Environmental Advisory Committee

Minutes

January 7, 2021, 4:00 p.m.
Via Electronic Means

PRESENT:	R. Hynes, Chairperson S. Crozier, Vice-Chairperson P. Byer J. Lawrence D. Riley I. Lessner 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, Deputy Corporate Officer C. Richards, Committee Clerk

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1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2021-EAC-001: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee amend the agenda for the January 7, 2021, meeting with the inclusion of:

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- On table version of the December 17, 2020, minutes;
- On table draft summary and draft resolution for Council consideration, provided by Chairperson Hynes;

AND THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.

Motion CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2021-EAC-002: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee adopts the December 17, 2020 meeting minutes as follows:

- On page 5, Motion 2020-EAC-042 (b), last line, "canvas preservation" is to be changed to "canopy preservation";
- On page 5, Motion 2020-EAC-043, second to last line, "100 metres on the affected" is to be changed to "100 metres of the affected";
- On page 5, Motion 2020-EAC-043, second to last line, 14 Days" is to be changed to "14 days";

AND THAT the minutes be adopted as amended.

Motion CARRIED

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

A further discussion to took place by the Committee with respect to proposed amendments for Bylaw 1831 and Policy 611.

The following draft recommendations (noted in italics) were discussed:

R12: *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*

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~~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.

- The Committee discussed the use of the word “normally” in the context of the recommendation. It was debated if this should be included or not.
- It was debated if the recommendation needs to include the word “structural” with respect to branches or roots. Staff noted that
    - if the word "structural" were to be removed, then all tree pruning, major or minor, would require a permit. Having the word "structural" included in the sentence would alleviate homeowners to pull a permit for all types of tree pruning, making the process more affordable.

2021-EAC-003 It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee 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 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.

Motion CARRIED

S.Crozier voted in the negative

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. *~~Policy 611~~ 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*

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~~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. 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, ~~at least~~ on 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, approved and 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; an analysis of the consequent trends and implications for the effectiveness of the City's tree protection and canopy preservation and enhancement efforts.

- The committee member who originally recommended adding an alternative to R19(c)(iii) no longer believes in should be included in the recommendations. The Committee discussed whether or not this section should be included.

- The type of notification required for Council was discussed.

Wording amendments were discussed on the main motion.

2021-EAC-004: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee 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.

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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 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. City Policies and procedures be revised as 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. All members of Council be informed at least 14 days in advance of the proposed removal of any non-hazardous “City tree” (a tree located on city lands with a trunk diameter at breast height (DBH) greater than 6 cm.

   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 an annual basis, a public discussion of a Tree Canopy Report (see R2(b) and R15(b)) prepared by staff and including: statistics regarding tree permit applications (of all Types) received, and approved or refused; actions taken by the City in the management of trees on City lands including the use of revenues from tree permit fees and tree protection securities; and an analysis of the consequent trends and implications for the effectiveness of the City’s tree protection and canopy preservation and enhancement efforts.

Motion CARRIED

The Committee turned their discussion back to previous recommendations within their review document. Members discussed potentiation changes to recommendations already adopted by the Committee**.**

R2. The EAC recommends that:

a. ~~Key elements of the UFMP should include:~~ Council endorse the key objectives and targets developed in the 2015 UFMP exercise by:

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i. *recognizing 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*~~ *committing to increase the currently projected maximum number of trees (2500) that can be planted on City land; and*

iv. *directing staff to develop strategies for increasing lands on which the City can plant additional trees to help meet the target.*

b. *Progress in achieving ~~any UFMP or canopy coverage goals~~ these objectives and targets should be monitored through the presentation of annual Tree Canopy Reports to Council (see Recommendation R15, R19c and R19d).*

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

- It was noted that the changes to this recommendation reflect the scope of the OCP review, as well as City decision-making priorities.
- A committee member to requests that "R19c" be removed from the last line of R2(b).

2021-EAC-005: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee rescinds the originally adopted recommendation (Motion 2020-EAC-023).

Motion CARRIED

2021-EAC-006: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that:

a. Council endorse the key objectives and targets developed in the 2015 UFMP exercise by:

i. recognizing 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);

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iii. committing to increase the currently projected maximum number of trees (2500) that can be planted on City land; and

iv. directing staff to develop strategies for increasing lands on which the City can plant additional trees to help meet the target.

b. Progress in achieving these objectives and targets should be monitored through the presentation of annual Tree Canopy Reports to Council (see Recommendation R15 and R19d).

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

Motion CARRIED

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 pruning, crown thinning, or width reductions are approved 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 property.*

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

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g. *Remove references to "narrow corridor" and "single object" views in the definition of "view/view corridor".*

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.*

- It was proposed that the sub-paragraph (e) be separated through sub-paragraphs (e), (f), (g), and (h).

2021-EAC-007: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee rescinds the originally adopted recommendation (Motion 2020-EAC-029).

Motion CARRIED

2021-EAC-008: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee 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 pruning, crown thinning, or width reductions are approved to those where the property owner has clearly

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demonstrated that the tree has increased in size to completely obscure a previously existing view from the applicant's property.

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

g. Remove references to "narrow corridor" and "single object" views in the definition of "view/view corridor".

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.

Motion CARRIED

R17. The EAC recommends that:

a. *City requirements for a business licence 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 construction 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.*

- It was requested by a committee member that "for removal of receipt for a licence" be removed from the last line of R17(a).

2021-EAC-009: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee rescinds the originally adopted recommendation (Motion 2020-EAC-043).

Motion CARRIED

2021-EAC-010: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that:

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a. City requirements for a business licence 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.

b. Procedures in Bylaw 1831 and Policy 611 be amended to require that City Arborists visit and inspect all sites under construction 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.

Motion CARRIED

The Committee turned their discussion towards the Executive Summary document, provided by Chairperson Hynes. The following comments were noted:

- Councillor Johanson noted that the executive summary approach makes the recommendations more concise.

ACTION ITEM: Staff to provide a cover for the recommendations report, alerting Council the pros and cons on the recommendations so that Council can make an informed decision.

ACTION ITEM: Chairperson to provide a finalized recommendation document for the next meeting, which they hope to adopt the final recommendations for then.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

6. INFORMATION

6.1 COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKING

The chairperson encouraged members and staff to bring forward potential items for discussion for future meetings.

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;

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

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

The Chairperson concluded the meeting at 5:56pm.

R. Hynes, Chairperson

Chloe Richards, Committee Clerk

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