

## Community Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting

to be held via Zoom  
Wednesday, December 8, 2021  
at 9:00 a.m.

**Present:** Chris Allen, Chair  
Randy Boras, Vice Chair  
Anne Hargrave  
Lyndie Hill  
Margaret Holm  
Nicolas Stulberg  
Philip Hawkes

**Council Liaison:** Julius Bloomfield, Councillor

**Staff:** Blake Laven, Director of Development Services  
David Kassian, Community Sustainability Coordinator  
Ian Chapman, Acting General Manager of Infrastructure  
Ken Kunka, Building Manager  
Shawn Filice, Electric Utility Manager  
John Schappert, Legislative Assistant

**Regrets:** Amelia Boulton  
Tracy Van Raes

1. **Call to Order**

The Community Sustainability Advisory Committee was called to order by the Chair at 9:02 a.m.

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Community Sustainability Advisory Committee adopt the agenda for the meeting held on December 8, 2021 as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. **Adoption of Minutes**

3.1 Minutes of October 20, 2021 Community Sustainability Advisory Committee

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Community Sustainability Advisory Committee adopt the minutes of the October 20, 2021 meeting as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### 4. **New Business**

##### 4.1 Climate Emergency Declaration Update

The Community Sustainability Coordinator provided some background information on the Climate Emergency Declaration, and then provided an overview of the next steps.

The floor was opened for questions and comments from Committee members. A Committee Member asked about wording of the actual declaration, and staff responded that specific wording would be developed and brought to Council at a later date, noting that it will be brought back to the Committee. A Committee Member commented that it would be ideal if this progressed more quickly, but this is a logical plan given the constraints in place.

##### **It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Community Sustainability Advisory Committee receive into the record the report dated December 8, 2021 titled "Climate Emergency Declaration Update".

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Lyndie Hill joined the meeting at 9:13 a.m.

##### 4.2 Solar Panel Utility Fee Structure and Permitting

The Building Manager reported on the permitting and fee structure of solar panel installations, noting concerns including fire and structural issues that justify the requirement of permits. He noted that permits help create a level playing field, and that a flat-fee rate has been set. He showed some statistics on solar panel applications received and the time required to approve. A comparison of utilities and solar permit requirements across neighbouring jurisdictions was shown.

The floor was opened for questions and comments from Committee members. A Committee Member asked about structural requirements for installation, and staff responded that they have created a bulletin on this matter and are hoping to hold a solar industry stakeholder workshop in February or March 2022. A Committee Member asked about standalone systems and whether this falls under the same permitting process, and staff responded that they haven't received an application for this as of yet and the details for this need to be determined. A Committee Member asked if engineering reports are needed for residential installations, and staff confirmed that if it is a framed structure with detailed drawings, this would be sufficient for smaller projects, but ultimately these are considered on a case-by-case basis. A Committee Member commented on the possibility of the city covering the metering cost in order to encourage these installations, and staff responded that Council has previously directed staff to continue having individuals pay this cost, but did increase payment flexibility and the rate at which it pays customers. A Committee Member asked about staff's capacity to handle increases in permit requests, and staff commented that they have worked to streamline their process to help handle this and that capacity is constantly being reviewed. A Committee Member commented that the RDOS has developed a bylaw regarding standalone solar systems. A Committee Member commented on the need for the city to work cooperatively with individuals looking to install solar as it benefits the climate. Staff commented that they will continue to monitor and provide updates on any significant changes to the current process.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Community Sustainability Advisory Committee receive into the record the report dated December 8, 2021 titled "Solar Panel Utility Fee Structure and Permitting".

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4.3 2021 Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) Endorsement

The Community Sustainability Coordinator provided a background on the CCAP process, next steps, plan implementation (including EV charging stations), and the implementation of the FCM Community Efficiency Financing program to support home energy upgrades for individuals.

The floor was opened for questions and comments from Committee members. A Committee Member commented on bringing an item to a future Committee meeting regarding EV charging stations.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Community Sustainability Advisory Committee receive into the record the report dated December 8, 2021 titled "2021 Community Climate Action Plan Endorsement".

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4.4 Penticton Food Security Strategy Update

The Director of Development Services provided an update on the Penticton Food Security Strategy, including background information on the grant process, the development of the plan utilizing a working group, community engagement, the draft strategy and next steps.

The floor was opened for questions and comments from Committee members. A Committee Member asked about the timing for adoption, and staff responded that they are hoping to take it to Council early in 2022. A Committee Member asked about potential gaps in the policy related to our highway systems given the recent flooding, and staff responded that the recent events have shown us how resilient our food system really is, but that there is definitely room for improving our local food supply. A Committee Member commented that this should be looked at from a regional perspective as well, and staff responded that the current strategy is from a local perspective.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Community Sustainability Advisory Committee receive the report "Penticton Food Security Strategy Update" into the Public Record.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. **Next Meeting**

The next Community Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting date is still to be determined.

6. **Public Question Period**

7. **Adjournment**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Community Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 adjourn at 10:29 a.m.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Certified Correct:

for  \_\_\_\_\_  
John Schappert  
Legislative Assistant