

District of Metchosin

Minutes

Environmental Advisory Select Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 25 April, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

Council Chamber

Metchosin Municipal Hall

Present: Councillor Steve Gray, Andy MacKinnon (by phone), Bill Cave, Merrilee Hoen (recorder), Garry Fletcher, Ric Perron (Chair), Erin Van de Water

Regrets: Anna Hall

Ric presented an overview of MEASC's work as an update for the members of the public.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. Agenda, Additions and Approval

Moved and Seconded by Bill and Erin that the Committee approve the agenda as presented.

Carried

2. Presentations: None

3. Public Participation: see below

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Steve and Ric that the Committee approve the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Select Committee meeting held on March 28, 2023 and April 5, 2023.

Carried

5. Review of Minutes

a) Council and Standing Committee Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Steve and Andy that the Committee receive the Council and Standing Committee Minutes for information.

Carried

b) Advisory Committee Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Steve and Garry that the Committee receive the Advisory Committee Minutes for information. Andy noted that the Advisory Committee minutes were not included in the agenda package.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) MEASC Representative(s) sitting on the Buffer Land Working Group

Anna Hall will join the group. Andy MacKinnon and Erin Van de Water will be the alternates

when Anna is not available.

7. New Business: None

8. Reports

(a) Metchosin Climate Action Plan – Council-Pinna Sustainability Workshop

Steve gave a summary of the Workshop that took place earlier in the day, showed some of the slides and reviewed Pinna's proposed plan for the benefit of the audience. Public participation followed (see below).

9. Correspondence: None

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

Moved and Seconded by Steve and Ric that the Committee adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Carried

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 30 May, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Public Participation

All participants were Metchosin residents.

Andy Greenslade pointed out the lack of consideration of new technologies and innovation within the four focus areas of the Pinna draft plan.

Bill Cave suggested that anything that Metchosin District can't do, the people should advocate with government to bring in.

Ric Perron will write Council a letter with recommendations that Metchosin not go ahead with replacing the EV chargers. He also made comments about the high environmental costs of EVs and solar panels.

Andy MacKinnon told us about his research two years ago into replacing the EV stations including charging costs and the role of companies who could supply the stations. No follow up was done at that time.

Nicole Lalonde presented the idea of having a solar powered EV charger at the Park and Ride facility at St. Mary's church. She suggested a smaller, shuttle bus to move to move people to the exchanges from the Park and Ride areas.

Alison LeDuc spoke about the Transit On-demand concept and mentioned Bowen Island where a pilot project is in place.

Bev Bacon suggested investigation into whether Transit could pick people up at their driveways. She presented a critique of the draft plan. She wants to see well defined objectives and the steps to get there in the final draft with specific emphasis on ecosystems, water conservation and active transportation. Bev mentioned that grasslands are better at sequestering carbon than forests.

Garry Fletcher indicated that forests should be enhanced in addition to the preservation of forests.

Nicole Shukin suggested changes in zoning (down zoning, ecological restoration zoning) in support of preservation of large forested areas and she wants to find out the status of the ferry from Royal Bay to down town.

Alison LeDuc wants to have some Metchosin designated parking spaces at Royal Bay but there are no planned Park and Ride areas there.

Nicole Lalonde suggested a community bus to pool rides for regular trips such as grocery shopping.

Nicole Shukin suggested finding the “carrying capacity” of Metchosin.

Nicole Lalonde likes the idea of working with partners e.g. APRM, Metchosin Foundation. Conventional covenants are expensive so perhaps some other types of covenants could be created to facilitate preservation of larger swathes of land especially adjacent to public land.

Katy Nelson emphasized the importance of oversight of covenants to make sure standards are upheld.

Alison LeDuc suggested arranging pilot projects to investigate ways to reduce the impact of fertilizer on nitrogen emissions and of manure on methane emissions.

Bev Bacon suggested rehearsals of heat dome and disaster responses e.g. fire trucks bringing water.

Nicole Shukin suggested the new fire hall be built as a model of green construction for the District.

Selby Saluke emphasized the importance of moving quickly. He wonders how we can engage the current group of Metchosin residents who don't feel the urgency of the situation.

Andy Greenslade felt the education of others must come from the community because it will be more meaningful than the many messages from government and media.

Nicole Shukin suggested a series of climate awareness talks by people such as the planner.

Bev Bacon suggested bringing back the quarterly newsletter from the District to all residents giving updates about climate actions.

Mike Ballard suggested getting a group of homes together to upgrade their e.g. insulation at once rather than applying for grants on an individual basis. He thought that contractors would offer a better price.

Tamara Ballard asked if it is possible to get money from the Infrastructure Grant to purchase property for a Metchosin park and ride in the Royal Bay area.