



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

**MINUTES OF THE
CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2022
OKANAGAN ROOM (COUNCIL CHAMBER) CITY HALL**

PRESENT: Barry Dorval, Educator
Councillor Guy, Council Appointed
Donna Bartel, Community at Large
Ed Wilson, Community at Large
Jeremy Fyke, Science and Technology
Mary Stockdale, Educator, Chair
Stan Eamon, Health and Social Services

NON-VOTING

Alan Gee, Teacher Support
Bill Darnell, Community Stewardship (Via Zoom)

ABSENT: Councillor Quiring, Council Appointed
Jenn Comazetto, SD#22 Board Rep.

STAFF: Brendan Riome, Climate Action Coordinator
Jennifer Pounder, Committee Clerk
Kim Flick, Director, Community Infrastructure and Development

ORDER

The meeting was called to order at **4:05 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.

The Agenda was amended to include a Staff Liaison Report on the Agenda going forward.

**ADOPTION OF THE
AGENDA**

Moved by **Councillor Guy**, seconded by **S. Eamon**:

THAT the agenda of the Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting for November 23, 2022 be adopted as amended:

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Moved by **Councillor Guy**, seconded by **S. Eaman**:

THAT the minutes for the Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting of November 26, 2022 be adopted.

CARRIED

CHAIRS REPORT

M. Stockdale congratulated Councillor Guy and Mayor Cumming on their appointments to Council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Team reports:**
 - **Metrics and Reporting**
 - Short meeting. Nothing to work on until strategic planning complete.
 - **Youth Engagement**
 - Regarding the Youth Summit:
 - Most teams have submitted their synopsis
 - There are approximately 50 projects with over 200 students. Bigger than last year.
 - Judges have been identified.
 - B. Dorval is coordinating the judging process on the day and B. Riome is one of the three keynote speakers.

The Committee requested confirmation of the details of the Youth Summit. B. Dorval will send the details to Staff who will distribute to the Committee.

- **Community Engagement**
 - Teams focused on prioritization exercise. Had a look at spreadsheets and Goal 3, Action 1 is very much what the team is centred on and consider a priority. The Team wants to remind people that the community was consulted and the priorities that came from them, in order of priority, are:
 1. *Emergency preparedness*

2. *Addressing extreme heat and air quality for vulnerable population*
3. *Green infrastructure*
4. *Conserving outdoor water*

On the mitigation end, the priorities are:

1. *Support for active transportation*
2. *Support for transition to working from home*
3. *Encouragement of home renovations including renewable resources*
4. *Promotion of plant-based diet*
5. *Encouragement of food waste reduction*

- The Committee inquired as to which community workshop those lists are from. M. Stockdale confirmed it was from one year ago and added to that was CAAC prioritization notes from 18 months ago.
- Fundraising
 - Had a meeting last week with the goal of going over the list of priorities and identifying items that could be a match with open funding opportunities. A lot of actions had already closed. Here is an example of a few:
 - Natural Infrastructure Fund
\$200,000,000.00
Closed: September 28, 2022
 - Low Carbon Economy Fund
\$200,000,000.00
Closed: Spring of 2022
 - BC Active Infrastructure Grant
Closed: October 2022
 - There is over \$1,000,000,000.00, just on my list, of money meant for municipalities. Hopefully we can keep an eye on that in the future. Staff confirmed the links and information were emailed to the Committee.
 - Staff stated that our five year Capital Plan is determined by council resolution. Projects that require funding are matched with possible funding opportunities and are brought to the strategic planning meeting. Funding is not nimble and Council dictates whether Administration applied for funding. The last four year trend is proving that

potential funders like to see a project that has been approved and funded, and also when they are completed.

STAFF UPDATE

B. Riome has continued to meet with senior leadership and management to discuss the Climate Action Plan and its implementation. Additional meeting with the Human Resources Team and Operations are scheduled for early December 2022.

B. Riome also discussed presenting as a keynote speaker at the CARE Youth Summit on December 2, 2022. He will be presenting on career opportunities in climate action.

Staff requested that B. Riome confirm with other departments at the upcoming meeting regarding funding and applying for grants.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Completing Strategic Prioritizing Exercise
(See Attachment 1)

Round Table:

B. Dorval commented that some of the projects on the spreadsheet are being completed to some extent. He is not sure how to factor that into prioritizing. Staff clarified that each action has supporting actions. Some will have a life of their own (wildfire) and are being dealt with either way – you don't have to put a dot there. With minimal filtering, wherever you think we need to put all of our efforts, put the dot there.

The Chair requested that B. Darnell advise her where he would like his dots to be placed and she will place them.

A. Gee:

When I look at the 8 areas I don't speak to any of them specifically. My view is around the critical role of our youth and the next decade. The school system places key role in aiding that pursuit. We need to spark their interest and not educate them on it. Inform them of the opportunities upcoming. There is a ripple effect and teachers are a key piece and also one of the largest barriers. Need time and energy given to support teachers and giving them the nudge to provide that spark. Curious about the cities ability to speak to them in that regard.

Comments/questions:

- There are good presentations available right now that describe skill gap we are in and this is critical information for grades 9,10,11 and 12. There is a massive skill gap coming and advanced skills are in high demand. Teachers now were in the system when it was opposite, its now upside down. Statistics Canada has a presentation that I think is important for kids to watch. A. Gee agreed, and the hopeful piece is the new teachers and I'm hopeful with their skill set that they can handle this transition.

S. Eaman:

If we are going to be successful in dealing with our climate emergency, we all need to change the way we live and stop using our resources like we have. Getting people to change is a huge task. Most citizens of Vernon have no idea what this Committee or the City of Vernon are doing regarding climate change. We need communities to work together.

There were no comments or questions.

E. Wilson:

I have taken the big picture look. Change management has to do with Social license. This city, staff, community does not have broad social license to proceed to raise taxes, etc. We are constrained by that social license. Awareness, acceptance, action. Not going anywhere without that social license. Secondly, let the City of Vernon be the trusted website for changes. And thirdly, changes are going to hurt. We need to help people. Warming center, cooking center, build the social license. Do studies. Need study to know what its about. Starts the process. Create a five year climate action plan. Monitor internal funding. Do something in each theme. Governance and cultures. City staff has to be in the culture, because if the city isn't prepared then we can't lead.

There were no comments or questions.

B. Dorval:

I got a bad feeling. Vernon is doing great stuff, but in the grand scheme of things, we are in for a bit of hurt. Seems that some things we want to prioritize are helping us function in the midst of that. Food and water resilience. Reality is I'm going to have a lot of an easier time because of my circumstances than other people. Looking at the trajectory and we might want to be ready.

There were no comments or questions.

J. Fyke:

Diversifying actions across adaptation, mitigation. Thought about Vernon risks. Flood is being covered so fire would be my priority. On the mitigation side, practically speaking I would like to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation and buildings and also look at local food production to mitigate emissions.

There were no comments or questions.

Councillor Guy:

Start on a broad range of the actions even if they don't get done. Here is a list of 7 priorities:

1. All of the institutional. Includes community engagement program, which is critical
2. Continue with resilience work. Includes fire and flood management and the national asset inventory.
3. Integrate work into OCP
4. Buildings – Keep up with step code and the retrofit program
5. Policy of city buildings with zero emissions
6. Health and well-being is important
7. Funding – need more funding than taxation and budgets can provide

There were no comments or questions.

M. Stockdale:

Community Engagement is where we come from and a lot of emissions will depend on getting the community on board. I am also on board with priorities of the community. Mitigation is really important and we all need to do our bit and reduce greenhouse emissions. Transportation and the building aspect are important. I also have strong feelings toward food security.

There were no comments or questions.

D. Bartel:

I went through each item, looked at not in progress items. Two actions under health are priority. Business continuity plans. Budget. Re-doing the OCP and including the CAP and building retrofits. Key thing is we need to report on progress for the public. Keep them informed.

There were no comments or questions.

V. Cumming:

I too have fire, flood, heat, OCP, density and building retrofits. We can move flood work to implementation. Fire we have great plans there as well. Heat, I think, is a larger issue than what has been discussed here. Our lowest income buildings are the least able to handle heat and that is what caused the high death rates last year in the lower mainland. How do we address these old buildings that don't manage heat? This is very high on my priority list. How do we address these 1970's apartment buildings that don't handle heat? Regarding OCP and density, if anyone has a chance, listen to a short CBC discussion on Oslow. They are moving to 90% reduction in pollution from 2009 levels.

Mayor Cumming left the meeting at 5:28 p.m.

B. Darnell:

It's great to be here, it is inspiring. A lot of hurt ahead of us. The climate is not a static thing. It is going to be getting worse for a while. Community connection is fundamental. Makes it possible to keep going. We need to make sure residents of Vernon know about this program. We need to be a beacon of hope. Daunting circumstance and they need to know we are caring for the people who are having the greatest struggle. Be clear of what we have gotten so we don't lose more. Building and real estate – retrofitting. Apartments are the least complex buildings and we need to start there. Look for funding in that area. Need to pull everyone in close as we are in for some tough times ahead.

There were no comments or questions.

The Committee members took 10 minutes to discuss and place dots.

MOTION TO COUNCIL Moved by **B. Dorval**, seconded by **D. Bartel**:

THAT the Climate Action Advisory Committee recommends the identified priorities from the Climate Action Plan be considered by Council in the upcoming Strategic Planning session.

CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- Deadline for Committee Applications is November 25, 2022

- A. Gee noted that N. Hill will not be reapplying. Committee suggested announcing we are looking for three youth members for this committee. B. Dorval will promote youth member spots at schools/universities

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting for the Climate Action Advisory Committee is set for January 26, 2023 at 4:00 pm.

MOTION TO ADJOURN Moved by **S. Eamon**, seconded by **Councillor Guy**:

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

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Climate Action Advisory Committee adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



Chair