



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

Climate Action Task Force

October 23, 2018

Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

Brian Guy (Co-Chair)

Mary Stockdale (Co-Chair)

Brian Quiring (Councillor)

Dalvir Nahal (Councillor)

Colleen Dix - Telus

Kevin McCarty – Kal Tire

Bill Darnel - Educator-via phone

Laura Frank - RDNO

Jim Vanderwall - Fraser Basin Council

Malcolm Shield - Caelum Strategic

Peter Robinson - Community Energy Assoc, Partners for Climate Protection

Regrets: Ed Wilson

Staff: Kim Flick, Jing Niu, Mike Buregaard

A. Welcome, review of agenda and introductions: Brian Guy reviewed the agenda and introduced the 3 attending experts. The group was then asked to state a hope and a fear for this process.

- a. *Colleen: identify COV compared to others; meeting goals*
- b. *Mike: practical implementation to COV buildings; top 3 countries contribute so much more in emissions than all other countries that our contribution may be meaningless*
- c. *Jing: so much talent, interest; so much to do*
- d. *Kim: adaptation and strategies that COV will be a leader; get bogged down with pessimists*
- e. *Jim: Vernon is a unique, engaged community; end up with bullet points that are not actually going to happen*
- f. *Dalvir: practical solutions to start; lack of community support*
- g. *Brian Q: building code changes may help to deliver actionable ideas that forces the public into the right direction; lack of community support*
- h. *Peter: vision for healthy environment; can be polarizing*
- i. *Laura: specific action; daunting task*
- j. *Bill: ongoing engagement of the public; won't be taken as seriously as is urgently needed*

- k. *Mary: problems at national and provincial level with politicians, look at COV with optimism to set the lead; too little too late, can we bring the public along quickly enough*
- l. *Brian G: climate change is leaping ahead at an insurmountable rate, COV is taking a step to do its part with support from municipal staff,council; things might yet get far worse before they get better*

B. Review of City objectives

Mary summarized the CATF meeting of September 18:

- *Organize the task force*
- *Prepare for next steps*
- *Bring in experts/consultants to guide and advise*

- **Why is this initiative being pursued?**
- *Council approved terms of reference*
- *As a result of OCP priorities and strategic development policies, the COV is ahead of many municipalities in promoting sustainability in these areas. This initiative is intended to enhance and further our efforts.*

- **What would success look like?**
- *Creating an actionable implementation strategy*
- *Have policies for COV buildings/assets*
- *Rely on local solutions as opposed to waiting for provincial solutions*
- *See actions and impact in 4 years*
- *Community engagement and education, including minority groups*
- *Implementable solutions, short and long term, where the public wants to take ownership and is engaged*

- **Scoping exercise**
- Discuss where we place our Task Force, in terms of allocation of effort, when looking at the following spectrums:
 - Mitigation / Adaptation
 - Short term (“low-hanging fruit”) / Long term (a plan or strategy)
 - Technical assessment and planning / Public and political engagement
 - Community / Corporate operations (COV)
 - Role of the City (leader/convener)
 - Main deliverable: Strategy (high level) or Plan (more detail)

- **Malcolm led a power point presentation – Climate Action Planning Scope**
- What is the COV taking on vs what is the Task Force (a community voice) taking on
- CATF members were asked to consider where we sit on the spectrum in relation to various aspects of this process (listed above); does COV

just provide meeting space to ask for public input or does it take a total leadership role or somewhere in between

- Malcolm took notes of each members comments so that he can assemble the data and provide feedback
- This exercise was useful to the members in examining terminology and to provide clarity on parameters and boundaries
- Malcolm suggested the task force undertake a Stakeholder Mapping exercise

C. Community Process: to have more clarity on where this Task Force stands on the overall process

Brian G: introduce topic

Malcolm: Processes followed in larger global cities; and advice on how Vernon might best approach this

Peter: Processes followed in smaller Canadian cities; and advice for Vernon

Malcolm: facilitated group discussion

- Peter addressed the group re: PCP (Partners for Climate Protection). Many Canadian cities have joined this program. There has already been lots of progress and new members in BC.
- Jing commented that Peter assisted COV in 2013 with identifying emissions and strategies to mitigate them which was incorporated in the OCP that followed
- Peter discussed the pros and cons of the various types of plans they offer communities; effort/cost depends on level of engagement required by PCP
- Malcolm spoke about some options that municipalities can incorporate
 - Accountability on HR performance reviews
 - Sustainability factors included on council reports
- Malcolm spoke about the Action Plan Development Process
 - This task force should produce a two page scope and that will clarify what we have and what we need.
 - This task force needs to go through a detailed version of A PCP to identify what funding, resources etc. is required
 - Kelowna and Victoria may be good resources for this
- Jim spoke about the varying needs of communities depending on their location/climate; i.e. Vernon typically has wildfire concerns vs Lower Mainland having rising sea level. Should we consider a Mitigation Plan or an Adaptation Plan as opposed to a combined plan? A Mitigation / Adaptation Plan should consider which resources are useful to our needs.

D. Task Force Management Process:

Discuss how our Task Force will manage the selected process with our two year term as a starting point. We'll consider the resources we need to bring to bear on the mandate, and the resources available (time, money, expertise, ideas). We'll consider what mix of Task Force member time, staff time, local and external experts, use of community groups, public input, invited input, etc.

would be optimal for achieving our goals; and we'll develop a rough schedule for the next two years.

- Mary asked that we identify our current resources
- COV Budget is \$15K for core functions
- Additional initiatives would likely be 'non-taxation' funding
- Two Planning positions are currently vacant, likely until early 2019
- City has applied for funding for one dedicated staff for two years to support this initiative
- Brian Q commented that if this group weren't a Task Force but instead a Council Committee, the funding could be handled differently
- Brian Q suggested that our Building Manager, Shawn Knuhtsen, may be a useful staff representative relating to BC Building Code, etc.
- Kim commented that the purpose of this group as per the Terms of Reference is to be short term (two years) to determine a plan and beyond that it could then go to Council for next steps
- Mary listed the several organizations/groups that already support this initiative
- Malcolm suggested drawing a line against organizations that may sabotage the process
- Malcolm and Peter: advice from other cities
- Each city has their own best process but Malcolm provided general pros and cons on process management
- Considerations include level of engagement, skill sets, political will, etc.
- Malcolm: facilitated group discussion
- Concern was raised over staff shortages and how this would affect productivity of the group
- Mary asked COV staff would always need to attend meetings and Kim advised that yes, they do

E. Next Steps/Wrap Up

- Summary by Brian G
- What process needs to be followed to get a proposal in front of Council
- The group reviewed the Climate Action Plan Development Process slide but Malcolm suggested scope should be the first item: what are we trying to achieve
- Kim reviewed how the results from this group will be integrated into the OCP for day to day use; OCP revision is waiting for this work to be done and is considered the short term (two year) goal of this task force
- Peter provided some examples of timeframe/cost of plans his group worked on in other cities; as low as \$10K in a few weeks to \$100K to take over the whole thing with just a community advisory group providing basic direction
- First step: Strategy Identification (as detailed on the CAPDP)

- Decide whether to contract out; workshop a select few items to bring to Council
- The group decided to meet, as many as can, every two weeks for the immediate future
- Next meeting November 20, 2pm in Council Chambers