CITY OF BURNABY

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, 2014 SEPTEMBER 09
TIME: 6:00 p.m. (Dinner provided from 5:30 p.m.)
PLACE: COUNCIL COMMITTEE ROOM, MAIN FLOOR, CITY HALL

AGENDA

1. MINUTES
   (a) Open meeting of the Environment Committee held on 2014 June 10

2. PRESENTATION
   (a) Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS) – Update
       Speakers: David Clutton, Planner 2
                 Lise Townsend, Ecosystem Planner

3. CORRESPONDENCE
   (a) Correspondence from Metro Vancouver
       Re: Caring for the Air, Metro Vancouver’s 2014 Report on Regional Air Quality
   (b) Correspondence from Bill Woollam
       Re: Fracking Fact Sheet
   (c) Memorandum from the Deputy City Clerk
       Re: The Welfare of Honeybees

4. NEW BUSINESS

5. INQUIRIES

6. ADJOURNMENT
CITY OF BURNABY

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

An Open meeting of the Environment Committee was held in the Council Committee Room, Burnaby City Hall, 4949 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC on Tuesday, 2014 June 10 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Anne Kang, In the Chair
Councillor Nick Volkow, Member
Dr. Stanley Jung, Citizens’ Representative
Ms. Mary Lumby, Citizens’ Representative

ABSENT: Councillor Dan Johnston, Chair
Mr. Paul Cipywynyk, Citizens’ Representative
Mr. Glen Porter, Citizens’ Representative

STAFF: Ms. Lee-Ann Garnett, Assistant Director - Long Range Planning
Mr. Dipak Dattani, Deputy Director - Engineering
Ms. Gisele Caron, Purchasing Manager
Ms. Heather Edwards, Manager - Parks Planning, Design & Development
Ms. Melinda Yong, Parks Environmental Technician
Ms. Blanka Zeinabova, Administrative Officer

The Vice Chair called the Open meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

1. MINUTES

(a) Minutes of the Open meeting of the Environment Committee held on 2014 May 13

MOVED BY MARY LUMBY:
SECONDED BY STANLEY JUNG:

“THAT the minutes of the Environment Committee Open meeting held on 2014 May 13 be adopted.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. CORRESPONDENCE & REPORTS

MOVED BY MARY LUMBY:
SECONDED BY STANLEY JUNG:

“THAT the correspondence and reports be received.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(a) Correspondence from Bill Woollam
Re: Peer Reviewed Research on “Fracking”
Contamination

Correspondence was received from Mr. Bill Woollam regarding research showing that hydraulic fracturing for natural gas contaminates, aquifers and groundwater sources.

Staff noted that on 2013 February 18 Council adopted a Resolution requesting a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing until senior governments give full consideration to the potential human and environmental impacts of fracturing, and undertake a comprehensive public consultation process. The United States Environmental Protection Agency is conducting a study to better understand potential impacts of fracturing on drinking water and ground water, and to identify the driving factors that may affect the severity and frequency of such impacts. After a final draft of the report is released, staff will revisit this matter.

Councillor Volkow noted that individual US cities are passing bylaws to prevent fracking, and inquired if the City has a similar ability.

Staff advised that in Canada a national policy on fracking is absent.

Councillor Volkow noted an article in The Tyee magazine (2014 June 04) by Andrew Nikiforuk on Canadian fracking and lack of credible groundwater monitoring. Councillor Volkow undertook to provide a copy of the article to the Committee members for information.

(b) Report from the Director Planning and Building
Re: World Rivers Day 2014

The Director Planning and Building submitted a report seeking approval of the program for World Rivers Day 2014 at the Burnaby Village Museum, as well as expenditure authorization for advertising and promotion.

The Director Planning and Building recommended:

1. THAT Council approve the program for World Rivers Day 2014 at the Burnaby Village Museum.

2. THAT Council authorize expenditures for World Rivers Day 2014 in the amount of $4,000 for advertising and promotion, as outlined in this report.

3. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to the Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission; Mark Angelo, World Rivers Day Chair and Founder and representative of the International River Foundation; and the Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia for information.
MOVED BY COUNCILLOR VOLKOW:  
SECONDED BY STANLEY JUNG:  

"THAT the recommendations of the Director Planning and Building be adopted."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(c) Report from the Director Engineering  
Re: Draft Eagle Creek Integrated Stormwater Management Plan

The Director Engineering submitted a report providing an overview of the principles, elements and recommendations of the draft integrated stormwater management plan for Eagle Creek watershed in North Burnaby.

The Director Engineering recommended:

1. THAT the Committee recommend that Council:
   a. Receive the draft Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (ISMP) for Eagle Creek;
   b. Approve, in principle, the visions, strategies and the recommended plan for Eagle Creek watershed;
   c. Authorize staff to finalize the reports and incorporate the recommended action items, where appropriate, into the City’s infrastructure and community plan development process; and
   d. Forward a copy of this report to all members of the stakeholder consultation group who provided input to development of the proposed plan.

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR VOLKOW:  
SECONDED BY STANLEY JUNG:  

"THAT the recommendation of the Director Engineering be adopted."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(d) Report from the Director Engineering  

The Director Engineering submitted the City’s Annual Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Report for 2013.
The Director Engineering recommended:

1. THAT the Committee recommend Council to:
   a. Receive this report for information purposes; and
   b. Forward a copy of this report to Dr. Lawrence Loh, Medical Health Officer, Fraser Health Authority, Suite 400 – Central City Tower, 13450 – 102nd Avenue, Surrey, BC V3T 0H1.

MOVED BY MARY LUMBY:
SECONDED BY STANLEY JUNG:

"THAT the recommendation of the Director Engineering be adopted."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(e) Report from the Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Re: Invasive Plant Management in Burnaby Parks

The Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services submitted a report presenting the results of the 2013 invasive plant management program and outlining the next steps for implementation.

The Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services recommended:

1. THAT the Committee recommends Council receive the report as information and authorize staff to proceed with the proposed 2014 work plan as outlined in this report.

2. THAT a copy of this report be sent to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for information.

MOVED BY MARY LUMBY:
SECONDED BY STANLEY JUNG:

"THAT the recommendations of the Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services be adopted."

Staff provided a Power Point presentation summarizing the report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
3. **NEW BUSINESS**

**Mary Lumby**

Ms. Lumby conveyed thanks to the City for the eco-sculpture program. The speaker noted she received positive comments from the community, and that the students involved in the project take pride and ownership. Special thanks were conveyed to Melinda, Johanna and rest of the crew. Ms. Lumby inquired if staff can work on a new timetable for school children due to teachers’ job actions.

**Councillor Kang**

Councillor Kang noted that overgrown boulevard trees impede power lines, and are cut by City crews if needed; however, efficiencies of the system were questioned after a City crew visited one street (adjacent properties) on three different occasions.

Staff undertook to investigate this matter. Staff further noted that a report is being submitted to Council regarding a similar program at a future date.

4. **INQUIRIES**

**Mary Lumby**

Ms. Lumby noted that the 2014 Environmental Award winner – Byrne Creek Secondary School Fine Arts Department – incorporated Byrne Creek ravine ecology into the curriculum for over three hundred art students last year, guiding the students to produce art inspired by their experiences. The students’ art is now displayed at the Edmonds Skytrain Station. Ms. Lumby inquired the following:

- how long the art will be displayed,
- what was the cost involved with the installation and maintenance,
- who is responsible for the cost,
- what is the feasibility to display the art at other bus shelters,
- how can the City help to extend this program to other schools.

Staff undertook to investigate this matter. Staff further noted that in the past the City (the Community Art Coordinator) worked with the schools on the bee project and a similar partnership can be explored with Stream of Dreams project.

5. **CLOSED**

The Committee moved into a ‘Closed’ meeting from which the public was excluded.
MOVED BY COUNCILLOR VOLKOW:  
SECONDED BY MARY LUMBY:  

"THAT this meeting do now recess."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Open Committee meeting recessed at 7:32 p.m.

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR VOLKOW:  
SECONDED BY STANLEY JUNG:  

"THAT the Open Committee meeting do now reconvene."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Open Committee meeting reconvened at 7:33 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY MARY LUMBY:  
SECONDED BY STANLEY JUNG:  

"THAT the Open meeting do now adjourn."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Open meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Ms. Blanka Zeinabova  
Administrative Officer

Councillor Anne Kang  
Vice Chair
July 9, 2014

City Clerk
City of Burnaby
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC V5G 1M2

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Caring for the Air, Metro Vancouver's 2014 Report on Regional Air Quality

In support of the goals of Metro Vancouver's Integrated Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan, "to protect public health and the environment, improve visual air quality and minimize the region's contribution to climate change", Metro Vancouver publishes Caring for the Air, an annual report about air quality and climate change activities being undertaken in Metro Vancouver.

Caring for the Air is a plain-language report intended to increase public engagement in and understanding of air quality and climate change issues. The report provides information about the actions and initiatives being carried out by Metro Vancouver and our partners to improve air quality and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The report also contains indicators on progress towards air quality goals, which helps to identify where new actions are needed.

A printed copy of the 2014 edition of Caring for the Air, which we hope people in your community will find interesting, is included in this package. Caring for the Air can also be accessed electronically on the Metro Vancouver website at http://www.metrovancouver.org/air.

If you would like additional copies to make available for interested members of the public, we would be pleased to provide them. For additional copies of the report, and comments about the report or questions about air quality or climate change, please do not hesitate to contact us through AQinfo@metrovancouver.org.

Yours truly,

Roger Quan
Director, Air Quality and Environment

Attachment: Caring for the Air Report, 2014
Advocates of the Liquid Natural Gas industry seem to ignore the toxic process with which natural gas is being extracted. This process is known as 'induced hydraulic fracturing' or 'fracking'.

There is growing peer-reviewed scientific evidence of the harmful effects of contamination to aquifers by shale gas development and deep coalbed methane extraction. 'Pro-fracking' opinions focus on the big bucks and ignore the detrimental effects on our limited fresh water systems. This is relevant to valley residents because according to geologist David Hughes our provincial government is on the hook for 65,000 fracking sites over the next 25 years, to meet its gas export licenses granted by the National Energy Board.

The latest news is an LNG plant proposed for Port Alberni and an accompanying pipeline to transport the gas from northern BC to Port Alberni. That means the necessary fracking and resulting water contamination is going to move full steam ahead in BC to feed that Liquid Natural Gas Plant and proposed export facility. Search on your computer for the topic: First Nations sign Port Alberni project agreement

A fracking well in a shale formation can use between 7.5 million to 19 million litres of water. That water becomes toxic by the addition of: fracturing fluids mixed with friction-reducing additives; biocides; oxygen scavengers and stabilizers to prevent corrosion of metal pipes; and acids to remove drilling mud. 80% of this fracking fluid comes back to the surface and 20% stays in the shale excavation. High cancer rates and damaging side-effects to human and animal life occur where waste-water tailing ponds and fracking fluid has escaped into underground and above-ground waterways.

This is the part which outweighs the financial benefits. Toxifying our limited water resources is insanity to say the least. No amount of remuneration can justify contaminating underground aquifers and surface-water for coming generations.

For those in the immediate area of fracking sites, home water testing must take place both prior to and after seismic testing involved in fracking operations. If a well-owner does not test and show healthy conditions were present prior to nearby 'fracking', then there is no possibility of claiming damages when contamination does eventually occur.

Be wary of industry-backed politicians who do not mention the contamination factor at all. Just do a Google search on the following topics:
- Some states confirm water pollution from drilling
-What is in Frack Water? Watershed Sentinel
-Duke study on shale gas and fracking reveals contamination
-the documentary titled: 'Fracking Hell - The Untold Story'
-Ailing Shale Gas Returns Force a 'Drilling Treadmill'

The green house gas emission footprint of the Liquid Natural Gas industry is much greater than the burning of Coal according to Bob Conibear, engineer and former LNG operations manager. One must take into account the leaking gases during extraction, the fuel spent to transport, the cooling of the gas into a liquid for export by tanker, and the burning at the country of destination.

Sincerely
Bill Woollam
960 Marchmont Rd
Duncan, BC V9L 2M5
250-746-0290
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: DEPUTY CITY CLERK

SUBJECT: THE WELFARE OF HONEYBEES
NEW BUSINESS, OPEN COUNCIL MEETING 2014 JULY 07

DATE: 2014 JULY 10
FILE: 02410-20

Under the New Business portion of the 2014 July 07 Council meeting, Councillor Volkow made reference to Item E) of the Council correspondence package received up to 2014 July 03 from Beatrice Olivastri, Chief Executive Officer, Friends of the Earth, regarding the welfare of honeybees.

Arising from discussion, Council referred this item of correspondence to the Environment Committee for review.

A copy of the correspondence is attached for your convenience.

Sid Cleave
Deputy City Clerk

SC:aj
Dear City of Burnaby,

Friends of the Earth requests your urgent attention to the welfare of honey bees and other pollinators that are so necessary for our own well-being. One municipality, Prince Edward County, has passed a resolution with a number of leadership steps including discontinuing use of Neonicotinoid (neonics) products on municipal properties. Friends of the Earth's report, Gardeners Beware 2014, provides strong evidence for the need to act on landscaping and garden related services. Flowering plants promoted as bee-friendly are widely treated with neonicotinoids. You can see our media release with links to the report for your consideration. Here is a copy of Prince Edward County's resolution.

We hope your council will consider taking practical steps to protect bees and other pollinators by requiring service providers...
and contractors to cease all use of neonicotinoid products.

Yesterday, the tide on neonic use began to turn with the announcement by Home Depot they will begin efforts to stop use of neonics. I hope we can count on you and your colleagues to take appropriate steps as well. Please do let us know if we can assist in any way.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Olivastri
Chief Executive Officer