

DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Minutes of the Council Workshop of the Council for the District of North Vancouver held at 7:07 p.m. on Tuesday, April 3, 2012 in the Committee Room of the District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, British Columbia.

Present: Mayor R. Walton
Councillor R. Bassam
Councillor R. Hicks
Councillor M. Little
Councillor D. MacKay-Dunn
Councillor L. Muri
Councillor A. Nixon (7:08 pm)

Staff: Mr. D. Stuart, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. B. Bydwell, General Manager – Planning, Properties & Permits
Ms. S. Haid, Manager - Sustainable Community Development
Mr. S. Ono, Manager of Engineering Services
Mr. L. Jensen, Manager – Engineering Operations
Mr. R. Malcolm, Manager, Real Estate and Properties
Ms. C. Walker, Chief Bylaw Officer
Mr. S. Jenkins, Energy Project Manager
Ms. N. Letchford, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Mr. A. Lynch, Section Manager – Waste Reduction
Ms. K. O'Malley, Assistant Manager – Waste Reduction
Ms. M. Weston, Section Manager – Public Safety
Ms. L. Brick, Confidential Council Clerk
Ms. A. Vantol, Community Programs Coordinator

Also in

Attendance: Ms. Christine Miller, North Shore Black Bear Society

1. Opening by the Mayor

Mayor Walton opened the meeting and welcomed staff and members of the public. Mr. David Stuart, Chief Administrative Officer, provided a brief overview of the solid waste review.

2. Solid Waste Initiatives: Kitchen Waste Program, Bear Management, Composting & Solid Waste Review

File No. 11.5360.20/020.000

Memo: Len Jensen, Manager – Engineering Operations

2.1 Green Can Program

Presentation: Allen Lynch, Section Manager – Waste Reduction

Ms. Amanda Vantol, Community Programs Coordinator, presented the Green Can program. The Green Can program will be provided to all homes which currently receive yard trimmings pick up. The Green Can program is not yet available for strata properties. The Green Can program includes pick up of food waste and paper such as pizza boxes and napkins; residents will receive an information package outlining the program and information kiosks will operate at local events to promote awareness of the

project. Residents will be encouraged to continue with backyard composting and the Green Can staff will partner with the North Shore Black Bear Society to manage bear/people conflicts. Collection of the Green Can will run concurrently with the yard trimmings pick up and materials will be sent to the Fraser Richmond Soil and Fibre site in Richmond.

Council Discussion:

Staff noted that Green Can participation is 20% for most municipalities; as part of the comprehensive solid waste review staff is identifying methods to increase program participation.

In response to concerns raised by Council, staff advised that they have identified homes where compliance with the 7:00 am set out time has been an issue and have worked with home owners to create solutions such as neighbours putting out garbage for each other.

In addition to educational information packages and outreach programs to residents, staff are working with local hardware stores to ensure that appropriate containers are readily available.

Council noted that the communication brochures need to clearly identify that this program is only for single family homes. Staff advised they will continue to work to extend implementation of this program to strata units during 2012. Council further noted that in the near future Metro Vancouver will not accept any garbage containing more than 5% food waste.

Staff advised that the District is one of the last municipalities in the Lower Mainland to implement a Green Can program.

2.2 Bear Management

Presentation: Michelle Weston, Section Manager – Public Safety

Ms. Michelle Weston, Public Safety Manager, spoke regarding bear management in the District noting that the 2006 North Shore Bear Hazard Assessment reported that the District “is a biological black hole where bears are constantly drawn into areas of high artificial food sources, become problematic, and are removed from the area or the population in an endless cycle”. Changes to the 2012 Bear Aware approach include working closely with the BC Conservation Foundation, implementing a bear sighting map website to identify bear activity by location and attractant, shifting to positive messaging, and considering wildlife management to include all animals, not just bears.

Ms. Weston advised there were 915 bear sightings in North Vancouver in 2011, a majority of which were garbage related; the bear sighting map will help identify areas where targeted education can be applied.

Bear conflict management options include public education, no overnight curb side garbage, optional bear resistant garbage cans, removal of problem bears, mitigating bear habitat and attractants, and compost education programs.

Council Discussion:

Staff noted that bear sightings have already been reported in 2012.

Staff advised that the cost of the animal resistant containers is currently listed at \$177.68. Staff are working with the manufacturer to address design issues; the improved containers will be available for purchase by the end of April.

Staff advised that the Green Can will be collected with the yard trimmings on the second run of the day; it is not anticipated that there will be any additional costs to the District with the pick-up of this second can.

2.3 Composting

Presentation: Steve Jenkins, Energy Project Manager

Mr. Steve Jenkins, Energy Project Manager, provided an overview of possible solutions for composting organics. The possible options include batch, continuous, small, large, high heat, and low heat composting processes. Mr. Jenkins noted that the City of Burnaby has a waste to energy system currently operating and Simon Fraser University will soon be starting a woodchip-only energy system.

Mr. Jenkins suggested that the District consider a small scale option initially and expand over time; continue coordinating with Fortis on District energy initiatives at the transfer station; and build a business model based on best practices of other municipalities. Staff is currently investigating a small scale pilot project for the Maplewood Farm manure which is currently being trucked to the Fraser Valley.

Staff will continue to review options over the next year and return to Council with a business model for small scale composting operations which can be implemented by the District.

2.4 Solid Waste Review

Presentation: Len Jensen, Manager – Engineering Operations

Mr. Len Jensen, Manager – Engineering Operations, advised that staff are currently conducting a solid waste review and will be closing a request for proposals in the near future.

Mr. Jensen advised that each Lower Mainland Municipality is doing something different with respect to food waste; staff will review the options and make further recommendations to Council. A consultant report will be completed in June which will provide suggestions on how to incorporate garbage solutions into the cityscape prior to development of the Town Centres.

Council Discussion:

In response to a Council query, staff advised that small scale compost solutions which do not generate energy have a quicker turn around time.

Staff noted that new technology will allow the District to use resources more efficiently; however, there is an initial capital cost associated with these technologies.

Approximately 20,000 tonnes of garbage is delivered to the transfer station annually; staff continue to research and implement solutions to decrease this amount.

Public Input:

Dr. Corrie Kost, 2800 Block Colwood Drive,

- Commented that the West Vancouver pilot study estimated costs of transferring solid waste to be \$67 per metric ton;
- Encouraged staff to move to a bi-weekly pick up schedule; and,
- Opined that charging residents by garbage weight could be an alternative to the current method.

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Council Clerk