

The Corporation of the
CITY OF WHITE ROCK



Environmental Advisory Committee
AGENDA

Thursday, January 7, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers

15322 Buena Vista Avenue, White Rock, BC, V4B 1Y6

***Live Streaming/Telecast:** Please note that all Committees, Task Forces, Council Meetings, and Public Hearings held in the Council Chamber are being recorded and broadcasted as well included on the City's website at: www.whiterockcity.ca

The City of White Rock is committed to the health and safety of our community. In keeping with Ministerial Order No. M192 from the Province of British Columbia, City Council meetings will take place without the public in attendance at this time until further notice.

T. Arthur, Director of Corporate Administration

	Pages
1. CALL TO ORDER	
2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA	
RECOMMENDATION THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee adopt the agenda for January 7, 2021 as circulated.	
3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES	3
RECOMMENDATION THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee adopts the minutes of the December 17, 2020 meeting as circulated.	
4. TREE MANAGEMENT BYLAW 1831 AND TREE MANAGEMENT ON CITY LANDS POLICY 611	13
A further discussion to take place by the Committee with respect to proposed amendments for Bylaw 1831 and Policy 611.	
Items for continued discussion:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• R13 and R19 to be revisited by the Committee• Proposal by P. Byer, Committee member to add to R2 as item (d):	

Council direct staff to investigate and report to Council on means, legal and otherwise, to prevent the removal of or interference with trees, and to facilitate the planting of trees, by the City and BNSF on BNSF lands.

Discussion Documents:

- Updated version of the discussion document submitted by Chairperson Hynes, incorporating updates from the December 17 meeting.
- Annotated version of Policy 611 designed to facilitate consideration of the various proposals under R4
- A draft “Summary” plus "Draft Resolution for Council’s Consideration (to provided on-table)

Note: Documents available on the City website:

- Tree Management Bylaw 1831 (Consolidated):
<https://www.whiterockcity.ca/DocumentCenter/View/282/Consolidated---Tree-Management-Bylaw-2008-Number-1831-PDF>
- Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611:
<https://www.whiterockcity.ca/DocumentCenter/View/651/Policy-611---Tree-Management-on-City-Lands-PDF?bidId>

5. OTHER BUSINESS

6. INFORMATION

6.1. COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKING

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7. 2021 MEETING SCHEDULE

The following meeting schedule was approved by the Committee at the November 19, 2020 meeting and is provided for information:

- January 21;
- February 4;
- February 18;
- March 4; and
- March 18.

8. CONCLUSION OF THE JANUARY 7, 2021 ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING



Environmental Advisory Committee

Minutes

December 17, 2020, 4:00 p.m.

Via electronic mean

15322 Buena Vista Avenue, White Rock, BC, V4B 1Y6

PRESENT: R. Hynes, Chairperson
S. Crozier, Vice-Chairperson
P. Byer
J. Lawrence
D. Riley
I. Lessner
Greg Newman

ABSENT: W. Boyd

COUNCIL: Councillor E. Johanson, Council Representative (Non-voting)

STAFF: J. Gordon, Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations
G. Newman, Manger of Planning
A. Claffey, Arboricultural Technician
D. Johnstone, Committee Clerk
C. Richards, Committee Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order 4:04 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2020-EAC-038: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee adopt the agenda for December 17, 2020 as circulated.

Motion CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2020-EAC-039: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee amends the December 8, 2020 meeting minutes as follows:

- Recommendation on page 6 to be amended to read "THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that the minimum size for the definition of a "protected tree" in Bylaw 1831 be reduced to a trunk diameter at breast height (DBH) of at least 20cm or less"
- At the bottom of page 8 the last bullet changed to "Rather than only identifying that business licenses be revoked, it was suggested that the recommendation be amended to state that licenses could be suspended ~~and/or~~ revoked";

AND THAT the minutes be adopted as amended.

Motion CARRIED

4. TREE MANAGEMENT BYLAW 1831 AND TREE MANAGEMENT ON CITY LANDS POLICY 611

The Committee continued their discussion on this item, providing comments on potential recommendations (*noted in italics*). The following comments were provided:

R13. The EAC recommends that Bylaw 1831 be revised to add a Type 4 Permit entailing reduced fees, documentation and/or replacement tree requirements. Qualifying activities would include works resulting in harm to a protected tree that is causing serious demonstrable damage, or risk thereof, to an existing building or infrastructure, in circumstances where the damage cannot be remedied or averted by other reasonable means. Works authorized under such a permit would normally be limited to pruning of structural branches or roots, would not normally extend to the removal of a protected tree, and would not include works to satisfy purely personal preferences or to facilitate additions or modifications to existing buildings or infrastructure (e.g. landscaping esthetics, driveway expansion or diversion).

- A Type 4 permit was suggested by staff in an effort to work towards compliance.

- The Committee discussed the overall intent of the permit. It was noted that the circumstances around this need to be clear to the public.
- It was suggested that staff would be responsible for developing criteria around this type of permit.
- It was debated if the Committee should move forward with this recommendation and if it provides what the Committee is intending.
- Wording changes were suggested as follows:

The EAC recommends that Bylaw 1831 be revised to add a Type 4 Permit entailing reduced fees, documentation and/or replacement tree requirements. Qualifying activities would include works resulting in harm to a protected tree that is causing serious demonstrable damage, or risk thereof, to an existing building or infrastructure, in circumstances where the damage cannot be remedied or averted by other reasonable means. Works authorized under such a permit would normally be limited to pruning of ~~structural~~ branches or roots, would not normally extend to the removal of a protected tree, and would not include works ~~to satisfy purely personal preferences or to facilitate additions or modifications to existing buildings or infrastructure (e.g. landscaping esthetics, driveway expansion or diversion)~~ for which a type 1, type 2 or type 3 permit would otherwise be required.

Action Item: R13 to be discussed further at the next meeting to allow members to have extra time for consideration.

R14. Bylaw 1831 be amended to permit the utilization of tree replacement security and deposit revenues for a range of activities to enhance and protect the City's tree canopy, including: the planting of trees on City lands, care and maintenance of trees on City lands, programs to encourage and support the planting of additional trees on private lands, and public education on the importance of enhancing and protecting trees and the tree canopy.

- Concerns were noted on how these funds would be monitored, if they are achieving the goals set out and if they are being used effectively. It was suggested that the monitoring of this fund could be addressed through another recommendation.

2020-EAC-040: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that Bylaw 1831 be amended to permit the utilization of tree replacement security and deposit

revenues for a range of activities to enhance and protect the City's tree canopy, including: the planting of trees on City lands, care and maintenance of trees on City lands, programs to encourage and support the planting of additional trees on private lands, and public education on the importance of enhancing and protecting trees and the tree canopy.

Motion CARRIED

R15. The EAC recommends that Council direct staff to review and improve, ~~in consultation with the EAC~~, the methods by which citizens and property owners are informed of the importance of tree preservation and the requirements of Policy 611 and Bylaw 1831, including the use of new tools for dissemination and for residents to notify the City when they believe that Bylaw 1831 or Policy 611 are being contravened.

- A few suggestions were made to the wording for this proposal.

2020-EAC-041: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that Council direct staff to review and improve the methods by which citizens and property owners are informed of the importance of tree preservation and the requirements of Policy 611 and Bylaw 1831, including the use of new tools for dissemination and for residents to notify the City when they believe that Bylaw 1831 or Policy 611 are being contravened.

Motion CARRIED

R16. The EAC recommends that:

(a) The Policy 510 provisions regarding notice to adjacent property owners (para. 3) and applicant appeals (para. 6) be spelled out in Bylaw 1831 and extended to Type 3 (as well as Type 2) applications.

(b) The annual Tree Canopy Report to Council (see R2c) include statistics regarding tree permit applications (of all Types) received and approved or refused plus analysis of the consequent trends and implications for the effectiveness of the City's tree protection and canvas preservation and enhancement efforts.

- The Committee discussed if notification should be broadened to note all types of tree permit applications for removal of trees on private lands.

- Staff noted that they would be able to work with the recommendation as written, and could identify the best vehicle to have this in how it is administrated.

2020-EAC-042: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that:

- (a) The Policy 510 provisions regarding notice to adjacent property owners (para. 3) and applicant appeals (para. 6) be spelled out in Bylaw 1831 and extended to Type 3 (as well as Type 2) applications.
- (b) The annual Tree Canopy Report to Council (see R2c) include statistics regarding tree permit applications (of all types) received and approved or refused plus analysis of the consequent trends and implications for the effectiveness of the City's tree protection and canvas preservation and enhancement efforts.

Motion CARRIED

R16b. The EAC recommends that Policy 611, Bylaw 1831 and the Planning Procedures Bylaw be reviewed and revised as necessary to ensure that notice of, and an opportunity to comment on, any application or proposal to remove a City tree for any reason is provided to property owners within 100 metres of the affected tree at least 14 days in advance of a decision.

- A suggestion was made on the wording of this proposal.

2020-EAC-043: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that:

- (a) City requirements for a business license as an arborist and the definition of arborist in Bylaw 1831 be amended to provide that International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certification is the sole and exclusive credential required for receipt of a licence.
- (b) Procedures in Bylaw 1831 and Policy 611 be amended to require that City Arborists visit and inspect all sites under consideration before a tree permit is approved. The above narrative and R17 (a and b) have been fine-tuned to reflect EAC discussion and agreement at its October meeting.
- (c) Bylaw 1831 be revised to only allow City staff or agents to remove or plant trees on City lands.

Motion CARRIED

R17. The EAC recommends that

(a) City requirements for a business license as an arborist and the definition of arborist in Bylaw 1831 be amended to provide that International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certification is the sole and exclusive credential for receipt of a licence.

(b) Procedures in Bylaw 1831 and Policy 611 be amended to require that City Arborists visit and inspect all sites under consideration before a tree permit is approved. The above narrative and R17 (a and b) have been fine-tuned to reflect EAC discussion and agreement at its October meeting.

(c) Bylaw 1831 and Policy 611 be revised to only allow City staff or agents to plant trees on City lands.

- It was debated if item (c) is required. Staff clarified that this is an important part of the recommendation and it should be included. It was suggested that Policy 611 already has wording in to this effect so it may be clearer to only note Bylaw 1831.
- A wording amendment was suggested to clarify that credentials be "required" for receipt of a license.

2020-EAC-044: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that:

(a) City requirements for a business license as an arborist and the definition of arborist in Bylaw 1831 be amended to provide that International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certification is the sole and exclusive credential required for receipt of a licence.

(b) Procedures in Bylaw 1831 and Policy 611 be amended to require that City Arborists visit and inspect all sites under consideration before a tree permit is approved. The above narrative and R17(a and b) have been fine-tuned to reflect EAC discussion and agreement at its October meeting.

(c) Bylaw 1831 be revised to only allow City staff or agents to remove or plant trees on City lands.

Motion CARRIED

R18. The EAC recommends that:

(a) Bylaw 1831 be amended to establish:

(i) explicit criteria for approval of Type 2 and Type 3 tree management permits taking into account the provisions of Policy 510 and best practices in other jurisdictions including City of Vancouver.

(ii) appropriate criteria to govern decisions by City officials regarding the management of trees on City land.

(b) Existing City policies, including 510 and 611, be revised to bring them into line with any bylaw amendments introduced pursuant to R18 (a) ~~and (b) above~~.

- No Changes.

2020-EAC-045: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that:

(a) Bylaw 1831 be amended to establish:

(i) explicit criteria for approval of Type 2 and Type 3 tree management permits taking into account the provisions of Policy 510 and best practices in other jurisdictions including City of Vancouver.

(ii) appropriate criteria to govern decisions by City officials regarding the management of trees on City land.

(b) Existing City policies, including 510 and 611, be revised to bring them into line with any bylaw amendments introduced pursuant to R18 (a).

Motion CARRIED

R19. The EAC recommends that

(a) The provisions Policy 510 and Planning Procedures Bylaw 2234 provisions establishing a right of appeal against negative decisions on private tree permit applications also be incorporated into Bylaw 1831.

(b) Planning Procedures Bylaw 2234 be amended to require that all reports and recommendations placed before Council regarding planning and development on private lands include a written statement of implications for tree protection and canopy enhancement. This requirement should apply whether or not a given matter is accompanied by a Type 3 tree permit application.

(c) Policy 611 be revised to prescribe that:

(i) All reports and recommendations presented to Council regarding works to be conducted on City lands include a section describing any implications for tree protection and canopy enhancement.

(ii) Council be informed at least 14 days in advance of the proposed removal of any tree located on city lands that is 6 cm. in diameter or larger.

(iii) Any member of Council objecting to measures arising under subparagraphs (i) and (ii) may request a Council discussion and decision on the matter.

(d) Council conduct, on at least an annual basis, a public discussion of a Tree Canopy Report prepared by staff and including: statistics regarding tree permit applications (of all Types) received and approved or refused; actions taken by City officials in the management of trees on City lands; and analysis of the consequent trends and implications for the effectiveness of the City's tree protection and canopy preservation and enhancement efforts.

- It was clarified that public discussion as noted in item (b) would refer to discussion through an open (regular) Council meeting. The intention would be that a section within each Corporate Report addresses potential effects on trees.
- For item c (ii) the Committee debated if the removal of any tree should require Council approval. While oversight is important, it was also suggested this could make decisions political.
- City trees are the property of the City and therefore the residents. It was suggested that Council should have a responsibility in the decision-making process.
- Staff noted that the way the recommendation is currently written provides Council with the opportunity to raise concerns and provide feedback as necessary. It was further suggested that Council's role is in the governance of policies and Bylaws, whereas these requests may be viewed more as operational.
- Staff is currently working on language to be included in planning reports which would exclusively discuss trees/ impact on trees/ removal etc. This would help Council identify potential impacts.
- Within this recommendation it was suggested that the Committee could address the monitoring of the tree funds and securities (as noted in R14).

- Wording amendments were suggested - rather than staff report the recommendation should reference the term "Corporate Report".

Action Item: The Committee suggested that they need to re-work this proposal (R19) and to come back and discuss it further at the next scheduled meeting.

P. Byer, Committee member, put forward a proposal to be discussed at the next meeting:

THAT Council directs staff to investigate and report to Council on means, legal and otherwise, to prevent the removal of or interference with trees, and to facilitate the planting of trees, by the City and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) on BNSF lands.

It was noted that this proposal could be added to recommendation R2 as an additional item (item d).

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

No items.

6. **INFORMATION**

The following item was received for information:

6.1 **COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKING**

7. **2021 MEETING SCHEDULE**

The following meeting schedule was approved by the Committee at the November 19, 2020 meeting and is provided for information:

- January 7;
- January 21;
- February 4;
- February 18;
- March 4; and
- March 18.

8. **CONCLUSION OF THE DECEMBER 17, 2020 ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING**

The meeting was concluded at 5:57 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debbie Johnstone". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "D" and a cursive "Johnstone".

Ross Hynes, Chairperson

Debbie Johnstone, Committee
Clerk

UPDATING & STRENGTHENING WHITE ROCK'S TREE PROTECTION & MANAGEMENT

BACKGROUND

On July 22, 2019, Council requested the EAC review the City's two principal tree management instruments. This referral originated in a July 8 Governance and Legislation Committee meeting in which Councillors **expressed two basic concerns**: First, discussing a recent high-profile tree removal on City land, Councillors raised questions about the process of tree management decision making, and particularly the adequacy of consultations or communications with Council when staff takes significant or potentially controversial tree removal decisions. Council thus requested EAC views and recommendations *"in regard to Council oversight of trees before they are taken down."* Second, this discussion quickly expanded into concerns and calls for "serious rethinking" about the effectiveness and outcomes of current tree management legislation and policy as reflected by City's declining tree canopy coverage and the impact thereof on drainage, slope stability and overall environmental conditions. Council, therefore, also requested recommendations *"from an environmental perspective/protecting our environment"*.

Council's environmental concerns were subsequently validated in the Tree Canopy Plan presented to Council on September 9 (updated November 4), 2019, which cited a decrease in canopy, mostly on private lands, from 25% in 1997 to 19% in 2014. A 2019 Metro Vancouver report cited higher figures (23%, due to acknowledged methodological differences), but the significant downward trend was the same. White Rock held the 13th least enviable position among Metro's 21 municipalities as regards both tree canopy coverage (23% versus 32% regional average) and impervious surface area -- a critical indicator of ecological health and vulnerability to the impact of extreme weather and climate change -- 61% impervious coverage versus 50% regional average.

The instruments specifically referred to the EAC are

Tree Management Bylaw 1831, which regulates the treatment of trees on private property.

- As in most municipalities, this is done primarily by requiring homeowners or developers to obtain a permit to cut or remove "protected trees" -- currently defined as those larger than 30 cm. (approx. 12 in.) in diameter, plus certain species and nesting trees of any size.
- Permits entail a sliding scale of application fees and a range of tree replacement or protection conditions with corresponding security deposits, depending on the nature of the application: removal of a dead or dangerous tree (Type 1 Permit), removal of an "unwanted" tree (Type 2), or cutting or removal of a tree or critical roots in connection with an application for a Demolition or Building Permit (Type 3).
- A subsidiary policy, *Planning and Services Policy 510*, elaborates on criteria for considering Type 2 applications ("unwanted" trees). On 9 March 2020, Council adopted staff-initiated amendments to tighten these criteria -- changes which EAC endorses.

Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611, which outlines the City's approach to managing trees on City lands, proclaimed the exclusive reserve of City staff or agents.

- The basic policy is to trim, prune or remove trees only for health or safety reasons, to maintain slope stability, or to control invasive species.
- However, the policy also authorizes steps to maintain views from City viewpoints and defines terms and conditions under which citizens may request the City to consider pruning or removing such trees to restore a previously established view from their property.
- *Operations Department Policy 612* provides additional elaboration on City practice regarding Dangerous Tree Removal. On ___ the City was advised of new WorkSafe BC requirements for more immediate action to address risks created by dangerous trees. As a result, the Committee was informed that a new Policy 612: Dangerous Tree Removal would be brought forward to Council. This policy includes procedures for dealing with property owners in cases where high risk situations have been identified.

Policy Context: A crucial touchstone for any review of tree management legislation or policy in BC is a municipality's Official Community Plan (OCP). White Rock's current OCP (adopted in 2017) includes a number of principles, policies and guidelines focussed on tree protection. These include:

- Commitments to various measures to enhance tree canopy (Principle 6, Policy 15.2),
- The objectives of "adopting and adhering to an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) and requiring development projects to be designed with the intent of preserving and protecting mature, healthy trees." (Policy 12.2.2); and
- Development permit area Guidelines to increase the quantity and/or enhance the protection of trees in all designated Development Permit Areas (DPAs).

The OCP Review initiated following the 2018 municipal elections has been designated as one of Council's Immediate Strategic Priorities and "Greening the City" is one of 7 priorities identified for this review. In September 2020, Council's Land Use and Planning Committee directed staff to propose implementing mechanisms for a number of recommendations to promote the greening of the Town Centre. These included the establishment of site requirements for tree canopy coverage, species mix, pervious areas, and continuous soil coverage as well as green building standards.

ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The EAC considered this referral, often as its leading or only substantive agenda item, over the course of 14 meetings from 5 September 2019 to 8 December 2020. The analysis and recommendations outlined in the following pages attempt to come to grips with three fundamental sets of questions:

- Purposes and priorities:** Are the purposes of our tree management legislation and policies consistent with and achievable in the context of broader City goals and policies? Are the purposes, and the relative priorities among them, appropriately and clearly conveyed in the language of the instruments? The observations and recommendations here address aspects of higher-level or broader City strategies and review exercises including the OCP, UFMP and zoning and planning regulations and procedures.
- Norms: Are the rules and standards** established by the instrument adequate to advance or achieve the agreed purposes and priorities? Recommendations here address the definitions of "protected", "significant", "heritage" and "lower value" trees as well as tree replacement requirements.
- Implementation:** Are the practices and procedures employed to advance the purposes and apply the norms effective and appropriate? Recommendations here address compliance and enforcement measures (fees, fines, securities), public education, and decision making including the role of Council.

A. PURPOSES AND PRIORITIES

1. Higher Level and/or Broader Policy Directions and Instruments

- **Strengthening Tree Protection in Zoning and Development Regulations and Procedures**

The objectives and proposed actions reflected in both the existing OCP and the ongoing OCP review exercise underscore the high level of importance assigned by the City's government and citizens to the goals of tree protection and preventing or reversing tree canopy loss in White Rock. And with most of the City's canopy loss attributed to private development (cf the September 2019 Tree Canopy Plan), they also highlight the critical reality that Bylaw 1831 and Policy 611 cannot alone meet these challenges. Against this background, Council's Land Use and Planning Committee has approved a number of measures to promote greening of the Town Centre through zoning and planning regulations that might also be extended to other Development Permit Areas. Accordingly, while it has not given detailed consideration to the City's zoning bylaw or procedures in the course of this review,

R1. The EAC recommends that, in the context of the ongoing OCP and Zoning Bylaw Reviews, staff be directed to develop proposals to:

- (a) Give greater and more explicit priority to tree preservation in the requirements set by zoning and planning regulations across all Development Permit Areas.**
- (b) Give more explicit attention to tree preservation and canopy enhancement in the procedures governing the application of planning and zoning requirements. This could be achieved by amending Planning Procedures Bylaw 2234 to require mandatory consideration -- and written record -- of implications for tree protection and canopy enhancement in all relevant Advisory Design Panel and Planning Department deliberations, decisions and recommendations to Council. R1 adopted by EAC Nov 19, 2020**

- **Urban Forest Management Plan/OCP Review/Canopy Recovery Targets/Trees on Railway Lands**

The goal of an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) was identified in OCP 2017 (Section 20.2) as a short-term priority to be completed in 1 to 2 years. The process of developing such a plan had actually been launched in June 2015: the published report of a consultant-led workshop at that time is very instructive on the benefits of urban trees, the distribution of our current tree canopy, and strong public support for policies and laws to increase canopy; and it proposes a target of 27% canopy coverage for White Rock by 2045. Since 2015 however, no further work to develop a UFMP appears to have been done. Considering the heavy demands of resuming a conventional standalone UFMP strategy exercise, and given resource strains in the wake of COVID 19, the basic elements of a UFMP could rather be incorporated into the conclusions of the ongoing OCP Review on Greening the City. Finally, in light of concerns about past actions affecting trees on federally regulated railway lands within City boundaries, the Committee encourages steps to promote the protection of trees and enhancement of tree canopy on such lands in the future. Against this background,

R2. The EAC recommends that

- (a) The process of developing an Urban Forest Management Plan be completed as soon as possible.**
- (b) Key elements of the UFMP should include:**
 - (i) recognition that trees on both private and public lands are essential components of the urban forest and ecology of the city;**
 - (ii) setting an explicit canopy recovery target (eg, 27% canopy coverage by 2045);**
 - (iii) undertakings to increase the currently projected maximum number of trees (2500) that can be planted on City land and**
 - (iv) strategies for increasing lands on which the City can plant additional trees to help meet the target.**
- (c) Progress in achieving any UFMP or canopy coverage goals should be monitored through the presentation of annual Tree Canopy Plan updates to Council (see Recommendation R20).**
- (d) Council direct staff to investigate and report to Council on means, legal and otherwise, to prevent the removal of or interference with trees, and to facilitate the planting of trees, by the City and BNSF on BNSF lands.**

R2(a,b,c) adopted by EAC Nov19, 2020;

Following a discussion re City's role regarding trees on railway lands, PB has submitted draft recommendation R2(d). Chair has added possible narrative element on this topic above.

2. Purposes and Priorities of Bylaws and Policies

- **Clarifying Purpose of Bylaw 1831**

The provisions in Bylaw 1831 are generally unobjectionable-- as far as they go. However, the EAC believes the far-reaching importance of tree preservation, as reflected in the OCP and recognized by environmental science, could be better conveyed through a simple rebranding amendment mirroring practice in many other jurisdictions:

R3. The EAC recommends that Bylaw 1831, currently entitled "White Rock Tree Management Bylaw", be re-entitled as "White Rock Tree Protection Bylaw".

R3 adopted by EAC Nov19, 2020.

- **Clarifying and Aligning Purposes and Priorities of Policy 611**

The Committee suggests a similar update of the title of Policy 611, and at the same time, recommends updating of the stated purposes of Policy 611 to establish a more appropriate balance between the dual stated purposes of tree protection and preservation of private views. The Policy statement in 611 currently reads as follows: *It is the policy of the City of White Rock to manage, preserve and enhance trees on City lands while taking into consideration established views from White Rock properties and scenic views in the City. The long term objective is to ensure the sustainability of the City's urban forest assets by increasing the number of healthy trees and amount of tree canopy in the City, without negatively impacting established views that are important to City of White Rock property owners and the City.*

It is of course an important challenge for any municipal tree protection regime to find an appropriate balance between the public interest and environmental imperative of protecting trees and private rights to the use and enjoyment of private property. The Committee recognizes the importance of efforts to protect views in White Rock. OCP 2017 commits to "celebrating views" as a central element of the City's distinctive character and outlines some appropriate measures to protect sea views through building permit restrictions and street planting species. The Policy 611 procedure for citizens to request the pruning or removal of trees on City land to restore a view from a private property is rarely invoked (one case in the past two years) and the Committee is in any event satisfied with the stringent requirements to demonstrate a genuine case for removal and to secure agreement from neighbouring properties. However, the primacy of the goals of tree preservation and canopy enhancement, as underlined in the OCP and recognized by environmental science, is not well reflected in the current text of Policy 611, which characterizes the goals of tree and canopy preservation as "long-term objectives" and gives undue profile to the restricted and rarely used procedure to restore private views. Furthermore, and quite inappropriately, the current procedure entails less stringent criteria than those applicable to property owners wishing to prune or remove a tree on their own property: Policy 510, as amended by Council in March 2020, specifies that such a view must be completely obstructed to qualify for consideration of a permit.

Against this background,

R4. The EAC recommends that Policy 611 "Tree Management on City Lands" be amended as follows:

(a) Change its title to "Tree Protection, Canopy Enhancement and Management on City Lands."

(b) Amend Section 1 to read as follows: "Policy: In managing trees on City land, it is the priority of the City of White Rock to protect existing trees and increase the number of healthy trees and amount of tree canopy and thus enhance and ensure the sustainability of the City's urban forest and realization of the environmental and esthetic benefits it provides. In this context, the interest of property owners in preserving or restoring private views obstructed by City trees will be addressed through a procedure described in annex 1 to this Policy. "

(c) In Section 3 "Management of City Trees" insert an additional clause (a.1) as follows: "*(a) The City manages trees on city lands: 1. For the overriding purposes of protecting existing trees and increasing the number of healthy trees and amount of tree canopy.*"

(d) Move Sections 5, 6, 7 and 8 to an annex to the Policy.

(e) Limit the criteria under which applications for approved pruning, crown thinning, or width reductions are accepted to those where the property owner has clearly demonstrated that the tree has increased in size to completely obscure a previously existing view from the applicant's

(f) Prohibit the topping or removal of city trees for the re-establishment of views.

(g) Remove the definition of "narrow corridor" or "single object" views.

(h) Allow for the siting, species selection, and planting of new or replacement trees on City lands in all locations where future growth is not expected to completely obscure established views.

R4 adopted by EAC on 9 December 2020. [For clarity, chair suggests breaking the final 4 elements into separate subparas (e,f,g,h) rather than combining them in a single subpara.]

B. DO THE NORMS ADEQUATELY ADVANCE THE PURPOSES?

1. Trees Protected by Bylaw and Policy

- **Size Standard for Protected Trees**

On private property, Bylaw 1831 requires owners to secure permits to remove "Protected trees", defined as trees with trunks greater than 30 cm (approx. 12 in.) in diameter at breast height (DBH), on private property; trees with nests used by certain bird species; and certain special tree species. The 30 cm criterion is still used in some municipalities and may have been the historical common standard. However, the only municipalities now using this standard in Metro Vancouver are White Rock, Surrey (which is reviewing its bylaw on the recommendation of its environmental advisory committee), North Vancouver District and Langley Township. A 20 cm standard (8 in.) is used in at least 9 Metro municipalities including Vancouver, Coquitlam, Burnaby, Delta, New Westminster and Richmond. Port Coquitlam uses 15 cm (6 in.) and Port Moody bans the removal of trees larger than 10 cm (4 in.) in many zoning areas including all stratas. The Committee recognizes that reducing our current size limit would increase costs to residents and the City. However, noting that it takes at least 20 years for most trees to add appreciably to the canopy and considering the relatively poor and declining state of our canopy, we do not believe that the existing 30 cm standard is consistent with the City's goal of reversing canopy loss. Accordingly,

R5. The EAC recommends that the minimum size for the definition of "protected tree" in Bylaw 1831 be reduced to a trunk DBH of 20 cm or less.

R5 adopted by EAC on 8 December, with text adjusted for clarity on 17 December.

Note re Original R6. : On December 8, the EAC adopted a revised version of original R6 regarding the updating and alignment of definitions, other terminology and procedures and agreed this recommendation should be placed at the end of this report. See **R20**.

- **Significant Trees**

A "significant tree" is defined in Policy 611 as a tree on City land "that is of particular significance to the City, due to landmark value, cultural, historical, ecological or social import and has been included in the Significant Tree Registry of the Significant Tree Policy." The policy appropriately declares that no "significant tree" nor any tree on City parkland will be touched in response to a view restoration request. However, there is no apparent record of any Significant Tree Policy, Registry, procedure for designating a "significant tree", nor indeed of any tree having been so designated. Bylaw 1831 provides for the designation of "heritage trees", and in 2001, the City adopted a Heritage Tree Policy 607 including criteria and a procedure for designating such trees. However, the procedure appears to be widely unknown and even less employed: in almost 20 years, only one tree has received heritage designation. On top of all of this, Bylaw 1831 includes no provisions mandating protection of "significant trees" or "heritage trees". Against this background,

R7. The EAC recommends that the regulations and policies concerning “significant trees” and “heritage trees” be reviewed and rationalized by establishing a consolidated definition of “significant tree”, a “Significant Tree Policy” and a “Significant Tree Registry” applicable to trees on both public and private lands. These should draw on criteria and procedures derived from best practices in other municipalities and relevant provincial guidelines. Bylaw 1831 and Policy 611 should be amended to make clear that “significant” trees of any size will not be removed for other than safety reasons or as approved by Council.

R7 adopted by EAC on 8 December 2020.

- **Lower Value Trees**

Finally regarding definitions, Bylaw 1831 includes a definition of “lower value trees” - those with structural or health issues as well as any fruit trees, alders or cottonwoods, for which reduced tree replacement requirements apply when a removal permit is issued. Following discussions with the City Arborist, the Committee has agreed there is no convincing arboricultural need or justification for designating healthy trees of any species as “lower value”. Accordingly,

R8. The EAC recommends that Bylaw 1831 be revised by removing fruit trees, alders and cottonwoods from the definition of “lower value trees”.

R8 adopted by EAC on 8 December 2020.

2. Tree Replacement Requirements

- **On Private lands**

As noted above, under Bylaw 1831, in most cases where trees are removed from private lands, there is a requirement to plant new, “replacement trees”. The Committee supports this policy as well as the current replacement quotas based on size of the removed trees. However, the City Arboriculturist has acknowledged that, once a tree is planted, it will in most cases take over 20 years before it can actually add significantly to the tree canopy and yield the environmental benefits provided by the removed mature tree. This underscores the crucial, over-riding importance of pursuing ambitious canopy enhancement goals and maximizing the normative protections for existing trees through the various means suggested elsewhere in this report.

- **Tree Replacement on City Lands**

The Committee has observed that Policy 611 also includes applicant-funded replacement requirements when requests to restore a private view are approved. There is however no requirement for replacement when the city decides it must remove a City tree for other reasons, such as construction of a public facility or road reconstruction. Therefore,

R9. The EAC recommends that Policy 611 be revised to:

- (a) require that, when the City is evaluating initiatives that might result in tree removal on City lands, all possible ways to protect the trees should be considered;**
- (b) if they must be removed, ambitious replacement requirements should be specified.**

R9 adopted by EAC on 8 December 2020.

C. APPLICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NORMS AND POLICIES

1. Encouraging and Securing Compliance by Private Property Owners and Contractors

Any regulatory regime designed to influence private behaviour requires a careful calibration of both the costs of compliance and the penalties of non-compliance. High costs associated with compliance may discourage some people from adhering to the bylaw. Lax enforcement or low fines may not be sufficient deterrents for others. Bylaw 1831 is enforced, and violations identified, through bylaw officers, city arborists and other staff. It is unknown, however, how many violations go undetected, and it would be helpful for residents to

know who to call if they observe what appears to be a violation. In addition, if private firms are caught cutting or removing a tree illegally, there should be significant consequences such as revocation and/or non-renewal of their business licence. The EAC has not conducted an in-depth analysis of the adequacy and effectiveness of the fees, fines and security requirements associated with the application of Bylaw 1831 or Policy 611, or of the methods and resources employed for their enforcement. But a review of these elements should accompany the updating of the purposes and norms underpinning of these instruments. Accordingly,

R10. The EAC recommends that Council direct staff to review the current fees, securities, replacement values and fines related to tree removal and replacements to ensure they are commensurate with best practices conducive to achieving the goals of maintaining and increasing the number of healthy trees and the amount of tree canopy in the City.

R10 adopted by EAC on 8 December 2020.

R11. The EAC recommends that Council direct staff to review the sufficiency of the methods and resources employed to ensure effective enforcement of Bylaw 1831 and Policy 611.

R11 adopted by EAC on 8 December 2020.

R12. Considering the central role played by private contractors in the management of trees on private property, the EAC recommends that staff maintain a record of contractors that contravene Bylaw 1831 or Policy 611 and take steps to ensure that such contractors are not hired by the City, that relevant fines are levied on them, and/or that their business licences are suspended or revoked.

R12 adopted by EAC on 8 December 2020.

- **Works to Address Damage to Existing Buildings or Infrastructure**

Each of the existing three types of private tree management permits can involve high costs for private arborists, permits and tree replacements. In situations when a tree may be causing serious damage to a building or essential infrastructure, these costs may be seen as unduly punitive, and may in some cases lead to the work being done in violation of the Bylaw and/or in a technically deficient manner resulting in excessive or unnecessary damage to the tree. To address this concern,

R13. The EAC recommends that Bylaw 1831 be revised to add a Type 4 Permit entailing reduced fees, documentation and/or replacement tree requirements. Qualifying activities would include works resulting in harm to a protected tree that is causing serious demonstrable damage, or risk thereof, to an existing building or infrastructure, in circumstances where the damage cannot be remedied or averted by other reasonable means. Works authorized under such a permit would normally be limited to pruning of ~~structural~~ branches or roots, would not normally extend to the removal of a protected tree, and would not include works ~~to satisfy purely personal preferences or~~ to facilitate additions or modifications to existing buildings or infrastructure (eg, landscaping esthetics, driveway expansion or diversion)) **for which a Type 1, Type 2 or Type 3 Permit would otherwise be required.**

December 17 discussions concluded with agreement to return to R13 for decision at next meeting. Amendments in red text were proposed and subsequently submitted in writing by PB.

- **Utilization of Revenues from Tree Replacement Securities and Deposits**

Bylaw 1831 (Part 7, para. 7) currently provides that revenues from tree replacement cash-in-lieu arrangements and from forfeited tree replacement securities may be used by the City to plant and/or maintain trees on City lands. Staff indicated that it is sometimes a challenge to find sufficient tree planting opportunities on City lands to utilize all available revenues, but there are other activities to enhance and protect the tree canopy that could in some circumstances benefit from the utilization of available revenues. While planting of new trees on city lands should remain the priority, other qualified activities could include: care and maintenance of trees on City lands, the development of programs to encourage and support the

planting of additional trees on private lands, and public education on the importance of enhancing and protecting trees and the tree canopy.

R14. The EAC recommends that Bylaw 1831 be amended to permit the utilization of tree replacement security and deposit revenues for a range of activities to enhance and protect the City's tree canopy, including: the planting of trees on City lands, care and maintenance of trees on City lands, programs to encourage and support the planting of additional trees on private lands, and public education on the importance of enhancing and protecting trees and the tree canopy.

R14 adopted by EAC on 17 December.

• Public Education

Public education can also play a role in securing compliance with tree protection regulations. Unfortunately, many people do not have an adequate appreciation for the importance of preserving trees, or know about or understand the relatively complex tree bylaw and approval process, or how to report bylaw violations that they observe. Although the City has user-friendly brochures, such as “Guide to the Tree Management Bylaw” and “Tree Protection Guidelines”, more and better information about tree protection and City requirements can be provided through the website or publications such as inserts in property tax notices. Such information should include the personal health benefits to individuals and their families from maintaining trees on their private property as well as the City's bylaw enforcement hotline. To these ends,

R15. The EAC recommends that Council direct staff to review and improve the methods by which residents and property owners are informed of the importance of tree preservation and the requirements of Policy 611 and Bylaw 1831, including the use of new tools for dissemination and for residents to notify the City when they believe Bylaw 1831 or Policy 611 are being contravened.

R15 adopted by EAC on 17 December.

2. Notice and Communications with Interested Third Parties on Specific Cases

• Public Notice and Third Party Communications regarding Trees on Private Land

Bylaw 1831 (Part 6 paras 2, 3, 4) requires that applications for permits affecting “shared trees” include a letter from the adjacent property owner agreeing to the proposed action. The Committee considers that this requirement is appropriate and should be retained. For trees situated entirely on an applicant's land:

- Prior to deciding on a Type 2 application (“unwanted trees”), Policy 510 (para. 3) prescribes that the City write adjacent property owners seeking their comments by a specified date. This affords useful input for City staff in considering the merits of an application, but implies no third party rights to appeal the issuance of a duly approved permit.
- Prior to deciding on a Type 3 application: the application is considered alongside the associated demolition or building permit application and is thus subject to all public notice and/or consultation requirements entailed in the City's Planning Procedures Bylaw 2234.
- Once a permit of any type is issued, Bylaw 1831 (Part 5 para 2) requires the posting of a notice (including a copy of the permit) on the property line of the concerned lot for the duration of the approved work. This signifies to the public that a property owner has met the legal requirements to secure a permit, but does not in itself imply any third party rights to contest the work in question.
- When a permit application is refused, Policy 510 para. 6 specifies that Type 2 permit decisions may be appealed to Council within 14 days -- but only by the applicant.
- Neither Bylaw 1831 nor Policy 611 establishes any third party rights to appeal the issuance of a permit.

These practices regarding public and third party notice are consistent with those of other Metro Vancouver municipalities. The Committee recognizes that creating additional third party legal rights to oppose or appeal the issuance of a permit would likely be neither practical nor legally sustainable. However, to

increase transparency and to bring City practice into line with the BC Community Charter (requiring that all municipal regulation of trees be done through bylaws), we recommend spelling out the notice and appeal provisions of Policy 510 in Bylaw 1831. At the same time, these provisions should be extended to Type 3 (as well as Type 2) procedures.

Additionally, the Committee believes transparency and accountability in the administration of the tree management permit system might be enhanced by requiring annual reporting to Council on the numbers of permit applications received, approved, or refused. Such reporting could be included in the previously suggested Annual Tree Canopy Report and would provide a vehicle for Council and the public to monitor the effectiveness of the Bylaw and consider possible improvements when and as warranted. Accordingly,

R16. The EAC recommends that:

- (a) **The Policy 510 provisions regarding notice to adjacent property owners (para. 3) and applicant appeals (para. 6) be spelled out in Bylaw 1831 and extended to Type 3 (as well as Type 2) applications.**
- (b) **The annual Tree Canopy Report to Council (see R2c) include statistics regarding tree permit applications (of all Types) received and approved or refused plus analysis of the consequent trends and implications for the effectiveness of the City's tree protection and canvas preservation and enhancement efforts.**

R16 adopted by EAC on 17 December.

- **Public Notice and Third Party Communications regarding Trees on City Land**

Existing Notice Requirements:

- Under Policy 611 (para 6.3.a), applications to trim, prune or remove a tree on City land to re-establish a private view are mailed by the City to all property owners within 30 metres of the tree, along with a form through which recipients may express support or opposition to the application. If clear support is expressed in 65% of responses received within 2 weeks, an application may be approved.
- Policy 611 (para 8) also specifies that requests to prune or remove City trees as part of an application for rezoning, or for development, demolition or building permits, will be treated as Type 3 permit applications pursuant to Bylaw 1831. Notice of such proposals is thus presumably included in any public notice required under the Planning Procedures Bylaw; and, once granted, any permit will be posted for the duration of the permitted work.
- Recommendation R7 above proposes the development of a new regulation and/or policy concerning "significant trees", and staff is preparing a revision of Operations Department Policy 612 regarding Dangerous Tree Removal in light of recent provincial guidance. These instruments will include explicit provisions on public notice and the Committee has no additional comments in this regard.

As regards proposals or decisions taken by the City to remove a tree on City land in any situation other than the foregoing: neither Bylaw 1831 nor Policy 611 appear to specify any requirements for third party or public notice or consultation. The Committee believes however that consistent, across-the-board notice requirements should apply to all situations in which removal of a City tree (larger than 6 cm) is contemplated. Public feedback would then be conveyed to Council when it is requested to consider the prospective removal as propose in recommendation R19(c). Consequently,

R16bis. The EAC recommends that Policy 611, Bylaw 1831 and the Planning Procedures Bylaw be reviewed and revised as necessary to ensure that notice of, and an opportunity to comment on, any application or proposal to remove a "City tree" for any reason is provided to property owners within 100 metres of the affected tree at least 14 days in advance of a decision.

R16bis adopted by EAC on 17 December.

3. Roles of Arborists in Decision Making

Bylaw 1831 requires that all private applications for tree management permits be supported by a tree assessment report and recommendation prepared by a private arborist. The current credentials specified for private arborists in the by-law include International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certification, Tree Risk Assessor (TRAQ) certification or membership in the Association of BC Forest Professionals, the latter two of which do not in and of themselves signify the training or skills of a professional arborist. The exclusive credential required in other in other jurisdictions examined is ISA certification.

The City Arborist plays a critical role in the permit issuance process by reviewing the application and advising the Director of Planning on whether and under circumstances a permit should be issued. Bylaw 1831 (Part 10, para. 1) authorizes the City to enter and inspect any site that is subject to the bylaw; and while not explicitly required by the Bylaw or city Policies, the City Arborist currently does visit all sites that are under permit applications. The Committee is of the view that this practice, including site visits to inspect tree protection barriers, should be explicitly required under the Bylaw 1831 and Policy 611.

R17. The EAC recommends that

- (a) City requirements for a business license as an arborist and the definition of arborist in Bylaw 1831 be amended to provide that International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certification is the sole and exclusive credential required for receipt of a licence.**
- (b) Procedures in Bylaw 1831 and Policy 611 be amended to require that City Arborists visit and inspect all sites under consideration before a tree permit is approved.**
- (c) Bylaw 1831 be revised to only allow City staff or agents to remove or plant trees on City lands.**

R17 adopted by EAC on 17 December.

4. Role of City Officials in Decision Making: Authority and Criteria to Approve Permits

• **Decisions re Trees on Private Land**

Under Bylaw 1831 (Part 4, para 1), the Director of Planning and Development Services has delegated authority to approve or deny applications for Type 1, 2 and 3 permits “if the application complies with the requirements... under Part 6”. Part 6 specifies procedural requirements including a range of documents that must accompany applications for each permit type, including in each case a tree assessment report and a statement of rationale for removal. However, substantive criteria for the granting of a permit specified only for Type 1 (hazardous tree) applications. The Bylaw provides no substantive criteria on which basis Type 2 or 3 applications may be assessed and a permit approved or denied. *Policy 510 - Criteria for Type 2 Tree Removal Requests on Private Lands* does specify some criteria for positive consideration, which boil down to preventing property damage or complete obstruction of a view. Two observations arise in this context:

- First, concerning the substance of any criteria, the current Policy 510 criteria for Type 2 applications seem appropriate -- as far as they go. However, some other jurisdictions employ more extensive and exacting criteria, including some that apply to Type 3-like situations (applications associated with demolition or building licence applications). For instance, the City of Vancouver allows removal of a tree to satisfy building envelope or other design preferences only if re-siting or alternative design approaches allowing retention of the tree are not possible.
- Second, as the BC Community Charter requires that all regulation of trees must be established by Bylaw, any criteria for assessing tree permit applications should figure in Bylaw 1831.

• **Decisions re Trees on City Lands**

Policy 611 (para. 6.6) asserts that decisions regarding applications to remove a City tree to restore a private view will be made by the Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations “whose decision is final”. At the same time, Policy 611 (para. 8) provides that applications to prune or remove a city tree associated with a rezoning, development, demolition or building permit application will be reviewed as type 3 requests under Bylaw 1831. Finally, all other activities regarding the management of City trees fall under the responsibility of the Director of Engineering, subject only to the general (unlegislated)

oversight of Council. In discussions with the Committee, the Director of Engineering has expressed the view, which the Committee supports, that criteria governing any decisions he might take regarding City trees should, like those for private trees, be specified in the bylaw.

Against this background,

R18. The EAC recommends that:

(a) Bylaw 1831 be amended to establish:

- (i) explicit criteria for approval of Type 2 and Type 3 tree management permits taking into account the provisions of Policy 510 and best practices in other jurisdictions including City of Vancouver.**
- (ii) appropriate criteria to govern decisions by City officials regarding the management of trees on City land.**

(b) Existing City policies, including 510 and 611, be revised to bring them into line with any bylaw amendments introduced pursuant to R18 (a) above.

R18 adopted by EAC on 17 December.

5. Council Oversight

• Oversight re Trees on Private Lands

Routine Applications: In the normal course of events, permit applications affecting trees on private lands come before Council for decision only on appeals against a decision by the Director of Planning to deny a permit (Bylaw 2234 s. 23 and Policy 510 para. 6). This applies to Type 1 (hazardous) and Type 2 (unwanted), as well as routine Type 3 (conforming building or demolition permit) applications. Council involvement in decisions on such matters in the first instance would not in the Committee's view be practical or necessary. However, transparency and accountability in the administration of Bylaw 1831 might be enhanced through annual reporting to Council on the numbers of permit applications received, approved, or refused. Such reporting could be included in the previously suggested Annual Tree Canopy Report and would provide a vehicle for Council and the public to monitor the effectiveness of the Bylaw and consider possible improvements when and as warranted.

Decisions affecting trees on private lands in the first instance: Only Type 3 applications associated with significant planning or development applications are presented for Council consideration in the first instance, pursuant to Planning Procedures Bylaw 2234. The Committee endorses Council's role in this regard, but notes that impacts on trees may often be obscured in the context of the many other factors that go into planning and development proceedings. Recommendation R1, reiterated below, seeks to mitigate that tendency and ensure Council's planning and development decisions are fully and transparently informed regarding their implications for tree protection and canopy enhancement.

• Oversight re Trees on City Lands

Council of course has general oversight of the actions taken and policies and procedures followed by officials managing all operations on City lands. Under Policy 611, Council is currently advised of officials' final decisions on applications to prune or remove a City tree to restore a private view (para. 6.6) and consulted on private Type 3 requests to prune or remove trees on City lands (para. 8). Beyond these limited circumstance, there are no City Bylaw or Policy provisions expressly requiring a role for Council in decisions on the management of City trees. However, it is the current practice of the Director of Engineering and operations:

- to advise and consult Council regarding the removal of a hazardous or dangerous City tree at least 7 days in advance of removal – unless more urgent action is necessary for public safety;
- to advise and consult Council before undertaking any other operations (eg, sidewalk, road, park works) involving removal of a City tree (6 cm. diameter or larger).

The Committee commends staff's proactive approach to engaging Council on decisions affecting City trees, but also believes that the public interest warrants a more explicit, mandatory role for Council in such matters. In this respect, Staff is currently preparing an update to the City's *Dangerous Tree Removal Policy 612*; and in R7 above, the Committee has recommended establishment of a "significant trees" regime whereunder only Council could approve removal of such a tree. Recommendations R. ___ below are designed to address all other circumstances in which we believe the Council should be engaged in decisions affecting trees on City lands.

- **Ongoing Monitoring of Tree Protection and Canopy Enhancement**

While it is important to ensure an appropriate role for Council in decisions on significant actions affecting individual trees, the Committee believes it is also vital for Council to play a proactive ongoing Council role in monitoring the effectiveness of the City's tree protection regulations and canopy enhancement efforts. Without determined and sustained attention from City officials and elected representatives, there can be little realistic prospect of truly improving the effectiveness of White Rock's tree protection efforts and reversing the decline of our tree canopy. The Committee has thus recommended in R2(c) above that Council regularly monitor progress achieved in protecting trees and enhancing the tree canopy in White Rock by reviewing annual Tree Canopy Plan reports from City staff.

- **Recommendations re Council Oversight**

Against all the foregoing background, the following recommendations suggest a framework for Council's role in the application of regulations and in ongoing monitoring of overall efforts to strengthen tree protection on both City and private lands and to protect and enhance the City's tree canopy.

R19. The EAC recommends that

- (a) The provisions of Policy 510 and Planning Procedures Bylaw 2234 establishing a right of appeal against negative decisions on private tree permit applications also be incorporated into Bylaw 1831.
- (b) Planning Procedures Bylaw 2234 be amended to require that all **corporate and Advisory Design Panel** reports and recommendations to Council regarding planning and development on private lands include a **written-statement description** of implications for tree protection and canopy enhancement. This requirement should apply whether or not a given matter is accompanied by a Type 3 tree permit application.
- (c) ~~Policy 611~~ **City Policies and procedures** be revised **as required** to prescribe that:
 - (i) All **corporate** reports and recommendations presented to Council regarding works to be conducted on City lands include a section describing any implications for tree protection and canopy enhancement.
 - (ii) Council be informed at least 14 days in advance of the proposed removal of any **"City tree" (a tree located on city lands with a trunk diameter at breast height (DBH) greater than that is 6 cm. in diameter or larger).**
 - (iii) Any member of Council objecting to measures arising under subparagraphs (i) and (ii) may request a Council discussion and decision on the matter.

OR

 - (iii) **Removal of any "City tree" as mentioned in (ii) requires approval of Council.**
- (d) Council conduct, on at least an annual basis, a public discussion of a Tree Canopy Report prepared by staff and including: statistics regarding tree permit applications (of all Types) received and approved or refused; actions taken by **the City officials** in the management of trees on City lands **including the use of revenues from tree permit fees and tree protection securities**; and analysis of the consequent trends and implications for the effectiveness of the City's tree protection and ~~canvas~~ **canopy** preservation and enhancement efforts.

D. GENERAL/MISCELLANEOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Updating and Aligning Language of Bylaw and Policy Documents

During its review, the Committee has noted a number of inconsistencies and disconnects among various definitions, other terminology and procedures in the existing tree management Bylaw and Policy documents. Staff has also made a number of technical observations and suggestions in this regard. Finally, the Committee recognizes that the numerous changes it is recommending will necessitate a thorough technical review of these instruments to ensure their currency, clarity and consistency. Accordingly,

R20. [original R6] The EAC recommends that staff conduct a technical review and update of the texts of the Bylaws and Policies addressed in this report in order to identify any amendments, consistent with the EAC's recommendations, that may be needed to ensure the currency, clarity and consistency of these documents.

Adopted by EAC on 8 December 2020.

POLICY 611: TEXT OF POLICY HIGHLIGHTING ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY EAC IN CONSIDERING R4

Issue 1: Draft recommendation R4(a) proposes following revision to Policy Title:

Policy Title: Tree Protection, Canopy Enhancement & Management on City Lands

Issue 2: Draft recommendation R4(b) proposes following revision to Section 1 Statement of Policy:

1. Policy

~~It is the policy of the City of White Rock to manage, preserve and enhance trees on City lands while taking into consideration established views from White Rock properties and scenic views in the City. The long-term objective is ensure the sustainability of the City's urban forest assets by increasing the number of healthy trees and amount of tree canopy in the City, without negatively impacting established views that are important to City of White Rock property owners and the City.~~

In managing trees on City land, it is the priority of the City of White Rock to protect existing trees and increase the number of healthy trees and amount of tree canopy and thus enhance and ensure the sustainability of the City's urban forest and realization of the environmental and esthetic benefits it provides. In this context, the interest of property owners in preserving or restoring private views obstructed by City trees will be addressed through a procedure described in the Annex to this Policy.

2. Definitions

City Land - includes City property, *City Parkland*, public rights-of-way and easements, and property under lease to the City of White Rock.

City Parkland – means Bryant Park, Columbia & Balsam Hillside Park, Coldicutt Park, Memorial Park, Bayview Park, Oxford Street Park, Gage Park, Stager Park, Emerson Park, Upper Finlay (Davey) Park, Lower Finlay Park, Dolphin/Cliff Park, Five Corners Park, Ash Street Steps Park, Barge Park, Bergstrom Entrance Park, Hughes Park, Marine Drive Linear Park, Maccaud Park, Marine & Cypress Hillside Park, Prospect & Blackwood Hillside Park, Sanford Park, Stayte Road Entrance Park, Hodgson Park, Gogg's Park, Totem Park, Peace Arch Elementary Park, Rotary Park, Vidal & Beachview Park.

City Tree – a living, woody plant with roots and branches that has a trunk DBH greater than 6 centimeters.

DBH (Diameter at Breast Height) - means the diameter of the trunk of a tree at 1.4 metres above the base of a tree. For multi-trunk trees, each trunk shall be measured 1.4 metres above the highest point of the natural grade of the ground measured from grade and the DBH of the tree shall equal the cumulative total of the three largest trunk

Hazardous Tree - means a tree identified in writing by a Certified Tree Risk Assessor as having significant structural defects and an extreme hazard risk which could lead to part or the entire tree falling and causing personal injury or significant property damage.

Significant Tree – means any tree on *City land* that is of particular significance to the City, due to landmark value, cultural, historical, ecological or social import and has been included in the Significant Tree Registry of the Significant Tree Policy.

Tree Topping – means an inappropriate pruning technique to remove the top portion of a tree's main leader(s), resulting in an overall reduction in the tree's height, size and potential health or life expectancy.

View/View Corridor - A three dimensional area extending out from a viewpoint. The width and depth of the view corridor depends on the focus of the view. The focus of the view may be a single object, such as a mountain, which would result in a relatively narrow corridor, or a group of objects, such as a downtown skyline, which would result in a wide corridor. Panoramic views, such as areas of ocean, have wider corridors. [Removal of this definition has been suggested by one member. See Issue 4 below.]

Issue 3: Draft recommendation R4(c) proposes amending Section 3 statement of management purposes by inserting a new para 3(a) 1 :

3. Management of City Trees

a) The City manages trees on City lands:

1. for the overriding purposes of protecting existing trees and increasing the number of healthy trees and amount of tree canopy.
2. for the trimming and removal of trees for health reasons, such as thinning, spacing, pruning and treatment of diseased trees;
3. for the trimming, pruning or removal of trees for safety reasons such as hazardous, dead or diseased trees that cannot be treated;
4. for the trimming or removal of trees and vegetation that interfere with visibility at intersections and driveway entrances, the illumination of City lands by street lighting, or pose a risk for damage to infrastructure such as water, sanitary, storm, sidewalks, power lines, etc.;
5. for the control of invasive species;
6. for the maintenance of views from City viewpoints;
7. for the maintenance of slope stability and other geotechnical purposes;
8. for the planting of replacement and new trees; and
9. for the removal and replanting of trees as part of a parks or right-of-way redevelopment plan.

b) The pruning or removal of a City tree is the sole responsibility of the City of White Rock and its authorized agents. The pruning or removal of a City tree without a City permit is subject to fines as detailed in Section 9 of this Policy.

c) The planting of trees, shrubs or other vegetation on City lands by White Rock property owners, residents or visitors is prohibited, unless authorized by a City Boulevard Improvement Permit. The City reserves the right to remove vegetation that has been planted on City property without a permit.

d) Trees are considered to be joint property of the City and a property owner when any part of the tree trunk crosses a shared property line.

4. Exemptions

This policy does not apply to trees on City lands that are cut, removed or damaged, pursuant to the *Railway Safety Act*, R.S. 1985, c. 32 (4th Supp.), the *Hydro and Power Authority Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 212 or the *Pipeline Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 364.

5. Fines

Any person who willfully prunes, damages or removes a tree from City lands is guilty of an offense and is liable to the fines and penalties as set forth in the *City of White Rock Ticketing for Bylaw Offences Bylaw*, 2011, No. 1929, as amended, and any penalties imposed by the *Offense Act* R. S. B. C. 1996, C. 338.

Issue 4: PROCEDURE TO RESTORE A PRIVATE VIEW.

Draft recommendation R4(d) proposes moving the procedure for applications to restore a private view from the body of the Policy to an Annex.

A subsequent additional proposal tabled by a member-- as a preferred proposed alternative to eliminating the procedure -- would entail a **significant change in the scope of, and criteria for, permissible action to restore a private view. Specifically, it has been proposed that:**

“ Policy 611 be amended to limit the criteria under which applications for approved pruning, crown thinning, or width reductions are accepted to those where the property owner has clearly demonstrated that the tree has increased in size to completely obscure a previously existing view from the application property, and to prohibit the removal of city trees for the re-establishment of views. In addition, amend the policy to remove the definition of "narrow corridor" or "single object" views, and allow for the siting, species selection, and planting of new or replacement trees on City lands in all locations where future growth is not expected to completely obscure established views.”

The Annex below illustrates a number of textual amendments that might flow from this proposal. (Eventual drafting of the revised by staff might entail additional textual changes.)

ANNEX: APPLICATIONS TO PERMIT THE PRUNING ~~OR REMOVAL~~, CROWN THINNING OR WIDTH REDUCTION OF A TREE ON CITY LAND

1. [Old 5.] Refusal of Requests to Prune or Remove Trees on City Lands

The following types of requests ~~to remove a tree on City land~~ will not be considered:

- a) A tree will not be removed from City lands in order to restore a private view.
- ~~a)~~ b) A tree will not be pruned or removed from City lands due to concerns related to size, shade or leaf, flower, pitch or seed litter. These are naturally occurring situations inherent to a tree and will not be considered as justification for tree pruning or removal.
- ~~b)~~ c) A tree will not be pruned or removed from City lands:
 - i) during bird nesting season from February 1 to August 31,
 - ii) which has evidence of active nesting, or
 - iii) has evidence of use by raptors, as defined in the *Section 34* of the *Wildlife Act*, *R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 488*.
- ~~c)~~ d) A *significant tree* on City lands will not be pruned or removed.
- ~~d)~~ e) A tree on *City parkland* will not be pruned or removed.
- ~~e)~~ f) A tree in a City ravine area will not be pruned or removed in contradiction to the federal *Fisheries Act* and the provincial *Riparian Areas Regulations*.
- ~~f)~~ g) A tree will not be pruned or removed from City lands to establish a new view.

~~g)~~ h) A tree on City land will not be topped. The topping of a tree can cause permanent damage by promoting decay as well as leading to hazardous conditions due to unnatural, dense and weak branching structure. Previously topped trees may be considered for re-topping, provided that the re-topping, in the opinion of the City Arborist, will not result in future hazardous conditions for the tree.

2. [Old 6] Applications to Permit the Pruning ~~or Removal~~ of a Tree on City Lands

- a) City policy is to retain trees on City lands ~~where practical~~. However, residents may apply for the trimming, pruning or removal of trees on City lands as outlined below. (Application Form- Appendix A)
- b) Applications are made to the City's Department of Engineering and Municipal Operations.
- c) The pruning ~~or removal~~ of a healthy tree on City land is a private benefit to the property owner. All costs necessary for the approved pruning ~~or removal~~ of a tree on City land, as determined by the Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations, will be at the expense of the applicant.
- d) Applications to trim ~~or~~ prune ~~or remove~~ a tree on City land to re-establish a view will be considered only in those instances in which a White Rock property owner is able to clearly demonstrate that a City tree has grown over a period of time to **completely** obscure an established view from their White Rock property.

2.1 [Old 6.1] Applicant Requirements

- a) Applicants must be an owner of a property in White Rock within 30 metres of the tree under application.
- b) Applicants must have owned the property for which the application has been made for a continuous period of not less than 2 years.
- c) No more than 1 application to prune or remove a specific tree(s) will be considered from a the same property owner within a 2 year period.

2.2 [Old 6.2] Application Submission Requirements

- a) Completed tree trimming/pruning/~~removal~~-application.
- b) Written rationale describing the manner in which a view has been obscured by tree growth, and the manner in which the applicant wishes to have the tree pruned ~~or removed~~ in order to re-establish a view.
- c) Non-refundable fee as outlined in the City of White Rock Planning and Procedures Bylaw, 2009, No. 1869.
- d) Property title demonstrating 2 years of continuous property ownership prior to the date of application.

- e) Photographic and/or graphic information that clearly demonstrates the manner in which a view has become obscured by tree growth. City staff may require a site visit to substantiate the information submitted. Refusal to allow City staff to access a property may result in the closing of the application.
- f) Funds for geotechnical/hydrological assessments, as deemed necessary by the Director of Engineering & Municipal Operations in order to review the application.

2.3 [Old 6.3] Notification Prior to Decision

The City will provide notification as follows:

- a) The City will mail letters, with an attached response form, to all White Rock property owners within 30 metres of the tree under application, notifying the property owners of the application, the rationale provided for tree pruning ~~or removal~~, providing a recent photograph of the tree, and requesting that the White Rock property owners complete the response form and submit it to the Engineering and Municipal Operations Department, indicating either support or opposition to the application.
- b) Response forms indicating support or opposition to the proposed tree pruning ~~or removal~~ are to be received within 2 weeks of the letter delivery. Any response forms received after this time period will not be considered.

2.4 [Old 6.4] Criteria for Decision

[Note: The importance of criteria for approving an application has been highlighted in Committee discussions. Does any member wish to propose any further additional criteria, or propose that staff be directed to develop such criteria? Does draft recommendation R18(b)(ii) adequately address this concern?]

- a) The tree under application must be clearly demonstrated to have increased in size to **completely** obscure an established view from the application property, as determined by the Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations.
- b) 65% of the response forms received by the Engineering and Municipal Operations Department from White Rock property owners within 30 metres of the tree must indicate support for the proposed tree pruning ~~or removal~~. A maximum of one property owner response form will be considered from each White Rock address. Only response forms clearly indicating support or opposition to the proposed tree pruning ~~or removal~~ will be considered. Responses or surveys submitted on behalf of nearby property owners or residents will not be considered.

2.5 [Old 6.5] Application Approval Requirements

- a) Submission of funds for retaining systems and hydrological improvements, as determined by the Director of Engineering & Municipal Operations.
- b) Submission of tree pruning, ~~tree removal~~ and cleanup costs.

c) Submission of funds for tree replacement, as follows: [Would replacement requirements be eliminated if removal applications are not entertained?]

- (a) 6 – 50 cm DBH tree removed - \$2,000
- (b) 51 cm to 65 cm DBH tree removed - \$9,000 (c) 66 cm to 75 cm DBH tree - \$12,000
- (d) 76 cm to 85 cm DBH - \$15,000
- (e) Greater than 85 cm DBH tree - \$18,000

2.6 [Old 6.6] Application Decision

[Note: this section may require eventual adjustment in light of recommendations R16 and R19 regarding public notice and Council oversight.]

- a) The approval or denial of an application to prune ~~or remove~~ a tree on City lands will be made by the Director of Engineering & Municipal Operations, whose decision is final.
- b) A final decision on an application to prune or remove a tree on City lands will be provided in a timely manner, and in any case within 60 days of the date of application, unless extended by mutual agreement between the applicant and the Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations.
- c) Written confirmation of the decision will be provided to the applicant, all White Rock property owners within 30 metres of the tree, and Council.

3. [Old 7] Tree Pruning, Removal and Planting

- a) All tree pruning, ~~removal~~ and replacement resulting from an approved application to prune ~~or remove~~ a tree on City lands will be conducted by City staff and/or their designated agents.
- b) A minimum of 2 trees will be planted on City property as replacements for each tree removed as a result of an approved tree removal application, except as detailed in the following sections c) and d).
- c) Securities submitted for tree replacement may be applied to the installation of any form of vegetation, including trees, on City lands, as determined by the Director of Engineering & Municipal Operations.
- d) Trees planted as new or replacement trees will be sited and of a species such that they will not grow to ~~completely~~ obscure established views from White Rock properties.

4. [Old 8] Trees on City Lands Impacted by Development

Requests to prune or remove City trees that are the result of applications for rezoning, development permit, demolition permit, building permit, or subdivision of properties within 30 metres of the tree will be reviewed as Type 3 requests under Tree Management Bylaw No. 1831, in conjunction with the development proposal and forwarded to Council for decision simultaneous with the development proposal. Application fees, securities, proposals for cash-in-lieu, replacement trees, tree protection, and inspection and assessment shall be as outlined in Parts 7 to 10 of Bylaw No. 1831.

2019-2021 ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ACTION TRACKING

Meeting Date	Motion #/ Action Item	Agenda Item # & Title	Committee recommendation/ Action item	Staff/ Member Assigned	Status or Completion Date <i>(Red indicates Completed Items)</i>
2019-07-24	Action item	Item 8 – Environmental Strategic Plan	Staff to provide a progress report on the implementation of the action plan in the ESP for the Committee at their next scheduled meeting.	Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations	Provided at September 5 meeting
2019-07-24	Action item	Item 9 – Integrated Storm-Water Management Plan	Staff to provide an update on the status of items listed under table E.1: Recommendations (page ix) and Section 6- Implementation Plan in the Integrated Stormwater Management Plan to the Committee for review at their next scheduled Committee meeting.	Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations	
2019-07-24	Action item	Item 9.2 – Signage at the Beach/ Memorial Park	Committee member D. Riley to provide images of the previously implemented signs to the Committee for their information.	D. Riley / Committee Clerk	Sent via email
2019-07-24	Action item	Item 9.3 – Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands – Policy 611	Committee Clerk to email Committee members Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611 for their information.	Committee Clerk	Sent via email
2019-09-05		Item 6 – Environmental Strategic Plan & Integrated Storm-Water Management Plan	Staff to provide link for the City's Aquifer Protection Plan, and the September 9 Tree Canopy report to the Committee for information.	Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations	Tree Canopy Report – Provided at the October 3 meeting. Aquifer Protection Plan provided by email March, 2020.

Meeting Date	Motion #/ Action Item	Agenda Item # & Title	Committee recommendation/ Action item	Staff/ Member Assigned	Status or Completion Date <i>(Red indicates Completed Items)</i>
2019-09-05	2019-315 Council recommenda tion to EAC	Item 7 – Tree management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	<p>THAT Council refers the following documents to the City's Environmental Advisory Committee for input:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Rock Tree Management Bylaw, 2008, No. 1831; and • Engineering and Municipal Operations Policy No. 611, with the following topics for consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tree Management on City Lands for review from an environmental perspective / protecting our environment for recommendations to come back to this committee in the Fall 2019. ○ Tree Management on City Lands for review and make recommendation(s) as to how they should change in regard to Council oversight of trees before they are taken down. 	Referred to the Committee	Committee is working through item
2019-09-05	2019-EAC-010	Item 7 – Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	<p>THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee form a Sub-Committee to examine both Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611; and,</p> <p>THAT the following members serve on the Sub-Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S. Crozier; • D. Riley; and, • I. Lessner. <p>Motion rescinded - 2019-EAC-032. Created a working group</p>		
2019-09-05	2019-EAC-012	Item 8 – Motion regarding Bylaw 1119 and Extending the Current Prohibition of Dogs to Encompass Finlay to Bergstrom	THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee (the Committee) recommends that Council consider bringing any changes to existing City Bylaws regarding the beach to the Committee for their consideration.	Council	September 30 Council meeting. Referred back to Committee for further explanation

Meeting Date	Motion #/ Action Item	Agenda Item # & Title	Committee recommendation/ Action item	Staff/ Member Assigned	Status or Completion Date <i>(Red indicates Completed Items)</i>
2019-09-09	2019-342	Regular Council meeting referral to EAC – White Rock Pier/ Options for Southwest Floating Facility and Pier Reconstruction Update	<p>THAT Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Receives for information the corporate report dated September 9, 2019 from the Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations titled “White Rock Pier – Options for Southwest Floating Facility”; 2. Directs staff to begin full public engagement and concept plan development for the future activities at White Rock Pier’s reconstructed southwest floating facility; and 3. Directs that the corporate report be forwarded to the Environmental Advisory Committee for their comment and expertise. 	EAC	Committee to continue discussion on this item in 2020.
2019-09-30	Council back to EAC	October 24 EAC meeting – 2019-EAC-025	<p>THAT Council refers Recommendation 2019-EAC-012 back to the Environmental Advisory Committee so its intention can be explained further to Council:</p> <p>THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee (the Committee) request that Council receive the following statement with respect to motion 2019-EAC-12: <i>The Committee notes that, given the environmental implications of activities on or near the water, it considers that any bylaws or amendments thereto that have the potential to affect water quality or environmental conditions on the shore should be reviewed from an environmental perspective. The Committee stands ready to review and provide advice on any such questions Council may wish to refer to it.</i></p>	EAC	Provided for discussion on the October 24 agenda. Motion on Council agenda for February 10 th meeting. Received for information.
2019-10-03	Action item	Item 8 – Climate Emergency	Climate Emergency to be provided on the next Committee agenda for further discussion.	Committee Clerk	Added to October 24 meeting agenda
2019-11-14	Action item	Item 4 – Kaitlyn Blair, Earl Marriot Secondary School: White Rock Climate Protest	Committee Clerk to include Ms. Blair’s letter in the agenda package as Part of the official record for the meeting.	Committee Clerk	Done

Meeting Date	Motion #/ Action Item	Agenda Item # & Title	Committee recommendation/ Action item	Staff/ Member Assigned	Status or Completion Date (Red indicates Completed Items)
2019-11-14	Action item	Item 4 – Kaitlyn Blair, Earl Marriot Secondary School: White Rock Climate Protest	The Committee to discuss the goals noted in Ms. Blair’s letter with staff at the next scheduled meeting in preparation of staff’s corporate report to Council in the new year.	Committee Clerk	Added to December 5 agenda
2019-11-14	Action Item	Item 6 – Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	Staff to provide the Committee with suggested changes for Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611 at the next scheduled meeting.	Staff	Provided in December 5 agenda package
2019-11-14	2019-EAC-028	Item 7 – 2019/20 Operational Plan for the Parks Department	<p>2019-EAC-028 <u>It was MOVED and SECONDED</u></p> <p>WHEREAS Parks Maintenance is currently based primarily on aesthetics, as outlined in the Canadian Landscape Standards, and available budget; and,</p> <p>WHEREAS White Rock’s Parks Management Plan should specifically address the range of important environmental factors, such as use of pesticides, invasive species, native plants, water usage, climate change etc.; and,</p> <p>WHEREAS there is a growing field of sustainable landscape architecture with guidelines that include consideration of environmental factors, along with ecological design, use of low impact materials, and green infrastructure; and</p> <p>WHEREAS implementation of these guidelines is compatible with the City’s requirements for budgetary discipline and acceptable aesthetic outcomes;</p>	Council @ their December 2 meeting	Endorsed. Working through actions in motion with staff

			<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that the City adopt sustainable design principles and guidelines for the management of City parks. Further, it is recommended that the City develop, in consultation with the Environmental Advisory Committee, a multi-year plan to phase in implementation of sustainable design principles and guidelines into its annual Parks operational plans.</p> <p><u>CARRIED</u></p>		
Meeting Date	Motion #/ Action Item	Agenda Item # & Title	Committee recommendation/ Action item	Staff/ Member Assigned	Status or Completion Date (Red indicates Completed Items)
2019-11-14	Action Item	Item 8 – Semiahmoo Bay Water Quality	The Committee to work with the Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations to determine the appropriate person to invite from the Province. It was noted that this would occur in 2020.	D. Riley and J. Gordon	In progress.
2019-11-14	Action Item	Item 10 – Action Tracking	Committee Clerk to provide members with the Environmental Advisory Committee annual report	Committee Clerk	Emailed to all members
2019-11-14	Action Item	Item 12 – Environmental Advisory Committee meetings	Committee Clerk to provide additional 2020 dates to the Committee for consideration at their next meeting	Committee Clerk	Included in December 5 agenda package
2019-11-18	Council Referral	Kevin Thompson, Resident: Pollinator Friendly City	THAT Council directs staff to invite Kevin Thompson to the next Environmental Advisory Committee.	Committee Clerk to organize	Attending Feb 6 meeting

Meeting Date	Motion #/ Action Item	Agenda Item # & Title	Committee recommendation/ Action item	Staff/ Member Assigned	Status or Completion Date (Red indicates Completed Items)
2019-12-05	2019-EAC-032/033	Item 4 –Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	<p>THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee rescinds motion 2019-EAC-010</p> <p>THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee creates a working group to do further research and organize information relating to Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611.</p>		<p>Working group established. (Note: Subcommittee motion 2019-EAC-010 rescinded).</p> <p>Item being discussed by the Committee as a whole.</p>
2019-12-05	2019-EAC-035	Item 5 – Climate Emergency	<p>THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee requests that Council:</p> <p>Joins other jurisdictions of Metro Vancouver in recognizing the “climate emergency” arising from critical threats that climate change poses on multiple fronts to regional ecosystems, city infrastructure and the well-being of White Rock’s citizens,</p> <p><u>Declares</u> its determination to ensure that the critical interests of White Rock and its citizens are protected and advanced in the fullest possible measure through the City’s climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies,</p> <p><u>Requests the Environmental Advisory Committee, working with staff:</u></p> <p>(a) In the context of its mandated review of the Environmental Strategic Plan, to give priority</p>	Council	<p>January 13 Council meeting. Endorsed by Council. Working through actions in motion with staff</p>

			<p>consideration to that Plan’s climate change-related elements, and in so doing to consider also the 2010 Community Climate Action Plan and climate change-related elements of the 2017 OCP.</p> <p>(b) To recommend updated emission reduction targets, aligned with targets established by Metro Vancouver in July 2019, and consistent with current provincial and federal goals and the latest IPCC work.</p> <p>(c) To recommend steps, including appropriate public consultation measures, to ensure that the City’s climate change goals, policies and actions are updated and consolidated into the Official Community Plan as part of the ongoing OCP review exercise.</p> <p><u>Directs staff to:</u></p> <p>(a) Ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation considerations are mainstreamed into decision-making and operations across all City departments and that climate change impact assessments expressly figure in all reports and recommendations to Council,</p> <p>(b) Keep Council apprised of work by Metro officials and committees to develop regional Climate 2050 Roadmaps, and of opportunities and requirements to ensure the City’s interests and perspectives are taken into account in the Roadmaps process,</p> <p>(c) Advise Council of any organizational, human resource or financial requirements deemed necessary to ensure the effective implementation of this resolution, as well as opportunities to take advantage of regional, provincial</p>		
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			<p>and extra-governmental resources available to inform and support our climate change efforts,</p> <p>(d) Keep Council regularly informed of progress in the implementation of this resolution, including through briefings on the City's annual reports to the Province's Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP).</p>		
Meeting Date	Motion #/ Action Item	Agenda Item # & Title	Committee recommendation/ Action item	Staff/ Member Assigned	Status or Completion Date (Red indicates Completed Items)
2019-12-05	Action Item	Item 5 - Climate Emergency	Staff to provide the Committee with information on where the funds from the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) are allocated in the City and how these fund can be utilized in the future.	Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations	
2020-01-23	Action Item	Item 5 – Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	Staff to add the remainder of items (Increase Canopy coverage from current 17% to over 25% in 2 years; significant increase of replanting (replacement trees requirement), and the Greening of the City) to the next scheduled meeting for further discussion.	Committee Clerk	Added to Feb 6 agenda
2020-01-23	Action Item	Item 6 – Organization of Upcoming Agenda Items	Staff to invite Director of Planning and Development Services to the February 6, and February 20 th meeting to discuss timing, further targets etc. for the OCP review process as well as the Zoning Bylaw and Bylaw 1831	Committee Clerk	Invited to both meetings
2020-01-23	Action Item	Item 6 – Organization of Upcoming Agenda Items	Staff to invite Metro Vancouver to the February 20 th Committee meeting to provide presentation.	Committee Clerk	Confirmed for Feb 20 th
2020-01-23	Action Item	Item 6 – Organization of Upcoming Agenda Items	Councillor Johanson to provide additional information to the Committee on the timeline for the insurance claim surrounding the White Rock Pier/ West Wharf replacement.	Councillor Johanson	Info to be provided @ Feb 6 meeting

Meeting Date	Motion #/ Action Item	Agenda Item # & Title	Committee recommendation/ Action item	Staff/ Member Assigned	Status or Completion Date (Red indicates Completed Items)
2020-01-23	Action Item	Item 6 – Organization of Upcoming Agenda Items	Staff to provide an update on Council’s request that they start developing a concept for the White Rock Pier/ West Wharf replacement.	Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations	Added as a standing agenda item for updates as they arise.
2020-01-23	Action Item	Item 6 – Organization of Upcoming Agenda Items	D. Riley, Committee member, to provide information to staff following the February 18 th Shared Water Alliance meeting on which representative to invite from the Province to discuss water quality. Update to be provided to the Committee at the February 20 th meeting.	D. Riley	Information to be provided for Feb 20 th meeting. Committee to determine date for invitation –
2020-01-23	Action Item	Item 6 – Organization of Upcoming Agenda Items	Staff to invite Mr. Thompson to present at either the February 6 th or March 5 th Committee meeting.	Committee Clerk	Confirmed for Feb 6 meeting
2020-02-06	Action Item	Item 5 - Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands policy 611	S. Crozier and P. Byer to revise the proposed recommendations to incorporate Committee feedback and will provide another draft at the next meeting (February 20, 2020). Future revisions and adoption will be reviewed at the following meeting (March 5, 2020).	Members S. Crozier and P. Byer	In progress
2020-02-06	Action Item	Item 6 – Official Community Plan and Climate Change	R. Hynes, Chairperson, to review the relative sections in the Environmental Strategic Plan, the Climate Change Action Plan, and the OCP and propose an approach to the Committee’s mandate to review the City’s climate change strategies.	Member R. Hynes	Suggested approach (following CARIP review) discussed at the Feb, 20 th meeting. Review to take place in the same time period as staff would normally prepare the CARIP report.

Meeting Date	Motion #/ Action Item	Agenda Item # & Title	Committee recommendation/ Action item	Staff/ Member Assigned	Status or Completion Date (Red indicates Completed Items)
2020-02-06	Action Item	Item 7 – Information	White Rock Pier/ Wharf Replacement to be added to the next agenda for discussion	Committee Clerk	Added to Feb 20 Agenda
2020-02-20	Action Item	Item 7 – White Rock Pier/ West Wharf Replacement	White Rock Pier/ West Wharf Replacement to remain as a standing item.	Committee Clerk	Ongoing
2020-02-20	Action Item	Item 9.1 – Update from D. Riley re Provincial Representative Invitation	The Committee to determine a meeting date to invite the provincial representative to. Staff to extend an invitation to Council should they wish to attend the meeting.		postponed due to COVID-19. To be revisited when possible.
2020-09-24	Action Item	4. Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	Staff to send the Urban Forest Management to the Committee for information.	Manager of Planning	Information sent by email and provided in October 8 agenda
2020-09-24	Action Item	4. Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	Staff to provide the Committee with staff's suggestions for Policy 611 for information/ consideration.	Committee Clerk	Provided for information in October 8 agenda pkg
2020-09-24	Action Item	5.White Rock Pier/ West Wharf Replacement	Staff to provide the Committee with the updated consultant report, if possible.	Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations	Document provided on table at Sept. 28 Council meeting – link circulated to members by email
2020-09-24	Action Item	5.White Rock Pier/ West Wharf Replacement	P. Byer to submit an updated version of his previous summary regarding this matter to the Committee for information/discussion at a future meeting.	Committee Member P. Byer	

Meeting Date	Motion #/ Action Item	Agenda Item # & Title	Committee recommendation/ Action item	Staff/ Member Assigned	Status or Completion Date (Red indicates Completed Items)
2020-09-24	Action Item	6. Information	Staff to provide an update on Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) reporting.	Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations	Information sent by Email – reporting has been done
2020-09-24	Action Item	8. Environmental Advisory Committee Meetings	Staff to investigate the possibility of scheduling an alternate date for the October 8 th meeting.	Committee Clerk	Meeting to remain on October 8th
2020-10-08	Action Item	4. Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	Staff to provide an update/ explanation on the suggested changes for policy 611 (in relation to replacement tree cash in lieu amount) at the next meeting.	Planning Department	To be discussed at October 22 meeting
2020-10-08	Action Item	7. Other Business	Staff to provide the Committee with a brief report on the topic of Rodenticide in White Rock at a future meeting for discussion.	Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations	Estimated - 2021
2020-11-19	Action Item	4. Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	P. Byer, Committee member, to come back to the Committee with a potential recommendation on the subject of public notice.	P. Byer	Included in December 8 agenda package
2020-11-19	2020-EAC-022	4. Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	<p>THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that, in the context of the ongoing Official Community Plan (OCP) and Zoning Bylaw review, staff be directed to develop proposals to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Give greater and more explicit priority to tree preservation in the requirements set by zoning and planning regulations across all Development Permit Areas; b) Give more explicit attention to tree preservation and canopy enhancement in the procedures governing the application of planning and zoning requirements. This could be achieved by 	To Council	To be provided to Council with all recommendation in January, 2021

			amending the Planning Procedure Bylaw 2234 to require mandatory consideration – and written record- of implications for tree protection and canopy enhancements in all relevant Advisory Design Panel and Planning Department deliberations, decisions and recommendations to Council.		
Meeting Date	Motion #/ Action Item	Agenda Item # & Title	Committee recommendation/ Action item	Staff/ Member Assigned	Status or Completion Date (Red indicates Completed Items)
2020-11-19	2020-EAC-023	4. Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	<p>THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that:</p> <p>(a) The process of developing an Urban Forest Management Plan be completed as soon as possible.</p> <p>(b) Key elements of the UFMP should include:</p> <p>(i) recognition that trees on both private and public lands are essential components of the urban forest and ecology of the city;</p> <p>(ii) setting an explicit canopy recovery target (eg, 27% canopy coverage by 2045);</p> <p>(iii) undertakings to increase the currently projected maximum number of trees (2500) that can be planted on City land and</p> <p>(iv) strategies for increasing lands on which the City can plant additional trees to help meet the target.</p> <p>(c) Progress in achieving any UFMP or canopy coverage goals should be monitored through the presentation of annual Tree Canopy Plan updates to Council (see Recommendation R20).</p>	To Council	To be provided to Council with all recommendation in January, 2021
2020-11-19	2020-EAC-024	4. Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that Bylaw 1831, currently entitled “White Rock Tree Management Bylaw”, be re-entitled as “White Rock Tree Protection Bylaw.”	To Council	To be provided to Council with all recommendation in January, 2021

Meeting Date	Motion #/ Action Item	Agenda Item # & Title	Committee recommendation/ Action item	Staff/ Member Assigned	Status or Completion Date (Red indicates Completed Items)
2020-11-19	Action Item	5. Information	BNSF Lands to be added to tracking document for discussion at a later date.		To discuss 2021
2020-12-08	2020-EAC-029	4. Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	<p>THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that Policy 611 "Tree Management on City Lands" be amended as follows:</p> <p>a) Change its title to "Tree Protection, Canopy Enhancement and Management on City Lands."</p> <p>b) Amend Section 1 as follows: "Policy: In managing trees on City land, it is the priority of the City of White Rock to protect existing trees and increase the number of healthy trees and amount of tree canopy and thus enhance and ensure the sustainability of the City's urban forest and realization of the environmental and esthetic benefits it provides. In this context, the interest of property owners in preserving or restoring private views obstructed by City trees will be addressed through a procedure described in annex 1 to this Policy. "</p> <p>c) In Section 3 "Management of City Trees" insert an additional clause (a.1) as follows: "</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) The City manages trees on city lands: 1. For the overriding purposes of protecting existing trees and increasing the number of healthy trees and amount of tree canopy."</p> <p>d) Move Sections 5, 6, 7 and 8 to an annex to the Policy.</p> <p>e) Limit the criteria under which applications for approved pruning, crown thinning, or width reductions are accepted to those where the property owner has clearly demonstrated that the tree has increased in size to completely obscure a previously existing view from the application property, and to prohibit the topping or removal of city trees for the re-establishment of views. In addition, amend the policy to remove the definition of "narrow corridor" or "single object" views, and allow for the siting, species selection, and planting of new or replacement trees on City</p>	To Council	To be provided to Council with all recommendation in January, 2021

			lands in all locations where future growth is not expected to completely obscure established views.		
2020-12-08	2020-EAC-030	4. Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that the minimum size for the definition of a “protected tree” in Bylaw 1831 be reduced to a trunk diameter at breast height (DBH) 20 cm or less.	To Council	To be provided to Council with all recommendation in January, 2021
2020-12-08	2020-EAC-031	4. Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) recommends that Council direct staff to conduct a technical review and update the texts of Bylaws and Policies addressed in this report in order to identify any amendments, consistent with the EAC’s recommendations, that may be needed to ensure currency, clarity and consistency of these documents.	To Council	To be provided to Council with all recommendation in January, 2021
2020-12-08	2020-EAC-032	4. Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that the regulations and policies concerning “significant trees” and “heritage trees” be reviewed and rationalized by establishing a consolidated definition of “significant Tree”, a “Significant Tree Policy” and a “Significant Tree Registry” applicable to trees on both public and private lands. These should draw on criteria and procedures derived from best practices in other municipalities and relevant provincial guidelines. Bylaw 1831 and Policy 611 should be amended to make clear that “significant” trees of any size will not be removed for other than safety reasons or as approved by Council.	To Council	To be provided to Council with all recommendation in January, 2021
2020-12-08	2020-EAC-033	4. Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that Bylaw 1831 be revised by removing fruit trees, alders and cottonwood from the definition of “lower value trees”.	To Council	To be provided to Council with all recommendation in January, 2021

Meeting Date	Motion #/ Action Item	Agenda Item # & Title	Committee recommendation/ Action item	Staff/ Member Assigned	Status or Completion Date (Red indicates Completed Items)
2020-12-08	2020-EAC-034	4. Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	<p>THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that Policy 611 be revised to:</p> <p>a) Rewrite that when the City is evaluating initiatives that might result in tree removal on City lands, all possible ways to protect the trees should be considered;</p> <p>b) If they must be removed, ambitious replacement requirements should be specified.</p>	To Council	To be provided to Council with all recommendation in January, 2021
2020-12-08	2020-EAC-035	4. Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	<p>THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that Council direct staff to review the current fees, securities, replacement values and fines related to tree removal and replacements to ensure they are commensurate with best practices conducive to achieving the goals of maintaining and increasing the number of healthy trees and the amount of tree canopy in the City.</p>	To Council	To be provided to Council with all recommendation in January, 2021
2020-12-08	2020-EAC-036	4. Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	<p>THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that Council direct staff to review the sufficiency of the methods and resources employed to ensure effective enforcement of Bylaw 1831 and Policy 611.</p>	To Council	To be provided to Council with all recommendation in January, 2021
2020-12-08	2020-EAC-037	4. Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	<p>Considering the central role played by private contractors in the management of trees on private property, the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that staff maintain a record of contractors that contravene Bylaw 1831 or Policy 611 and take steps to ensure that such contractors are not hired by the City, that relevant fines are levied on them, and/or their business licenses are suspended or revoked.</p>	To Council	To be provided to Council with all recommendation in January, 2021

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2020-12-08	Action Items	5. Information	The use of plastics to be added to tracking document for discussion at a later date.		To discuss 2021
2020-12-17	2020-EAC-040	4. Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that Bylaw 1831 be amended to permit the utilization of tree replacement security and deposit revenues for a range of activities to enhance and protect the City's tree canopy, including: the planting of trees on City lands, care and maintenance of trees on City lands, programs to encourage and support the planting of additional trees on private lands, and public education on the importance of enhancing and protecting trees and the tree canopy.	To Council	To be provided to Council with all recommendation in January, 2021
2020-12-17	2020-EAC-041	4. Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that Council direct staff to review and improve the methods by which citizens and property owners are informed of the importance of tree preservation and the requirements of Policy 611 and Bylaw 1831, including the use of new tools for dissemination and for residents to notify the City when they believe that Bylaw 1831 or Policy 611 are being contravened.	To Council	To be provided to Council with all recommendation in January, 2021
2020-12-17	2020-EAC-042	4. Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that: (a) The Policy 510 provisions regarding notice to adjacent property owners (para. 3) and applicant appeals (para. 6) be spelled out in Bylaw 1831 and extended to Type 3 (as well as Type 2) applications. (b) The annual Tree Canopy Report to Council (see R2c) include statistics regarding tree permit applications (of all types) received and approved or refused plus analysis of the consequent trends and	To Council	To be provided to Council with all recommendation in January, 2021

			implications for the effectiveness of the City's tree protection and canvas preservation and enhancement efforts.		
2020-12-17	2020-EAC-043	4. Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	<p>THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that:</p> <p>(a) City requirements for a business license as an arborist and the definition of arborist in Bylaw 1831 be amended to provide that International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certification is the sole and exclusive credential required for receipt of a licence.</p> <p>(b) Procedures in Bylaw 1831 and Policy 611 be amended to require that City Arborists visit and inspect all sites under consideration before a tree permit is approved. The above narrative and R17 (a and b) have been fine-tuned to reflect EAC discussion and agreement at its October meeting.</p> <p>(c) Bylaw 1831 be revised to only allow City staff or agents to remove or plant trees on City lands.</p>	To Council	To be provided to Council with all recommendation in January, 2021
2020-12-17	2020-EAC-044	4. Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	<p>THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that:</p> <p>(a) City requirements for a business license as an arborist and the definition of arborist in Bylaw 1831 be amended to provide that International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certification is the sole and exclusive credential required for receipt of a licence.</p> <p>(b) Procedures in Bylaw 1831 and Policy 611 be amended to require that City Arborists visit and inspect all sites under consideration before a tree permit is approved. The above narrative and R17(a and b) have been fine-tuned to reflect EAC discussion and agreement at its October meeting.</p> <p>(c) Bylaw 1831 be revised to only allow City staff or agents to remove or plant trees on City lands.</p>	To Council	To be provided to Council with all recommendation in January, 2021

2020-12-17	2020-EAC-045	4. Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	<p>THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that:</p> <p>(a) Bylaw 1831 be amended to establish:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) explicit criteria for approval of Type 2 and Type 3 tree management permits taking into account the provisions of Policy 510 and best practices in other jurisdictions including City of Vancouver.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) appropriate criteria to govern decisions by City officials regarding the management of trees on City land.</p> <p>(b) Existing City policies, including 510 and 611, be revised to bring them into line with any bylaw amendments introduced pursuant to R18 (a).</p>	To Council	To be provided to Council with all recommendation in January, 2021
2020-12-17	Action Item	4. Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	R13 to be discussed further at the next meeting to allow members to have extra time for consideration.		Added to agenda for discussion at January 7, 2021 meeting
2020-12-17	Action Item	4. Tree Management Bylaw 1831 and Tree Management on City Lands Policy 611	The Committee suggested that they need to re-work this proposal (R19) and to come back and discuss it further at the next scheduled meeting.		Added to agenda for discussion at January 7, 2021 meeting