

April 20, 2011

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To: Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee
 From: Councilor Linda Reimer, Chair of Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee

Subject: **Introduction to the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee**

Congratulations on your appointment to the Sustainability & Environmental Advisory Committee (SEAC). I look forward to working with you all over the next year.

As you may be aware, Council, at their Regular Meeting held March 7, 2011, as part of the following Notice of Motion, directed that the SEAC make recommendations to Council on the implementation of a ban on the use of cosmetic pesticides and report back to Council by June 30, 2011:

"Whereas the use of cosmetic pesticide (herbicides and insecticides) are used to kill weeds, insects and other pests for aesthetic purposes;

And Whereas there is a growing body of evidence linking pesticides to numerous childhood and adult cancers, birth defects and other diseases and illnesses and potential harm to wildlife;

And Whereas the cosmetic use of lawn and garden pesticides are non-essential and there are other safe alternatives for lawn and garden care;

And Whereas 171 municipalities across Canada have enacted or are in the process of enacting such a ban;

And Whereas 34 British Columbia (BC) municipalities have enacted or are in the process of enacting cosmetic pesticide bans that will protect 2.4 million BC residents from unnecessary exposure to pesticides;

And Whereas over 400 Coquitlam residents have signed a petition asking for a cosmetic pesticide ban;

And Whereas the British Columbia Community Charter specifically gives local governments the ability to make pesticide use bylaws;

Therefore be it resolved that Council direct the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee to make recommendations to Council on the implementation of a ban on the use of cosmetic pesticides and report back to Council by June 30, 2011."

The first item on the SEAC work plan will therefore be to consider and make recommendations to Council on the implementation of a ban on the use of cosmetic pesticides.

Archived video of the initial Notice of Motion, presented to Council at their Meeting on February 21st, as well as the subsequent discussion and directive to the SEAC, which took place at the March 7th Regular Council Meeting, can be viewed on the City's website (www.coquitlam.ca) under *Council Meeting Web Broadcasts*. You will need to access the meetings through the Archive Player (and then by selecting the date of the respective meeting). Once accessing the correct meeting, the relevant Items are listed as:

- Feb 21, 2011 – Other Business – Notice of Motion – Cosmetic Pesticide Ban for Coquitlam
- Mar 07, 2011 – Item 9 – Notice of Motion – Cosmetic Pesticide Ban for Coquitlam
- Mar 07, 2011- Public Question Period

A copy of a Notice of Motion presented to Council (and defeated) in May 2009 regarding the use of cosmetic pesticides is also attached for your information (webcasting was not available at that time).

We are asking SEAC members to consider the question of municipal bans on cosmetic pesticides and to come prepared to share your expertise at the April 28th Committee meeting. Sources could include other municipalities, health organizations, environmental organizations, the horticultural sector, local businesses, etc.

I look forward to meeting you all at the Inaugural Meeting and hope that you will find your experience to be a rewarding and exciting one.


Councillor Linda Reimer

c – Councillor Barrie Lynch
Manager Environmental Services

REPORT OF COUNCILLOR

15. Notice of Motion – Use of Cosmetic Pesticides

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The use of non-chemical controls on City property, wherever possible
- Current Federal regulations on pesticide use
- Lack of expertise and City staff resources to monitor and enforce pesticide use in Coquitlam
- Pros and cons with a total ban on cosmetic pesticide use
- A ban on pesticide use should be the responsibility of more senior levels of government

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MACDONELL
AND SECONDED

359 That Council allow a second round of debate with respect to this issue.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- Different regulations in BC municipalities regarding pesticide use

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR ROBINSON
AND SECONDED

360 Whereas the use of cosmetic pesticides (herbicides and insecticides) are used to kill weeds, insects and other pests for aesthetic purposes;

And Whereas there is no absolute proof that these products cause no harm;

And Whereas there is a growing body of evidence linking pesticides to numerous childhood and adult cancers, birth defects and other diseases and illness;

And Whereas there is evidence that there is harm to wildlife;

And Whereas the cosmetic use of lawn and garden pesticides are non-essential;

And Whereas there are other safe alternatives for caring for lawns and gardens;

And Whereas eighteen (18) British Columbia (BC) municipalities and 135 Canadian municipalities and two (2) provinces have cosmetic pesticide bans;

And Whereas the UBCM has supported a ban on the sale of cosmetic pesticides in BC;

Therefore be it resolved that the City of Coquitlam hold a public meeting on the issue of cosmetic pesticides in the City of Coquitlam;

And be it further resolved that Council urge the Provincial Government to monitor the progress on this issue in Coquitlam as they may want to act based on our experience.

DEFEATED

Councillors Asmundson, Reid, Reimer and Sekora registered opposition.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The items listed on the agenda were received for information. No further action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR ASMUNDSON
AND SECONDED

361 That the Regular Meeting of Council adjourn – 10:10 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CHAIR

I hereby certify that I have recorded the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held Monday, May 4, 2009 as instructed, subject to amendment and adoption.

Denise Peternell
Committee Clerk