

FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE DISRUPTION COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, March 1, 2018

4:30 p.m. in the City Hall Committee Room

Present: Guy Langlois, Rosalind Chapman, Gary Swann, Chris Alemany, Sam Brownlee, Sandra Gentleman

Regrets: Brendan Chase, John Mayba

1. Approval of Agenda

Sam Brownlee moved to approve, Gary Swann Seconded

2. Approval of Minutes from February 1, 2018

Gary Swann moved to approve, Chris Alemany Seconded

3. New Business

Environmental Sustainability Commission

Discussion of what the Food Security and Climate Disruption Committee should be after the next election. It was suggested that the group would become the Environmental Sustainability Commission.

4. Review of five recommendations to City Council. It was agreed that all recommendations will be presented to the City Manager and administration for their feedback before being presented to City Council.

#1: The Committee would like to ask that Parks and Recreation be encouraged to include programming that would promote and educate on backyard composting. This is seen as a complement to the City's hoped for kitchen and yard waste program and could also be used as an educational tool to ensure optimal participation in that program once it comes to fruition. The Committee thought this may not be something that requires a motion of Council, or if it did we could bring one forward such as

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the City of Port Alberni direct the Parks and Recreation department to include programming to promote education on backyard composting.

Details:

Many residents produce more compostable waste than can be reasonably composted in their residence and not all compostable items, especially fats or meats, are well suited for backyard composting systems as they can promote rat infestations if not properly controlled. Therefore, kitchen and yard waste pickup programs can complement, rather than duplicate or compete with, residential backyard composting. The Parks and Rec department has a long history of facilitating workshops provided by City Staff and Community members. City works staff involved in the composting done at the Works Yard and ACRD agricultural support workers all have extensive knowledge that could be leveraged in order to augment these educational programs in addition to community

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members. The FSCDC recommends that Council for the City of Port Alberni offer and promote Backyard Composting within their community educational programs.

#2: A motion asking Council to task the FSCD Committee to investigate how the City would participate in ongoing or future class action lawsuits. No decision to participate in these actions is requested at this time. This is a request to allow the FSCD to work on the issue and report back to Council.

Details:

From the Nov 19, 2017 Times Colonist(3):

"This is just like tobacco. So let's go after them. Let's seize the day," [UBC international law professor] Michael Byers said during a session on climate justice at the Victoria Forum.

On January 10, 2017(4) the City of New York announced it filed a lawsuit against the "big 5" fossil fuel companies and announced it would be divesting its \$189 billion pension fund from fossil fuel reserve owners in the next 5 years. The FSCDC proposes that the committee be tasked to investigate these lawsuits and investigate whether it is within the interest of the City of Port Alberni to participate now or in the future. No decision to participate in any of the actions mentioned is requested at this time.

The motion:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the City of Port Alberni task the Food Security and Climate Disruption Committee to investigate how the City of Port Alberni could join other municipalities and levels of government in current or future class actions against fossil fuel multinationals to recover costs associated with mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change.

#3: To expand our \$500 oil to heat pump incentive to include wood stoves. The ACRD wood stove exchange program now includes upgrading to heat pumps. Residents would be qualified to receive the \$500 from the City if they showed proof of having received the ACRD wood-stove to heat pump incentive. If staff have material they need to update in order for this to happen, the Committee is happy to update that material.

Details:

In 2017, the City of Port Alberni initiated an "Oil to Heat Pump" incentive program that provided \$500 to homeowners who converted their oil furnace to a heat pump as their primary heating source. For many years, the Province of BC has, through the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District, offered Woodstove Exchange Vouchers for people

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upgrading their non-compliant woodstoves to new, clean burning wood stoves. For 2018, the Province of BC is now offering \$400 for changing from an old, non-compliant wood appliance, to electric heat pump, natural gas or propane stove, or pellet stove(8). It is proposed that the City of Port Alberni accept proof of compliance with this Province of BC incentive. It is also recommended that the City of Port Alberni and ACRD continue to work together to promote these incentives through bodies like the Air Quality Council. Homeowners could receive a combined incentive of up to \$900 total from the ACRD and City for moving from an old non-compliant wood stove to a heat pump. This represents nearly 50% of the cost of a modern heat pump.

The motion:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the City of Port Alberni direct staff to expand the “Oil to Heat Pump” incentive to include those participating in the new Alberni Clayoquot Regional District Wood stove to Heat Pump incentive.

#4: Asking Council to send a letter of support to stakeholders within the community that are working on a Food distribution network strategy. Previously, the Committee had asked that Council take a leadership role, however, upon further investigation, the committee has decided that the City does not need to take an active role at this time and should instead indicate its support for the initiative in general to those already working on it.

Details: The Loaves and Fishes operation in Nanaimo is a centralized distribution network used by community groups and the public to distribute food efficiently through the community. While there is an abundance of food being reclaimed from stores in Port Alberni, there is currently an ad-hoc network of distributing food. The various groups within the community are currently investigating ways of making this work better so that food and goods get to the people who need it as quickly and efficiently possible. The ask is for Council to show support for this initiative.

The motion:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the City of Port Alberni direct staff to send a letter to community stakeholders of support in principle for efforts to form a centralized Food Distribution network within the community.

#5: Ask Council to implement the ACRD Rainwater Harvesting Rebates and Water Billing Credits. This is a package that has been developed by the ACRD as a ‘turnkey’ solution, complete with materials, forms and explanations for the public and staff. The Committee recommends that we implement the \$750 rebate program (two per year),

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the \$50 Food Garden Water Billing Credit, and the \$1 per year water rate for Community Gardens.

Details:

In 2017 a report commissioned by the ACRD titled

“Water for Growth” developed implementation ready policy packets(10) for a Rainwater Harvesting rebate program and Residential Growers Water billing credit program. The report will be presented to the ACRD on January 10. The programs are intended to be ready to go for regular residential City of Port Alberni water customers to encourage water conservation at the same time as increasing food production and resiliency to drought.

Applications would be approved by the Food Security and Climate Disruption Committee.

There are three policies recommended to endorse and fund detailed by the ACRD:

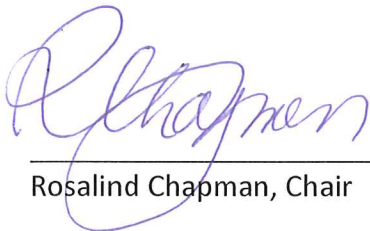
- 1) \$750 Residential Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program (maximum 2/year)
- 2) 2) \$50 Residential Food Garden Watering Billing Credit and \$1 a year Community Garden policy. (max 10/year)

The motion:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the City of Port Alberni direct staff to adopt and implement the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Water for Growth recommendations to create a Residential Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program (2 per year \$750), Residential Food Garden Watering \$50 Billing Credit and \$1 per year water rate Community Garden policy.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30PM

5. Next meeting – April 5, 2018



Rosalind Chapman, Chair

Davina Hartwell, City Clerk