

**DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER  
COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

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Minutes of the Council Workshop for the District of North Vancouver held at 7:05 p.m. on Tuesday, October 23, 2012 in the Committee Room of the District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, British Columbia.

**Present:** Acting Mayor M. Little  
Councillor R. Bassam  
Councillor R. Hicks  
Councillor D. MacKay-Dunn  
Councillor L. Muri  
Councillor A. Nixon (7:09 p.m.)

**Absent:** Mayor R. Walton

**Staff:** Mr. D. Stuart, Chief Administrative Officer  
Mr. B. Bydwell, General Manager – Planning, Properties & Permits  
Ms. N. Deveaux, General Manager – Finance & Technology  
Mr. G. Joyce, General Manager – Engineering, Parks & Facilities  
Mr. S. Ono, Manager, Engineering Services  
Mr. B. Dwyer, Manager – Development Services  
Mr. J. Gordon, Manager – Administrative Services  
Mr. L. Jensen, Manager – Engineering Operations  
Mr. Allen Lynch, Section Manager – Waste Reduction  
Ms. K. O'Malley, Assistant Manager – Waste Reduction  
Ms. C. Walker, Chief Bylaw Officer  
Mr. B. Dunsford, Confidential Council Clerk

**Also in**

**Attendance:** Ms. Linda Parkinson, Dillon Consulting Ltd.

**1. Opening by the Mayor**

Acting Mayor M. Little opened the meeting and welcomed staff and the public to the Council Workshop.

**2. Solid Waste Management Plan – Draft Executive Summary**

File No. 11.5360.00

Councillor MACKAY-DUNN left the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

**Presentation:** Ms. Linda Parkinson, Dillon Consulting Ltd., and Mr. Len Jensen, Manager – Engineering Services

Ms. Linda Parkinson, Dillon Consulting Ltd., delivered a presentation outlining the key study findings of the District of North Vancouver Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan (ISWMP) drawing attention to the following key points:

- The Greater Vancouver Regional District (known as Metro Vancouver), of which the District of North Vancouver is a member municipality, has set a goal to reduce per capita waste generated within the region, calculated on a 5 year rolling average, to ninety percent or less of 2010 volumes by 2020;
- Through reuse, recycling and material recovery, Metro Vancouver intends to increase waste diversion rates from fifty five percent to a minimum of seventy percent by 2015 and eighty percent by 2020;

- Broken down by sector the foregoing diversion rate targets are thirty percent for multi-family, sixty five percent for single family, seventy percent for industrial/commercial/institutional (ICI), and eighty percent for demolition and land clearing (DLC);
- Municipalities not meeting the foregoing targets are exposed to pecuniary fines collected at transfer stations and landfill sites;
- The challenge of solid waste management at the municipal level is finding an acceptable balance between customer service (social), operational efficiency (financial) and diversion (environmental);
- Currently, the District is between a forty eight and sixty four percent diversion rate for the single family sector; and,
- A key finding of the ISWMP study is that the status quo will not achieve Metro Vancouver waste targets.

Ms. Parkinson continued by outlining specific conclusions drawn from the ISWMP study in relation to each specific sector frequently referencing Metro Vancouver recommendations to member municipalities. Ms. Parkinson concluded by transitioning into the priority decisions for council consideration and ceded the floor to Mr. Len Jensen, Manager – Engineering Operations.

Councillor MACKAY-DUNN returned to the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Mr. Len Jensen, Manager – Engineering Operations, advised council that the focus of the workshop is the following key change decisions in relation to single family collection:

- Bi-weekly garbage collection, as opposed to the current weekly collection schedule;
- Reduce garbage limit; and,
- Standardize containers with District of North Vancouver supplied carts.

For visual display purposes, Mr. Jensen brought forward a one hundred forty litre cart, a two hundred forty litre cart, and a three hundred sixty litre capacity cart. Staff referred to an analysis on the impacts of container options that provided three different service delivery options outlining whether each constituted an improvement, a regression, or no change in terms of environmental benefits, financial benefit and customer service. The three service delivery options are as follows:

- Current container mix;
- Wildlife resistant carts for garbage; and,
- Wildlife resistant carts for organics,

Using the above mentioned measuring criteria, Mr. Jensen referred to four impacts of various user pay options as follows:

- No extra permitted - everyone only permitted to place out the base maximum;
- Tag for extra items;
- Annual charge for larger or additional container (volume-based system); and,
- Charge for waste collected (waste-based system).

Mr. Jensen provided the following recommendations relating to single family collection:

- To meet diversion targets set base garbage service at one hundred forty litres bi-weekly (with two hundred forty litre container as an option with extra cost); and,
- Provide each resident with wildlife resistant two hundred forty litre cart (with one hundred forty litre cart as available option) for weekly organics.

As an alternative, Mr. Jensen provided the following recommendations relating to single family collection:

- To meet diversion targets set base garbage service at one hundred forty litres bi-weekly (with a two hundred forty litre container as an option with extra cost); and,
- Provide each resident with wildlife resistant one hundred forty litre cart (with two hundred forty litre container as an option with extra cost) for weekly organics.

Mr. Jensen advised that based on Council feedback, staff intends to develop a comprehensive plan including an implementation schedule to bring back to Council for review.

### **Council Discussion:**

In response to council concerns regarding the odour of waste, specifically if pickup is moved to a bi-weekly schedule, staff acknowledged the issue and stated that organic waste is typically responsible for creating the strongest odours within household garbage. Since organic waste would continue to be picked up weekly, residents could avoid odour by being diligent in their efforts to separate organics from other household waste.

In response to a council query regarding the requirement for organics to be placed directly in the container with no bag or liner, staff advised that the municipality has little control over this regulation and that the company responsible for processing the organic waste requires this. Furthermore, staff advised that there are biodegradable liner products available that can be used.

Council supported the initiative to provide carts to residents and commented that avoiding the practice of requiring residents to obtain their own receptacles would be positive.

Council commented that a system of recognizing or rewarding residents who are diverting high percentages of waste would be positive.

In response to a Council query in regards to the cost of cart provision, staff advised that assuming the District decides to proceed with a cart system, the carts would be provided by the District while the cost of approximately fifteen dollars each would be applied to the tax notice.

In response to a Council query staff advised that the District is currently incurring approximately one hundred dollars in fines per week at Metro Vancouver transfer stations for not meeting diversion rates. Furthermore, fines will increase as Metro Vancouver continues to move toward its stated diversion rate targets.

Council discussed diversion rates for multi-family and requested that a workshop be held to discuss the topic of solid waste in regard to multi-family dwellings.

Council queried staff in regard to the financial impact of statutory holiday pickup service. Staff received the query and advised that they would report back on the subject.

Council discussed the viewpoint that weekly pickup of all waste is a core local government service in the District of North Vancouver and should not be changed.

Council discussed the recycling program and noted that it can be difficult for residents to know what products will and will not be picked up at the curb.

Council discussed the likely public perception of the proposed changes and requested that staff include communication and public education plans as part of the implementation program if the changes are approved.

### **Public Input:**

Mr. John Hunter:

- Stated that the recycling program can be improved;
- Got the sense that the single family sector is picking up slack for underperformance in the multi-family sector; and,
- Was surprised by the statistic that approximately forty percent of all household waste is organics.

Staff clarified that the forty percent statistic is based on weight rather than volume.

Mr. Allen Platts:

- Stated that he does not support moving to a bi-weekly pickup schedule; and,
- Urged Council to consider seniors in their deliberations about waste issues.

Mr. Tony Caldwell:

- Suggested that the word 'garbage' not be used, in favour of the term 'non-recyclable waste';
- In support of more control over multi-family waste collection; and,
- Defended the District's recycling program.

Staff provided the statistic that the multi-family sector is responsible for approximately two hundred tonnes a year per capita while single family is responsible for three hundred tonnes a year per capita.

### **3. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

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Confidential Council Clerk