



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

MINUTES

COMMUNITY ENERGY PLANNING COMMITTEE

June 14, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.

City Hall, Upstairs Boardroom

Minutes of a meeting held on Friday, June 14, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. in the Upstairs Boardroom at City Hall. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Chairperson: Councillor S. Morgan,
R. Alty (ex-officio),
J. Carr,
D. Fetaz,
R. Sexton, and
C. Scott.

The following representatives of the Public were in attendance:
M. Goodwin, and
C. Jorstead.

The following members of Administration were in attendance:
C. Greencorn,
C. Vaughn, and
S. Jovic.

Call to Order

1. Councillor Morgan called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

2. There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

Approval of Agenda

3. R. Sexton moved,
R. Alty seconded,

That the Agenda be approved.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Approval of the Minutes

4. Committee agreed unanimously to amend the September 20, 2018 minutes to clarify wording of the action item regarding information sharing with respect to energy efficient building practices.
5. J. Carr moved,
R. Alty seconded,

That the Minutes of the meeting held on September 20, 2018 be approved as amended.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Updates from City

6. Councillor Morgan provided updates from the City. Councillor Morgan noted that the Sustainability Coordinator position has not been filled and that there is also a vacancy for the position of Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste with the departure of Mike Auge. Councillor Morgan further noted that Council officially adopted Council's Goals and Objectives for this term. Councillor Morgan noted that this document is concise (4 main goals), focused, genuinely consensus-based, and that there are important commitments related to sustainability as follows:
 - New mission commitment "to provide municipal infrastructure, programs, and services that are environmentally, socially, and fiscally responsible."
 - One of the six core values is a Multi-generational approach: "The City will consider the multi-generational impact and legacy of its decisions and actions for generations to come"
 - Under *Goal #2 - Delivering Efficient and Accountable Government* - "Develop and resource an asset management plan to guide long-term decision-making". Effective long-term asset management planning is at the core of long-term sustainable planning.
 - *Goal #3 - Ensuring a high quality of life for all, including future generations* -
 1. Prioritize adaption to, and mitigation of, climate change
Review and prioritize efforts that the City can implement to mitigate and adapt to climate change, including applying a climate change lens when evaluating City initiatives and activities and continuing to implement relevant plans [including the CEP]
 2. Redefine public transit
Strengthen the service model to respond to user needs, and to attract new users to the system
7. **District Heating for City Hall, JTFN, RCMP and GNWT buildings**
Committee noted that limited progress has been made on this project due to limited staff capacity at the City, and the complexity of the governance model. Committee further noted that it is difficult to coordinate many different levels or agencies of various governments. Committee stated that the next step will be a feasibility study on this project. Committee noted that the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) GHG Grant Program for



Government is an application based non-repayable grant program designed to support greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction projects and initiatives for NWT community governments, municipalities, GNWT departments, and Indigenous governments. Committee further noted that the program is accepting applications on an annual basis over the next three years and that the program ends March 31, 2022. Committee stated that applicants may receive up to 75% of eligible project costs from the GHG Grant Program.

Action Item: Administration to follow up with GNWT regarding eligibility and criteria for GHG Grant Program funding.

8. LIC Program - Loans for Home Energy Retrofits

Committee noted that this program is included within Administration's workplan; however there has been limited staff capacity to make significant progress due to competing priorities. Committee further noted that this program could dovetail well with the significant recent increases in rebates available through Arctic Energy Alliance for energy-efficient home improvements, including a Deep Home Retrofit Program worth up to \$20K in rebates per home.

In response to a question from the Committee, Mr. Sexton noted that the deadline for Deep Home Retrofit Program funding is March 31, 2022.

Building By-law (proposed energy efficiency amendments)

9. Committee noted that City Administration has been working with an expert consultant, RDH Building Science, to help develop draft amendments to the Building By-law (Energy Efficiency) to re-introduce requirements for energy efficient building standards. Committee further noted that the draft memorandum, based on the technical sessions, as well as cross jurisdictional research and energy modeling by RDH, has been circulated to stakeholders who participated in the technical sessions for feedback. Committee stated that the amendments will impact specific Part 9 buildings and Part 3 residential construction.

10. Craig Scott left the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

11. Committee continued its discussion regarding the proposed energy efficiency amendments to the Building By-law. Committee members were asked to provide feedback to Planning and Development. Committee noted that those comments will be included in the memorandum that will be brought forward for Council consideration.

Priorities for inclusion in 2020 Budget

12. Committee discussed priorities for inclusion in the 2020 Budget. Committee noted that Administration will be seeking input for the Budget in August. Committee members were requested to provide their suggestions to the Chair.
13. Mayor Alty left the meeting at 1:25 p.m.



Review CEP Priorities and action items, with a Focus on Community Emissions

14. Committee noted that with the recent groundswell of momentum around Green New Deal Canada, and an increasing public sense of urgency around the climate crisis, this may be a good time to redouble efforts around reducing community emissions, and strengthening partnerships between the City and other agencies and NGOs in the community. Committee further noted that in addition to the Energy Efficiency requirements in the Building By-law, and the Local Improvement Charges program, which could both have significant impacts on community emissions, other topics to explore/discuss could include:

- Electric vehicles - how to popularize and educate / dispel myths
- District heating systems - potential for private development, how to address potential barriers
- Most effective and efficient strategies for raising awareness or incentivizing action by individuals / homeowners.

Committee discussed a peak shaving energy management system that reduces peak demand of electricity usage, shifts usage to off-peak hours and may lower consumption of diesel as a supplementary fuel source to the hydro system, thus lowering GHG emissions and lowering system costs. Committee noted residents should be notified of the economic and environmental benefits of running electricity during low-use periods. Committee further noted that high use periods (approximately two hours right after work) mean a bigger load capacity is required and this weighs heavily on the grid.

15. Craig Scott returned to the meeting at 1:53 p.m.

Action Item: Daryl Fetaz to follow up regarding potential to publicize energy-smart solutions towards peak-shaving.

Role of CEP

16. Committee discussed the role of the Community Energy Planning Committee going forward and whether the committee in its current form is the most effective way to support the City in the ongoing implementation of the Community Energy Plan. Committee noted that the City will review Council's current Committee governance structure and evaluate committees, their purpose; effectiveness; reporting mechanism; alignment with Council's Strategic Vision, alignment with Departmental mandate and resources and a comparison of best practices for Canadian municipalities. Committee noted that there could be more effective and efficient ways to both hold the City accountable to GHG reduction commitments, and facilitate useful, focused dialogue about strategies and opportunities with residents, organizations and other government agencies. The City's intention is to continue this conversation and work with the Committee to improve process going forward.

Next Meeting

17. Next meeting to be determined.



Adjournment

18. The meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Prepared: June 19, 2019; SJ/