



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2019

PRESENT: VOTING

Brian Guy (Co-Chair), Science, Technology & Environmental Services
Bill Darnell, Community Stewardship (Co-Chair)
Mayor Victor Cumming (3:36 pm)
Councillor Brian Quiring (3:43 pm)
Alan Gee, Interim Educators
Kevin McCarty, Business & Commercial Services
Melissa Kriening, Youth Member
Ed Wilson, Community at Large Rep

GUESTS: Julia Payson, Canadian Mental Health Association
Jen Comazetto, School District No. 22 Trustee

ABSENT: Ayesha Sheikh, Youth Member
Hayden Catt, Youth Member
Stan Eaman, Health & Social Services
Colleen Dix, Utility Services and Providers

STAFF: Laurie Cordell, Manager, Long Range Planning & Sustainability/Staff Liaison
Daniel Sturgeon, Long Range Planner
Janice Nicol, Legislative Committee Clerk

ORDER The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS Brian Guy introduced guests Julia Payson, CMHA and Jenn Comazetto from School District No. 22.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA Moved by Ed Wilson, seconded by Kevin McCarty;

THAT the agenda of the Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting for Tuesday, December 17, 2019 be adopted.

CARRIED.

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ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Alan Gee, seconded by Melissa Kreining;

THAT the minutes for the Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting of November 13, 2019 be adopted.

CARRIED.

PRESENTATION – JULIA PAYSON

Julia Payson, Executive Director, Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) presented on the mental health implications of extreme weather and climate change. The following points were noted:

- CMHA is one of Vernon's most established charities, opened in 1959
- Operate Crisis Line, Wellness Programs, Residential Facilities, Bounceback, Affordable Housing, Youth Programs, Good Morning Program, Education and Suicide Prevention
- Work towards mental health for all, including people with addictions
- Mental health is defined as a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully and is able to make a contribution to her or his community
- There are multiple characteristics of mental health – confidence/self-esteem, balance, life enjoyment, resilience, flexibility and healthy relationships
- Have seen the impact on mental health over past few fire seasons
- We are aware of direct impacts but important to note indirect impacts
- In 2005 'Solastalgia' was defined as distress that is produced by environmental change – can be global or localized
- Solastalgia includes increased rates of depression and anxiety, increased rates of post-traumatic stress, increased use of drugs and alcohol, and increased suicidal ideation
- Phases of disaster reviewed
- Increased rates of PTSD by those impacted by climate change (fires for example), anniversaries are difficult
- In Vernon, there have been increased calls/length of calls to crisis line, isolated seniors unable to leave homes, powerlessness and stress experienced by residents, cases of post traumatic stress, especially in first responders
- Suggestion to establish neighbourhood groups that can build social connectedness, preparedness planning, and provide empowerment opportunities
- Groups can also maintain normalcy, look for helpers and access supports and resources

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- Best to take care of the basics – ensuring you are a mentally healthy community, improve overall mental health
- Community resilience is also very important – wellness, access, education and partnership.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

COUNCIL UPDATE At the December 16, 2019 Council meeting:

- Council added a Committee member from School District No. 22, next step is to formally appoint new member at the Jan. 13, 2020 meeting
- The Staff Report on the Composting Pilot Program will be going to Jan. 13 Meeting
- During Budget discussions – there was approval of a drainage engineer for three year term.

OTHER ACTION ITEMS none

SUPPORT REQUEST – AMANDEEP SINGH

Moved by Ed Wilson, seconded by Bill Darnell;

THAT the Climate Action Advisory Committee supports the concept of neighbourhood scale retrofits, as summarized by resident, Amandeep Singh in his letter dated December 9, 2019, and recommends that Council also support this climate change initiative.

CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS:

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN PROCESS – CHECK-IN

The following update was provided:

- In process of finalizing adaptation component with targeted stakeholders, a draft plan is expected by January 17. There may be opportunity for the Committee to review at the next meeting
- GHG mitigation report from CEA expected in early January
- Climate Action Plan RFP underway – eight submissions received to date.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION MINI WORKSHOP

Daniel Sturgeon reviewed the impact and actions review and refinement. The following points were noted:

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- Have reached out to other stakeholders for input on draft adaptation actions, feedback will be summarized and sent to consultant for finalization of draft adaptation report
- The Committee was requested to email input to Daniel by Dec 23, 10 am
- Review of future state, climate projections and examples of potential impacts – warmer drier summers, warmer winters, increased precipitations and longer growing seasons
- Easy to come up with actions – the Committee was request to notify Daniel if the is something missing? Details will follow via email. Are impacts accurate and appropriate or do they need more detail? Are there any missing impacts?
- Some typeps of invasive species may need to be accepted or we could potentially be fighting a losing battle, may need to embrace as some impacts are quite specific to region
- Suggestion to add an infrastructure column/implications, impact is unknown as design methods are uncertain
- City need to consider climate change with existing infrastructure plans
- Suggestion to make the impacts understandable to community members, explaining why current weather conditions are a negative – cause/effect – ensuring the messaging is translated in a digestible way
- Add actionable impacts with reference to mental and social health
- Public awareness and education campaign, include increasing insurance costs
- Include CMHA slide on mental health stages
- City need to develop recovery plan that includes business continuity
- Under water supply section – migration to a shift of water intakes - from high elevations to Okanagan Lake
- Need to consider climate migrants as we live in a desireable location
- Need to include impact to youth and combine resources – School Distrct and City
- The Committee would like to see draft table of contents, concern that the Committee would like to more involved in the Climate planning process
- Staff suggest to wait on developing a Table of Contents/Overview until the Consultant is hired as they will be drafting the outline
- Discussion on content can be included on the agenda at the next Climate Action Advisory meeting.

Top three Impacts/Actions:

- Need to have a category for lakes and ski hill - the core of Vernon
- Flood and drainage – increase of road debris into lake and possible contamination of drinking water – as a way to tell the story of impacts
- Parks and urban forests – rail trail and mountain biking – what would be the impacts – not able to use forest in hot, dry conditions – Kal Lake and Ellison, Grey Canal. Important to also note erosion and land slip
- Preserving natural habitat – needs to be overarching comment on low carbon vs. high carbon
- Communication strategy – actions that individuals can plug in within the existing curriculum, do not make it overwhelming such that an expert is required.

**WORKING GROUP
UPDATES**

Mitigation

- See above.

Adaptation

- See above.

Engagement

SD 22 curriculum development

- Being developed with funding and committee meetings in January and February.

SD22 delegation November 20

- Well received, great job as Board is more aware of climate change
- Great that group stayed for decision component of trustee meeting.

Climate Ambassador Program

- Next step for ambassadors and engagement overall
- Need to address all income groups in Vernon.
- Earth Day April 22, 2020, 50th Anniversary

Youth

- Lunch sessions not having attendance – plan to review options to get youth involved.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

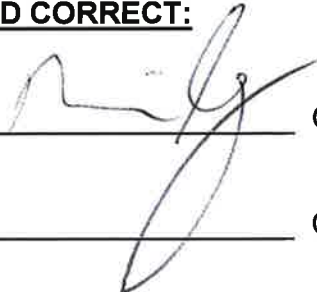
- None

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NEXT MEETING The next regular meeting of the Climate Action Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2019 at 3:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting of the Climate Action Advisory Committee adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



Co-Chair

Co-Chair