

**DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER
COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

Minutes of the Council Workshop for the District of North Vancouver held at 5:02 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9, 2019 in the Committee Room of the District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, British Columbia.

Present: Mayor M. Little
Councillor B. Forbes
Councillor J. Back
Councillor M. Bond (5:14 p.m.)
Councillor M. Curren
Councillor J. Hanson
Councillor L. Muri

Staff: Mr. G. Joyce, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. L. Jensen, Manager – Public Works and Solid Waste
Mr. S. Ono, Manager – Engineering Services
Ms. L. Brick, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Ms. B. Ocampo, Solid Waste Co-ordinator
Ms. A. Reiher, Confidential Council Clerk

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1. July 9, 2019 Council Workshop Agenda

MOVED by Councillor MURI

SECONDED by Councillor CURREN

THAT the agenda for the July 9, 2019 Council Workshop is adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Nil

3. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL OR STAFF

3.1. Taking Action to Reduce Single-Use Items

File No. 11.5360.90

Ms. Bo Ocampo, Solid Waste Co-ordinator, provided an overview of single-use items and advised that the purpose of the workshop is to discuss the May 6, 2019 motion to regulate single-use items. She advised that the term “single-use items” can encompass a variety of products and noted the need to discuss the scope of the items proposed for regulation as well as research consultation efforts.

Ms. Ocampo discussed the impact of single-use items on the environment, the cost to local government to collect the waste items and the amount of resources required to produce such items. In terms of marine litter, she advised that it is estimated that one garbage truckload of plastic waste enters the ocean every

minute globally. She reported that in Canada, less than ten percent of the approximately three million tonnes of plastic used annually are collected for recycling.

Ms. Ocampo commented regarding the Provincial regulatory framework for single-use items and provided an overview of the *Recycling Regulation* enacted under the *Environmental Management Act*. Producers of regulated products are required to create Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) plans and to operate industry programs that include collection and recycling of those products. She advised that the program has been mostly focused on the end-of-life management of single-use items. The *Environmental Management Act* requires each Regional District to prepare and submit a solid waste management plan to the Province. She commented about the BC Regulatory Framework.

Councillor BOND arrived at this point of the proceedings. (5:14 p.m.)

Ms. Ocampo spoke about a Federal government announcement advising their commitment to ban certain single-use plastics as early as 2021. She also commented about the *Oceans Plastics Charter* adopted by Canada. She advised that in 2018, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment approved, in principle, a Canada-wide strategy on zero plastic waste with a vision to keep all plastics in the economy and out of the environment.

Ms. Ocampo reported that in 2018 the Canadian Plastic Bag Association (CPBA) pursued legal action against the City of Victoria Checkout Bag Regulation Bylaw. CPBA's primary argument was that the bylaw constituted environmental regulation, which falls under provincial jurisdiction and would require the consent of the Province; however, the B.C. Supreme Court ruled in favour of Victoria and dismissed the legal challenge. In 2019 the CPBA filed an appeal which is currently awaiting a ruling. She advised if the District introduces regulations to protect the environment, it is recommended that approval from the Province be sought. She discussed the potential unintended consequences of regulating single-use items.

Ms. Ocampo suggested that targeting one single-use item at a time may be beneficial and that regulation may initially target polystyrene foam takeout containers, single-use bags and disposable cups. She advised that staff can report back to Council with a communication and consultation plan based on the draft bylaw.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that polystyrene takeout containers are most often disposed of in mainstream garbage.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the Province has not been specific on their stance other than their support and continued collaboration with municipalities.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the materials ban in Tofino was driven by the business community. Many businesses were already working with a non-profit on eliminating plastic bags and straws.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that an information report will be circulated to Council regarding red bins for dog waste.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that Deep Cove water test results have shown low readings and that the beach is not facing closure at this time.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that if the suggested ban list were expanded, straws could be added and that plastic cups would be a challenging item to recycle.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that food packaging is generally accepted by Recycle BC in the blue box program and other items can be returned to a drop-off depot.

In response to a question from Council regarding a consistent approach to this issue on the North Shore, staff advised that West Vancouver has taken a collaborative and educational approach for businesses and the City of North Vancouver staff have not received direction from their Council at this time.

Public Input:

Mr. Peter Teevan, 1900 Block Indian River Crescent:

- Commented about his family's efforts to recycle and expressed concern that he is hearing a mixed message about recycling efforts;
- Commented about statistics on recycling for the Province; and,
- Spoke about regulations and recommended an outreach program.

Mr. Phil Dupasquier, 800 Block Old Lillooet Road:

- Expressed concern about a perceived lack of urgency by Council to ban single-use items;
- Requested that plastic election signs be banned from the municipality; and,
- Expressed support for neighbourhood drop-off areas for recycling purposes and encouraged Council to lead a cultural shift and that the use of plastics discontinue.

Mr. Dave Hunter, A District Resident:

- Suggested that the District implement financial incentives or recognition program for businesses that demonstrate leadership or innovative solutions.

Council discussion ensued and the following comments and concerns were noted:

- Regulations are being delayed for action until 2021 by the Federal government;
- There are seventy different categories of waste for sorting at waste plant facilities;
- The City of Victoria ban on single-use-items;
- The contamination of micro-plastics in waterways and a UBCM resolution to regulate compostable plastics;
- Biodegradable plastics that don't break down in landfills and it's negative impact on marine life;

- Alternative products that are used by local retailers in an effort to reduce single-use item waste;
- The unintended consequences of banning certain materials;
- Commented about dog waste that is manually sorted and queried if there are other alternatives to dispose or process this waste;
- The negative effects of fecal contamination from animals in the waterways;
- Discussed the need to further educate the public in terms of recycling;
- The Metro Vancouver campaign to reduce, reuse and recycle and Christmas campaign and to reduce waste;
- The garbage can size used by the municipality and queried if it encourages further waste;
- The challenge to move away from the culture of waste;
- Expressed concern about the waste created by vehicles and their tire waste;
- Commented about the plastic items used for vegetables and fruit;
- Commented about the need to change cultural norms and the leadership of children with recycling;
- The need to identify the specific type of single-use cups that could be banned as well as other items that are being targeted;
- The opportunity for drop-off waste satellite areas in neighbourhoods to provide convenience;
- Commented about the need for the North Shore to be consistent in the implementation of a bylaw;
- Requested that single-use items are not used and that all District functions be zero waste events and suggested that this be implemented in the Corporate Policy; and,
- Commented about the free speech constitutional right and that the municipality can only regulate municipal signs, not Federal and Provincial election signs.

There was consensus of Council to write a letter to the North Shore municipalities and First Nations for a joint approach for the reduction of single-use items. There was also consensus for the District of North Vancouver to work with the Chamber of Commerce to develop a recognition program to provide incentives for businesses.

4. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor MURI

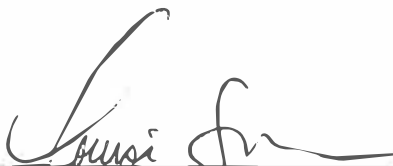
SECONDED by Councillor HANSON

THAT the July 9, 2019 Council Workshop is adjourned.

CARRIED
(6:39 p.m.)



Mayor **Mike Little**
Mayor



Municipal Clerk **LOUISE SIMKIN**
ACTING DEPUTY CLERK