



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Planning Committee

Date: January 9, 2024

From: John Hopkins
Director, Policy Planning

File: 01-0100-30-ACEN1-
01/2023-Vol 01

Re: **Richmond Advisory Committee on the Environment 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Work Program**

Staff Recommendation

That the Richmond Advisory Committee on the Environment’s 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Work Program, as presented in the staff report titled “Richmond Advisory Committee on the Environment 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Work Program” dated January 9, 2024, from the Director of Policy Planning, be approved.

John Hopkins
Director, Policy Planning
(604-276-4279)

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Sustainability and District Energy Parks Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

The role of the Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE) is to provide advice to Council on environmental issues of concern to the community and receive information and offer feedback on City initiatives and projects in support of the City's sustainability goals and objectives.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Strategy #2 Strategic and Sustainable Community Growth:

- 1.1 Ensure that Richmond's targeted OCP update shapes the direction and character of the City.*
- 2.3 Ensure that both built and natural infrastructure supports sustainable development throughout the city.*

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Strategy #5 A Leader in Environmental Sustainability:

- 5.1 Continue to demonstrate leadership in proactive climate action and environmental sustainability.*
- 5.2 Support the preservation and enhancement of Richmond's natural environment.*
- 5.3 Encourage waste reduction and sustainable choices in the City and the community.*

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Strategy #6 A Vibrant, Resilient and Active Community:

- 6.2 Enhance the City's network of parks, trails and open spaces.*

Analysis

2023 Annual Report

The 2023 Annual Report is contained in Attachment 1 and includes the following highlights:

- The Committee was engaged with and provided preliminary comments on the draft guiding principles relating to the Lansdowne Major Park Master Plan.
- In support of the City's flood protection plans, the Committee received information on preliminary dike design for Steveston Harbour between the London Landing area and Garry Point Park and provided feedback to staff.
- The Committee received information and provided input to staff on the Richmond Circular City Economy as well as the associated Material Flow Analysis.

- Information sharing and awareness as related to environmental plans and initiatives being implemented through the Vancouver Airport Authority (YVR).
- Received information and provided feedback on feasibility of solar panel installation on residential buildings, which was presented as a component of the City's Community Energy and Emissions Plan 2050 (CEEP 2050) action item.
- The Committee had two in-person tours, visiting Terra Nova Rural Park and Minoru Lakes Park where Committee members received information on recent design upgrades as well as environmentally significant features and functions.

2024 Work Program

The Committee endorsed the proposed 2024 Work Program at their December 13, 2023 meeting. The 2024 Work Program is contained in Attachment 2 and includes the following highlights:

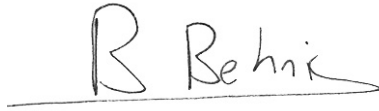
- Provide feedback on a number of projects and initiatives with an environmental component being led by a variety of departments in support of the City's sustainability goals.
- Receive overview and awareness of the Building Regulation Bylaw amendment (in force October 31, 2023) with regard to the adoption of the new Zero Carbon Step Code.
- Provide feedback on the targeted update to the Official Community Plan as it relates to Environmental Protection and Enhancement.
- Receive overview and provide preliminary feedback on the Riparian Management Area Update and the development of the City's Habitat Banking Program.
- Information sharing by the Council liaison and staff liaison to the ACE on environmental issues, including updates from representatives that participate in the Food Security and Agricultural Advisory Committee (FSAAC) and Vancouver International Airport Environmental Advisory Committee (YVR EAC).

Financial Impact

There is provision in the department budget to support the activities of the ACE.

Conclusion

The Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE) serves an important role in providing guidance to Council on achieving a sustainable environment and promoting awareness on a wide-range of environmental issues. Staff recommend that the ACE 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Work Program be approved.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B Behnia". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Babak Behnia
Planner 2
(604-204-8639)

BB:cas

Att. 1: Advisory Committee on the Environment 2023 Annual Report
2: Advisory Committee on the Environment 2024 Work Program

**2023 Annual Report
The Richmond Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE)**

Projects/Initiatives	Results	Accomplishments and Comments
Parks – Lansdowne Major Park Master Plan	Received information about the guiding principles driving the parks and open space master plan forming part of the future redevelopment of the site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks staff obtained comments and feedback from the Committee to aid in refining the engagement process as well as the design and environmentally sensitive features of the park space.
Community Energy and Emissions Plan	Received information on the provincial Local Government Climate Action Program under the guise of the CEEP 2050 and provided comments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainability staff obtained comments on the feasibility of this program as it relates to the City's CEEP 2050 objectives and specifically with regards to GHG reduction from buildings.
YVR Environmental Advisory Committee	Information sharing and updates provided to the ACE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various environmental initiatives, plans and construction activities presented to the YVR EAC were presented and summarized to the ACE members for information sharing purposes.
Recycling and Solid Waste Management	Received information about and provided input to staff on recycling and solid waste management programs and infrastructure in Richmond.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment programs staff provided information on recycling and solid waste management initiatives being looked at for 2023.
Flood Protection	Information sharing and obtained feedback from the Committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff from Engineering presented and received preliminary feedback on Steveston Island Dike design for the foreshore area from London Landing to Garry Point Park as part of the long term engagement with multiple stakeholders.
District Energy	Presentation and Overview of City Centre District Energy Utility (CCDEU).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff from Lulu Island Energy Company provided a brief overview and presentation on the technology of District Energy to the Committee and provided an in-depth analysis of the CCDEU's current scope of coverage and received feedback from Committee on future connectivity opportunities.
Parks	In-person tour of the Minoru Lakes Park post construction to review the significant environmental features and functions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks staff provided an in-person tour of the Minoru Lakes Park and highlighted some of the environmentally significant features of the future upgrades to the Committee.
	In-person tour of Terra Nova Rural Park to review the recent upgraded and features throughout the site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks staff provided an in-depth tour of the Terra Nova Rural Park to the Committee, highlighting the recent upgrades to the many areas of the park and focusing on the park's environmentally significant features and functions.

Projects/Initiatives	Results	Accomplishments and Comments
	Overview and update on the City's feral rabbit management program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee provided an update on the program and City's long term plans with regard to feral rabbit population management.
Circular Economy	Information sharing and obtained feedback from the Committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff from the Sustainability Department provided two separate presentations and received feedback on the ongoing Circular City Strategy as well as the associated Material Flow Analysis.
Solar Panel in Residential Buildings	Information sharing and obtained feedback from the Committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff from Sustainability provided an analysis on the feasibility of solar panels in residential buildings in the City and received feedback on further analysis of efficiency in other types of buildings such as institutional buildings.
Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	Information sharing and obtained feedback from the Committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee provided an overview on standards of EV charging stations in the City as well as City's plans for electrifying City vehicles and providing EV charging opportunities in more areas.
Information sharing	Information sharing amongst ACE members, Council and staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly updates provided by the Council and staff liaisons to the ACE. Information sharing between the Food Security and Agricultural Advisory Committee (FSAAC) and the ACE.

**2024 Work Program
The Advisory Committee on the Environment**

Projects/Initiatives	Expected Results	Objectives and Deliverables
Engineering	Information and awareness Obtain feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Richmond Water Conservation Program (Lead Department Engineering).
Park Programs – Initiatives	Information and awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates on Park Programs initiatives related to feral rabbits (Lead Department Parks).
Parks – Partners for Beautification	Information and awareness Obtain feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide project updates on the work to update and enhance the Partners for Beautification program at the City (Lead Department Parks).
Parks – Agricultural Lands	Information and awareness Obtain feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation on ongoing inventory, planning study and mapping out of possible additional uses and programming for Garden City Lands, South Dike Lands, London Farm and Terra Nova Rural Park (Lead Department Parks).
Nature Park Hydrological Study	Information and awareness Obtain feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an overview of the study, including objectives and criteria (Lead Department Parks).
Environmental education and awareness	Information and awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tour of Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant (External Lead – Metro Vancouver). District Energy Utility Presentation and Engagement (Lead Department Lulu Island Energy Company) . Embodied carbon in construction materials to support transition to low-embodied carbon and reduce GHG emissions (Lead Department Sustainability).
Official Community Plan Targeted Update	Information and awareness Obtain feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an overview and obtain feedback with the Committee regarding the targeted updates relating to Environmental Protection and Enhancement (ESA) (Lead Department Policy Planning).
Circular Economy	Information and awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up overview and update on the City’s Material Flow Analysis (Lead Department Sustainability).
Ecological Network Management	Information and awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Riparian Management Area (RMA) overview and updates (Lead Department Environment). Habitat Banking Application Status (Lead Department Environment).
Zero Carbon Code for Richmond’s Building Regulations Bylaw	Information and awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an overview on the City’s approach in adopting the new Zero Carbon Code into the Building Regulations Bylaw (Lead Department Sustainability).
Wildlife and Environmental Management – Projects	Information and awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information on Rodent Program (Lead Department Environment). Provide an overview and update on Bat City Program (Lead Department Environment).
Recycling and Solid Waste	Information and awareness Obtain feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive information about the City’s reporting on recycling and solid waste management and updates on initiatives and programs (Lead Department Environmental Programs).
Emergency Preparedness	Information and awareness Obtain feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information on the role of Emergency Programs at the City and preparedness education in relation to severe weather and climate adaptation (Lead Department Emergency Programs).
YVR Environmental Advisory Committee	Information sharing and awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation on the YVR Annual Sustainability Report (Lead agency YVR).
Information sharing	Education and awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular updates on matters related to sustainability and the environment arising from Council/committee. Regular updates on the activities of the Food Security and Agricultural Advisory Committee and YVR Environmental Advisory Committee.