



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE HELD WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2021 VIA ZOOM - 4:00 PM

PRESENT: VOTING:

Bill Darnell, Community Stewardship
Brian Guy (Co-Chair), Business and Commercial Services
Ed Wilson, Community at Large
Jenn Comazzetto, SD#22 Board Rep
Jeremy Fyke, Science and Technology
Mary Stockdale (Co-Chair), Educators and Educational Institution
Mayor Victor Cumming (Alternate Member)
Nia Hill, Youth Member
Stan Eaman, Health and Social Services

NON-VOTING:

Alan Gee (Youth Support)
Barry Dorval was present in the same role as Al Gee

ABSENT: Quinn Soon, Youth Member
Councillor Brian Quiring, Councillor (Appointed Member)
Colleen Marchand, OKIB Representative
Dione Chambers, Community at Large

STAFF: Laurie Cordell, Manager, Long Range Planning & Sustainability
Tracy Mueller, Committee Clerk

ORDER The meeting was called to order at 4:03 PM

**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** At the start of the meeting, Co-Chair, Mary-Stockdale moved that the agenda be varied to include an additional information item and a quick explanation of the by-election process.

Moved by Ed Wilson seconded by Stan Eaman:

THAT the agenda of the Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting for Wednesday, September 29, 2021, be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Moved by Ed Wilson seconded by Jen Comazzetto:

THAT the minutes for the Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting of August 25, 2021, be adopted.

CARRIED.

CO-CHAIR REPORT

Co-Chair, Mary Stockdale, updated the Climate Action Committee on their work in September as follows:

- Provided an explanation as to why the Climate Action Committee selected Zoom to mitigate COVID-19 exposure vs. hybrid model as there is an inequity for participants. The Co-Chair noted that the Committee will be staying with Zoom until further notice.
- At the request of Co-Chair, Stockdale, Laurie Cordell, Manager, Long Range Planning reported there is no news on how the Province will replace “CARIP” funding and noted that the MLA was looking for budget input.
 - **CARIP** – Staff provided a further explanation regarding the Climate Action Revolving Fund and how it is used at the City of Vernon.
 - Staff clarified that with the cancellation of CARIP there is no more funding going into this fund.
 - The Mayor reported that at the recent UBCM meeting, 2 or 3 resolutions were passed asking the province to set up a dedicated fund to replace CARIP.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Dedicated Funding / Emergency Response** – It was discussed by the Committee that in the wildfire season of 2021, there was a gap identified in terms of funding received from the Province and having the ability to respond immediately where support was needed within our community.
 - It was discussed that it would be beneficial to have a pot of funding to assist in implementing an emergency response “heat” plan or “clean air” plan.
 - Staff suggested this is an item that could be tied into the Heat Response and Clean Air Strategy (an item in the CAP).

**WORK PLAN FOR
TERM 2: JAN 2021 -
DEC 2022**

Term 2 of the CAAC covers the period of January 2021 through December 2022. The first four months of this period were focused on delivering a final Climate Action Plan (CAP) to COV Council for approval. The next four months were spend considering priorities and an appropriate role for the CAAC in CAP implementation.

The following comments were made:

- **Work Plan - Term 2** - Co-Chair, Brian Guy noted that the “draft” work plan was intended to be distributed in mid-July for discussion in August. However, there was not enough time to dive into it at the August meeting.
 - The main recommendations are to setup focus groups where members of the Committee can be more targeted in achieving the strategy.
 - The plan outlines how the Committee can implement the Climate Plan.
 - Workshops were conducted to identify opportunities and how members of the Committee can contribute toward completing the necessary work.
 - Staff provided an overview regarding the steps (Reference Page 9 of the Agenda Package of September 29, 2021) regarding the areas of focus.
 - The Co-Chair requested feedback from members of the Committee regarding the proposed Work Plan.

- Co-Chair, Brian Guy, clarified that 5 Recommendations were made as part of the Work Plan. They are considered 5 focus areas and may not all require long-term dedicated sub-set groups of the Committee to achieve their objectives. The specific role, scope, and approach that maybe in future can be taken for each of these focus areas will need to be further refined. The 5 recommendations should be viewed as a “starting point”.
- **Monitoring & Evaluation Focus Area** – includes identifying appropriate metrics and tying into implementation and adaptive management process. The work should be led by the City. The Co-Chair requested thoughts on how this could be best managed:
 - The Committee noted that we work through it as a draft and then could have different points of view.
 - Staff noted that in terms of the Plan, we need to conduct measurement in a way that the Community will relate to.
 - Discussion ensued regarding how to best select the metrics, and how we can engage individuals to participate.
 - It was suggested that the metrics can follow the visions outlined in the Climate Action Plan and build on the vision in the CAP.
 - The Mayor and Jeremy volunteered
- **Implementation Planning Focus Area** – There are priorities outlined in the CAP; however, the text that surrounds it is high-level.

Implementation will be directed by City Staff; with input of the Committee.

- A question was posed on how the Committee could be consulted on how implementation should be conducted and if they could be included in providing feedback in terms of priorities.

- A member of the Committee noted that implementation and metrics need to be consistent and that there will be a certain amount of overlap.
- Staff clarified that there is a good sense of what City Staff will be implementing. The piece we need to understand is where CAAC focusses on in the community. The suggestion is to start out looking at the plan, build a menu and then the engagement group would give some guidance to them on how to get started.
 - Staff further clarified that feedback received from the community would help to shift the focus. In terms of interfacing with the metrics, they need to be broad enough to catch the scope and that individual actions that we do will likely not cause a need to change the metrics if we keep the mission, vision, and goals high-level. We need to be realistic and pragmatic as they are set.
- The Co-Chair suggested that we should see what the “lay of the land” is, and be mindful of what the Community wants to do, and we need to be flexible to respond but also keep the funding in mind.
- The Mayor noted that having the Gantt Chart that shows what the City plans to do will be very critical to the public to provide citizens with hope that we are moving forward on a positive trajectory, i.e., sidewalks, public works. It’s important for everyone to know that we are moving forward continuously.
- Jeremy shared that both groups need to be independent, but related. As far as the implementation, once work is underway, additional work will be needed to support Laurie and the team beyond just doing a more detailed plan.
- Volunteers: Ed, Mary, and Nia.

- **Community Engagement Working Group** – This is the area where the Committee can have its biggest impact. There are 5-6 topics listed under this focus area. There needs to be a small working group of volunteers struck to begin this process.
 - Laurie noted that Quinn has a scheduling conflict and that it might assist to create a “working group” where he can participate in during different times.
 - If Council supports creating the Climate Action Coordinator position, there would be a dedicated staff member to focus their time to assist.
 - The general consensus is to get a “Youth” sub group struck.
 - Volunteers were Barry, Al, Jenn, and Nia.
 - It was discussed that young people can be brought in to assist to help. Staff noted that anytime we need to bring in outside experts, we can, they do not need to be formal committee members to participate.
 - The group can define themselves in terms of their role and how they can assist the overall goal. At the first meeting, that is something that can be discussed.
 - Another action item could be to ensure that “Youth have a voice” more broadly.
 - The Co-Chair noted that everyone in the Committee will have a role in the Community Engagement piece – but it doesn’t have to be on the team
 - It was suggested that everyone on the Committee should have the “Ambassador” training.
 - Volunteers to work with Mary on the initial planning stages, Stan, Bill, and Brian

- **Fundraising and Leveraging Partnerships Focus Area** – There are several levels of funding that can be pursued to support CAP implementation; however, there is no formal “fundraising” position internally within COV. The intent is to recognize that all the CAP actions will require capital costs and investments. The suggestion is to put a group together to help COV access funding from higher levels of government and other sources.
- Suggestion was to also explore if the City could hire an official grant writer.
- Staff noted that some of the project funds can be used to hire a “grant writer”.
- As we start to move forward on this approach, we can have someone bring the technical components and then we can add the City components.
- Having someone to look at the different funding opportunities that arise, and then scan them and evaluate them. Having a search for them and then the Committee can look at engaging a technical expert to write the proposals.
- Team would be for finding opportunities and sharing with the City.
- Staff noted that part of it will be having these conversations with the overall group; and that sometimes the grant can be used to fit our priorities. If we have “shelf” ready projects, it makes it easy to write the grants.

Jenn Comazzetto left the meeting at 5:23 PM

- Jeremy volunteered to scan for grants (not write them).
- The Mayor noted that any potential grants he sees are forwarded to staff. What we are missing here is the academic and public participation piece and posted a question to the Committee on how we can “crack” the academic side.
- Mary, Jeremy, Bill, and Brian volunteered for this team.

- **Buildings - Working Group:** It was discussed by the Committee that it would assist to have more visibility for the Climate Action Plan objectives at the front end in new builds within the City of Vernon.

The committee discussed the following points:

- Getting action on retrofits is difficult to understand and tackle.
- Committee to research what other municipalities are currently doing in this regard and present some ideas back for consideration.
- Ed volunteered.
- Staff clarified that this would be research to support staff making recommendations.

Other:

Communication Plan with Council - The Co-Chairs announced that they will be continuing to meet with Council and are setting meetings with Council the first week of October.

Official Community Plan (OCP) Review and CAP Integration – It was discussed that integrating climate action in the review is an important step in the plan implementation. Staff clarified that the official review has not formally begun; it has been slated for October 2022. In advance of that date, there will be a workshop with Council on October 25, 2021.

When the OCP is updated the targets in it will be updated and if Council endorses them that adds more accountability as Council cannot make decisions contrary to the OCP.

- Staff further clarified that the OCP is a strong tool for the City to implement big chunks of the Climate Action Plan, and the Committee will be involved and will be giving advice.
- It will be a longer-term process unless Council provides alternative direction in October.

It was discussed that the various sub-sets or “teams” can report back with a “brief” written report and provide a summary at the next CAAC meeting.

An email will be put out after to see if anyone who could not participate in today’s meeting would be interested in participating in any of the teams discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:**INFORMATION ITEMS:****Tree Planting Initiative (Proposal) - Co-Presented by Nia and Al**

- The aim is to engage the school district into the project and to help address carbon sequestration.
- The timeline is next spring.
- Nia noted that in elementary school her class planted trees and the class learned about climate change, the eco system and how climate change impacts everyone.
- This proposed project can build a “culture” and show how people can assist in making a difference.
- Two barriers identified are: where are the trees going to go and, in some situations, they will need water.
- Tolko is interested in partnering; however, there are a few challenges regarding growing the trees in the first few years.
- Some of the trees could be respectfully planted on Aboriginal lands (in partnership), and they could be planted as part of community engagement, and teachings.
- It is a “hands-on” activity that is beneficial for elementary skills and transferring wisdom; perhaps an Elder can be involved.
- The Committee noted that this can be leveraged in a few other ways to teach resilience, carbon reduction, and if the right tree is planted in the right place, it helps with biodiversity, promoting planting the right species to repopulate and improve slope stability.

Barry Dorval left the meeting at 5:59 PM

- It was discussed that maybe this is something that the “Youth Group” could take up and talk about more.
- By-election Key Dates
 - At the request of the Committee, staff verbally provided an update on associated key dates.
 - Members of the Committee were referred to visit the City of Vernon website for additional information for key dates, advanced voting days as follows:
<https://www.vernon.ca/elections>

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting for the Climate Action Advisory Committee is set for **Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 4:00 PM (via Zoom only)**.

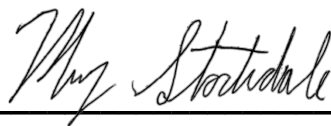
Moved by Stan Eaman seconded by Ed Wilson:

THAT the Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting of September 29, 2021, be adjourned.

CARRIED.

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

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mary Stoddale", is written over a horizontal line.

Co-Chair

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