



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD JUNE 28, 2023 AT 4:00 PM

BRIDGE ROOM (COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING)

PRESENT: Barry Dorval, Educators – Primary & Secondary Rep., Chair
Donna Bartel, Community at Large Rep.
Stephanie Hendy, Community at Large Rep.
Councillor Brian Guy, Council Appointed Rep.
Jennifer Boone, Youth Member
Casey Bails, Youth Member
Sidney Kwakkel, Educator, Post-Secondary Rep.
Jenn Comazzetto, SD22 Rep.
Doug Johnson, Science, Technology & Environmental Rep.
Jordan Hart, Business and Commercial Services Rep.
Patrick Riley, Okanagan Indian Band

ABSENT: Fawn Ross, Community Stewardship Rep.
Casey Neathway, Health & Social Services Rep.

STAFF: Roy Nuriel, Acting General Manager, Planning
Jennifer Pounder, Committee Clerk
Danielle DeVries, Transportation Planner
Shawn Knuhtsen, Manager, Building & Licensing

ORDER The meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m.

**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** Moved by D. Johnson, seconded by S. Hendy:

THAT the agenda of the June 28, 2023 Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting be adopted:

CARRIED

**ADOPTION OF THE
MINUTES**

Moved by D. Johnson, seconded by S. Kwakkel:

THAT the minutes of the April 26, 2023 Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting be adopted:

CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

**ROUND TABLE
INTRODUCTIONS**

Round table introductions were held.

COUNCIL UPDATE

Councillor Guy provided the following update on City Council business:

Step Code Acceleration:

- At the January 9, 2023 Regular Council meeting, Council asked staff what would be required to move Vernon beyond Step 3 of the BC Energy Step Code for residential buildings (Step 3 is our current policy – 20% more energy efficient than current building code).
- On February 22, 2023 this Committee passed a motion to request that Council direct staff to work with industry stakeholders to determine what is needed to advance to the higher levels of the BC Energy Step Code and investigate the new Zero Carbon Step Code initiative.
- At the May 8, 2023 Regular Council meeting, Shawn Knuhtsen, Building & Licensing Manager, provided a report to Council indicating that he wanted to wait to see how the new provincial requirements were being handled by the builder community before looking hard at making the standards even tougher, and also recommended we wait until staffing levels in the planning department are back up to where they should be.

Building Cooling Specifications:

- In June 2021 there was a heat dome in which 619 people died – mostly seniors living alone without air conditioning.
- The National Building Code and BC Building Code are being updated to add requirements for building cooling. This is expected by December 2023.

- The update will specify that new buildings must be capable of keeping living areas cooler than a specified maximum temperature.
- At the June 12, 2023 Regular Council meeting, S. Knuhtsen was asked about the preparation we are doing for this change and he is planning to educate builders on the change.
- This change could help CPV reduce emissions since it will promote heat pumps in new units as heat pumps do double duty providing both heat and air conditioning.

Solar Ready:

- At the June 26, 2023 Regular Council meeting, a motion was passed asking staff to investigate the feasibility and costs of requiring new single-family residential buildings to include a PVC conduit running from near the electrical panel up into the attic that could accommodate future wiring from rooftop solar panels. Staff was asked to report back to Council.

EV Ready:

- At the March 13, 2023 Regular Council meeting, Council enquired about whether we require EV Ready charging capability for new homes. It was confirmed that we encourage but do not require that capability.
- At the March 27, 2023 Regular Council meeting, Council passed a motion to ask staff to look into this further and check what other communities are doing and also look into the cost and possible fire safety concerns. With so many new residential homes coming online, it would be too long to wait until the Master Transportation Plan was updated to amend the zoning bylaw to require EV charger ready wiring.
- At the June 26, 2023 Regular Council meeting, Danielle DeVries, Transportation Planner, presented a report recommending that Council direct staff to provide draft amendments to Section 7, Parking and Loading, Zoning Bylaw 5000 to address this issue and all other transportation-related recommendations in the Climate Action Plan, by the end of December 2024.
- D. DeVries, Transportation Planner, was in attendance to give a review of the Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Requirements report that was supported by Council at their June 26, 2023 Regular meeting. All three transportation-related zoning bylaw amendments in the Climate Action Plan (CAP) have Council support to move forward in 2024. This includes adding requirements for EV-charging in new developments, reducing parking requirements and adding end-of-trip facilities for cycling.

Council Strategic Plan:

- Council has prepared its Strategic Plan containing priorities for the 2022-2026 term, and the seven priority areas identified by this Committee have been included in the plan. It may be time for this committee to consider the next set of priorities for implementation.

Hiring Update:

- Community Infrastructure and Development Services (CIDS) Director – an offer has been sent out.
- General Manager of Planning – to be hired after a new CIDS Director is in place.
- Environmental Planner – started last week.
- Climate Action Implementation Coordinator – still in the interviewing process.
- The Staff Liaison advised that interviews are being held for the new Climate Action Implementation Coordinator in the coming weeks. Also, an Environmental Planning Assistant has recently been hired. Staff is also providing an update to Council on the progress of implementing the Climate Action Plan, to be completed by the new Climate Action Implementation Coordinator.

**EMISSIONS
INVENTORY**

The Staff Liaison will advise the CAAC at the next meeting of the process used by CEA to calculate the 2017 emissions inventory and the cost of that work.

**DRIVE THROUGH BAN
INVESTIGATION**

At the March 13, 2023 Regular Council Meeting, a motion recommending banning of all new drive-throughs in the City Centre Neighbourhood was defeated by Council. The CAAC believes it would be beneficial to further investigate the economic effects and voted in favor of creating a subcommittee that includes S. Kwakkel, S. Hendy and B. Dorval.

**PUBLIC TRANSIT
INITIATIVES**

- Vernon has been selected as a pilot city for the Community Energy Association's (CEA) Electric Mobility Accelerator, funded by BC Hydro. CEA will act as a consultant to support the implementation of e-mobility solutions like EV chargers. A memo containing this information will be presented to Council at their Regular meeting on August 14, 2023.
- The City of Kelowna is running a Digital On-Demand Transit pilot. The Transportation Planner confirmed that for this type of pilot to be brought to Vernon it would need to be led by BC Transit with Councils support. The Transportation Planner informed the

Committee that she implemented and operated a custom transit system on Bowen Island.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting for the Climate Action Advisory Committee is set for August 30, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Climate Action Advisory Committee adjourned at 6:12 p.m. by call of the Chair.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



Chair