work supports local and regional climate resilience.

CARRIED.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**NEXT MEETING**           The next meeting for the Climate Action Advisory Committee is set for October 25, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**   Moved by S. Hendi, seconded by P. Riley:

                                  THAT the meeting of the Climate Action Advisory Committee be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

**ADJOURNMENT**           The meeting of the Climate Action Advisory Committee adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

 \_\_\_\_\_ Chair