



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING VIA ZOOM HELD WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2021

PRESENT: VOTING

Mary Stockdale (Co-Chair), Educators and Educational Institution
Brian Guy (Co-Chair), Business & Commercial Services
Bill Darnell, Community Stewardship
Jeremy Fyke, Science and Technology
Ed Wilson, Community at Large
Stan Eaman, Health and Social Services
Colleen Marchand, OKIB
Quinn Soon, Youth
Mayor Victor Cumming (Alternate Member)

NON-VOTING

Barry Dorval, Youth Supporting Member

ABSENT: Councilor Brian Quiring, Councillor (Appointed Member)

Dione Chambers, Community at Large
Jenn Comazzetto, School District #22

STAFF: Laurie Cordell, Manager, Long Range Planning & Sustainability
Jade Adams-Longworth, Records/Committee Clerk

ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

**ADOPTION OF
AGENDA**

Moved by Stan Eaman, seconded by Jeremy Fyke:

THAT the agenda of the Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting for Wednesday, April 28, 2021 be adopted as amended:

- **ADD** BC Step Code Acceleration Memorandum

CARRIED.

**ADOPTION OF
MINUTES**

Moved by Bill Darnell, seconded by Stan Eaman:

THAT the minutes for the Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting of March 24, 2021 be adopted.

AND FURTHER that the minutes for the Special Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting of March 29, 2021 be adopted.

CARRIED.

**CO-CHAIR
REPORT**

Co-Chair Brian Guy updated the Climate Action Advisory Committee. The following comments were provided.

- A Thank-you email went out to all of the previous Committee Members from the first term thanking them for their contribution.
- Both Chairs attended (by Zoom) the Council Meeting held on April 12, 2021, where the Manager of Long Range Planning presented the draft Climate Action Plan that is now adopted.
- A Memo is being worked on to assist the City staff in finding and narrowing down on a carbon calculator.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

**CLIMATE ACTION
PLAN UPDATE**

The Manager of Long Range Planning presented the Committee with an update on the Climate Action Plan. The following was discussed:

- The Climate Action Plan was endorsed unanimously at the Council Meeting held on April 12, 2021.

The Mayor entered the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

- This is a big step that has been reached, and now it is time to enter into the action phase.
- The Climate Action Plan is in good company with other Cities having very similar plans in place (i.e. Montreal)
- This accomplishment deserves to be celebrated in all kinds of ways, this is very significant, and is now being welded into permanence.
- When restrictions allow, we should put together a way to celebrate this along with the resilience of our community; even if it is six months down the line.
- Mary mentioned a CBC documentary suggesting that communities organize celebrations as they come out of Covid-lockdown, celebrations of community, culture and resilience, inspired by the festivals of medieval times: <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/tapestry/turning-to-the-past-for-comfort-in-the-present-1.5999447/party-like-it-s-1656-the-end-of-the-pandemic-should-be-a-moment-to-celebrate-says-historian-1.5999451>. The two things could be related, with

themes of resilience, community, green recovery, in common to both.

- Bill asked whether the City could declare a Climate Action Day?

STEP CODE

The Manager, Long Range Planning presented the Committee with a Memorandum on Energy Step Code Acceleration . The following feedback was given:

- Reasoning for the proposal for an accelerated timeline for the BC Energy Step Code is that new developments and buildings are going to be built to the old standard within the next 5-10 years.
- The Building Bylaw is what is going forward for amendment, which will include the Step Code.
- The COV Chief Building Officials believe the City is ready to move forward with Step Code but they are suggesting that time is taken when implementing Step Code and slowly enforcing it. To get developers and builders on board, and to assist, train and educate them throughout the process.
- COV looking to find ways to incentivize builders and developers to get on board with the Step Code.
- COV looking at a dual-purpose approach when bringing this to Council with both the amended Building Bylaw and the Step Code Memo supporting each other and cohesively working together.
- The Province will be mandating the use of Step 3 of the five steps in the BC Energy Step Code by December 2022.
- Other communities' in the area (Lake Country, Penticton, Kelowna) have or will have implemented Step 3 by June 2021, but to date Vernon has not mandated Step 3.
- A member noted that the Committee appreciates that the City of Vernon can't operate out of the legislative framework, but was wondering if there are ways to explore and enact inducements and incentives to build and retrofit existing structures?
- Clarification was given that Step Code would only impact new builds, and focuses on Residential and Small-Multi-family units. The Province is looking at developing retrofit code in the future.
- Would like to see Vernon keeping up with its neighbours (Lake Country, Kelowna, Penticton), because Step Code will be mandated to be at Step 3 by December 2022.
- It needs to be considered that people don't know how to do this – it will take time to learn how to do this, and develop a process. Builders, homeowners and developers will need to

be educated and incentivized to increase the uptake of the BC Energy Step Code.

- The Committee would like to be more aggressive in introducing and implementing the BC Energy Step Code.

Moved by Ed Wilson, seconded by Stan Eaman.

THAT the Climate Action Advisory Committee recommends that Council adopt the BC Energy Step Code.

AND FURTHER aim to accelerate the implementation of the upper-level steps of the BC Energy Step Code at a rate faster than initially proposed by The Province.

CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS:

BUDGET PRIORITIZATION

The Committee discussed the budgetary aspects of implementing the Climate Action Plan, the following points were noted from the discussion on Budget Prioritization:

- Need to look at what should be implemented in the next two years. Want to try for as much funding as possible.
 - Deadline for asking for budget is the first week of June. This will support the request being considered in the June Council budget prioritization workshop.
 - Should look to request funding for communications and an implementation strategy. Would like to see a focus on engaging and communicating with the public.
 - A request could be made for budget to fund a celebration and launch of the implementation of the Climate Action Plan. The Mayor mentioned the unexpended uncommitted fund as a potential source for this.
 - Clarification was given on the Strategic Plan Budgeting process, and how it affects how additional funding will be dispersed (among the departments).
 - The Committee all agreed that asking to implement an annual Climate Action Budget would be smart. That way Climate Action would not have to be sustained on the Planning budget alone, and shows that Council is prioritizing the Climate Action Initiative.
 - With the Climate Emergency here it is time to make Climate Action part of the City's base operations, it is the future for the City of Vernon. Built it into the new 'business as usual.'
- For the June 2021 Council strategy session, the committee recommended that staff request a new permanent full-time staff position dedicated to CAP implementation (including

fundraising); and also request a portion of the 2020 unexpended funds for one-time CAP implementation support (potentially focused on community engagement and communication). Staff will suggest a resolution to that effect at the next Committee meeting.

ENGAGING WITH INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE KEEPERS

The Committee considered how to engage with the Indigenous Knowledge Keepers. The following points were noted:

- Good timing since we are looking to engagement when launching the Climate Action Plan to the public.
- The Committee appreciates that this is currently being worked on and recognizes that it has to be reflected through the whole of all the Council Committees.

YOUTH REPReSENTATION ON COMMITTEE

Brian Guy, Co-Chair indicated that another Youth Member is interested in joining the the Committee. The following was discussed:

- Brian Guy approached by former youth support Mr. Alan Gee with a Grade 9 Student who has expressed interest in joining – the student in question is currently filling out the volunteer application form.
- With this being a Grade 9 student there is excellent potential for a smooth transition and succession as Youth Members move onward.
- The Committee Terms of Reference allows up to three youth members. As is, the youth members represent one vote, but the committee discussed the possibility for reconfiguring this so each youth member has their own vote.
- The Committee was open and eager for the possibility of bringing in an indigenous youth as well, to fill up all three Youth Member spots.
- When keeping a vibrant contact with the younger generation – the schools can be a key locus for engagement in Climate Action.
- C. Marchand suggested she could look for a youth from OKIB to attend – this idea was supported.

PLANNING AHEAD – WORKSHOP GOALS AND PROCESS DISCUSSION

Mary Stockdale, Co-Chair brought forward the idea of a workshop to identify the community's strengths and weaknesses with respect to implementing the Climate Action Plan; and the opportunities and threats to successful implementation; as well as to develop and document a role for the Committee in implementing the Climate Action Plan. Mary asked for input on the workshop goals and process.. The following points were noted:

- The possibility of more time and some intensive workshops should be included. It is important to have these separated from regular meetings, in person and outdoors if possible.
 - Smaller break out groups may give everyone a chance to talk, equal speaking space for all members.
 - It has to be virtual or in person – a hybrid environment doesn't create a cohesive unit with equal parties all engaging in conversation.
- Clarification was given on the difference between a workshop and a meeting. A workshop being more targeted to a specific idea or subject with active participation.
- The Committee would like to see the Manager, Long Range Planning and Sustainability take part in the workshops and would like there to be a separate facilitator if possible.
- Ultimately talking about two separate workshops
 1. The Role of the Committee in implementation of the Climate Action Plan
 - How best to support Staff
 - How to make recommendations
 - How to involve the Committee Members
 - How to engage the Community
 2. Prioritization of Implementation
 - Where to start implementation
 - What is the timeline for the implementation schedule

Barry Dorval left the meeting at 5:27 p.m.

- Flexibility needs to be considered for a time to thoroughly immerse the Committee into the workshops to create and develop the strategies. June, July or August might be better than May.

Stan Eaman left the meeting at 5:58 p.m.

- The workshops should be separated and reversed in the order of:
 1. Prioritization of Implementation
 2. The Role of the Committee – introspective look into the Climate Action Advisory Committee

UPCOMING AMBASSADOR TRAINING

The Committee discussed upcoming Ambassador Training and what opportunities should be offered: The following feedback was noted:

- Moved to the next meeting, due to time restrictions.

INFORMATION ITEMS:**EARTH DAY
ADVERTISING**

The Manager, Long Range Planning and Sustainability provided some information on Earth Day Advertising. The following point was noted:

- Promoting the new Climate Action Plan through the use of social media and the radio, we encouraged all to celebrate by planting a tree.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting for the Climate Action Advisory Committee is set for May 27, 2021 at 4:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Climate Action Advisory Committee adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Co-Chair



Co-Chair