

**SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, March 10, 2026**

A Regular Meeting of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 7:01 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

*\* Indicates Virtual Attendance*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Steve Kim, Chair  
Councillor Brent Asmundson, Vice-Chair  
Mark Ashton, Citizen Representative  
Grayson Barke, Citizen Representative  
Reza Berry, Citizen Representative\*  
Craig Busch, Citizen Representative  
Linton Chokie, Citizen Representative\*  
Daryoush M. Hassani, Citizen Representative  
Sarah Ramji, Citizen Representative  
Hasina Razafimahefa, Citizen Representative\*  
Nadia Springle, Citizen Representative

ABSENT: Azar Varasteh, Citizen Representative (regrets)

STAFF: Jonathan Helmus, Director Utilities  
Doron Fishman, Senior Manager Park Planning and Design  
Caresse Selk, Senior Manager Environment  
Heidi Hughes, Manager Tourism and Visitor Economy  
Rebecca Laurie, Manager Civic Engagement  
Julie Kanya, Manager Environmental Education and Enforcement  
Karissa Noselski, Parks Planner  
Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and provided an Indigenous territorial acknowledgement.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES****1. Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026**

The Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 were approved.

**OLD BUSINESS****NEW BUSINESS****2. Joint Coquitlam and kwikwə́łəm Flood Mitigation Program**

The Director Utilities gave a presentation entitled “Joint Flood Mitigation Program” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Understanding the roles and contributions of, and benefits to, Metro Vancouver in this project and in current and future dike management in the area, and that cooperation is critical to the success of the project and its funding.
- Understanding what kwikwə́łəm lands would be protected, including the current residential area, while protection of a cemetery is another project.
- Understanding the potential means for land acquisition from industrial owners, and that land purchase is not included in costing at this point.
- Understanding the challenges of flood mitigation in the industrial area, and why sheet piles and temporary mitigation plans at river access points are likely options.
- Understanding the differences in land that would be protected if the project proceeds at the riverside versus setback from the river.
- Understanding the treatment of the existing riverside dike should the project proceed setback from the river, including creating potential gaps for environmental benefit but not full removal.
- Suggestion to use the project as an opportunity to expand walking and cycling infrastructure in the Fraser River frontage area, particularly in conjunction with the Fraser Mills development.
- Suggestion that private infrastructure owners in the affected area be approached for contributions.
- Understanding the timelines for the phasing options, and that, with area-specific phasing, the timing of the second phase would be dependent on funding.

- Support for the setback siting and area-specific phasing options for their financial and environmental advantages, and support for the offset siting option for its potential for future enhancement as needed.

The Director Utilities left the meeting at this point and did not return (7:37 p.m.)

### **3. Festival and Events Strategy**

The Manager Tourism and Visitor Economy gave a presentation entitled “Festivals and Events Strategy” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Suggestion that over time the City increasingly encourage or facilitate reusable food service items at events such as water refilling stations and shared flatware, with consideration that washing facilities or contracted services may be required.
- Consideration of effective communication of waste management practices at events, through signage or volunteers, to increase likelihood of compliance.
- Suggestion to use a photograph of all waste collected after a major event to communicate the issue of waste management.
- Consideration of standards for bioplastics, compostables, and other materials allowed at events and festivals to ensure they can be accepted by the compost processing and waste management systems.
- Suggestion that environmental standards for utensils and containers should be part of permitting with potential fines or future ineligibility based on violations.
- Concern that events often do not provide enough or large enough waste receptacles, resulting in poor waste management, and a suggestion that the City either set standards for or provide waste management collection for a fee.
- Suggestion to explore opportunities for electrification, such as battery packs or outlet installation, to decarbonize event functions including use of generators by mobile food vendors.
- Suggestions of transportation demand management tactics for event attendees such as targeted communications, bicycle valets, and coordination with shared micromobility providers.
- Suggestion to establish a City-led showcase event on Earth Day to demonstrate leadership on sustainability in events.
- Interest in the potential application of the City’s anti-idling bylaw to vehicles used in event setup and strike.
- Suggestion to set or link emissions targets and measurement at City-led events.

In response to Committee discussion, staff noted the following:

- Input and feedback has and will be gathered through engagement with event organizers, on-site engagement with event attendees, and an online survey for attendees of major City-led events.
- Electrification is being incorporated in the design of new City event spaces such as those at Fraser Mills and Burke Mountain Community Centres.
- City-led events have and will coordinate with shared micromobility providers, and there is intention to facilitate the same for community-led events.
- Removal of waste after events should be prioritized to prevent wildlife access.
- Food trucks often operate near catch basins, creating grease disposal concerns.

The Manager Tourism and Visitor Economy and the Manager Civic Engagement left the meeting at this point and did not return (8:06 p.m.)

#### **4. Glen Park Improvements**

The Parks Planner gave a presentation entitled “Glen Park Improvements” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation of the importance of this park as the population in the surrounding neighbourhood increases.
- Appreciation of the water play element given the heat in summer.
- Suggestions to enhance children’s engagement with the natural elements of the park such as installing bat boxes, bee houses, and displays with information about wildlife that might be seen in the park.
- Suggestions to preserve natural features as a valuable asset, to incorporate natural materials in furniture and structures, and to highlight any sustainable sourcing through signage.
- Suggestion to incorporate elements for all age groups in the playground and nature play area, including intergenerational opportunities.
- Interest in opportunities to increase use of the south forest and conversely a desire for no direct use while communicating its biodiversity and urban forest cover benefits.
- Appreciation that the proximity of the dog park and the nature play area creates a convenient destination for families.
- Suggestion to create pollinator meadows or low or no mow fields to further support biodiversity in the park.
- Suggestions for features in the nature play area including a food bank garden, an amphitheatre, and a play structure in the trees.
- Suggestion to install lighting on the trail crossing the park to improve safety.

- Suggestion to create a bookable, sheltered picnic area for events.

In response to Committee discussion, staff noted the following:

- There are no current plans to alter the south forest, which has unique value as a natural stand of trees in the city centre.
- Options for making use of local, natural materials, such as fallen trees, for park furnishings are being explored.

The Senior Manager Park Planning and Design and the Parks Planner left the meeting at this point and did not return (8:35 p.m.)

#### **5. Committee Members’ Roundtable / Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)**

The Chair invited Committee members to share emerging sustainability and environmental issues and events in their communities.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Report that the nomination period for the Environmental Achievement Awards will close this week.
- Report that City events for Earth Day will be posted online soon.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, May 19, 2026**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

#### **MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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Councillor Steve Kim, Chair

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Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk