

**Community Services Report to
Community Development Committee
2022 May 27**

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CD2022-0583
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BiodiverCity Advisory Committee Updated Terms of Reference

RECOMMENDATION:

That Administration recommend that the Community Development Committee:

1. Approve the revised Terms of Reference for the BiodiverCity Advisory Committee.

HIGHLIGHTS

This document outlines the changes made to the BiodiverCity Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference as directed by Council to better reflect the criticality of the work and improve the committee's ability to interface with Council and Administration.

- *What does this mean to Calgarians?* This will improve the decision-making of both Council and Administration in terms of impacts to biodiversity in Calgary, contributing to a richer more biodiverse city for residents.
- *Why does it matter?* Higher biodiversity is associated with improved resilience to natural disasters, pest outbreaks and the ability of Calgarians to connect with nature.
- Strategic Alignment to Council's Citizen Priorities: A healthy and green city
- Background and previous Council Direction (combined meeting of Council November 15, 2021): *That with respect to Report N2021-1207, the following be adopted: That Council directs Administration to work with the BiodiverCity Advisory Committee and the Anti-Racism Action Committee to revise each committee's respective terms of reference to better reflect the criticality of the work as well as each committee's ability to better interface with Council and Administration, and report back through Community Development in Q1 of 2022.*

DISCUSSION

The recent Climate Emergency declared by Mayor Gondek and council serves to highlight the need for timely, accurate information on issues pertaining to biodiversity and how these issues can help address the climate challenge the city is currently facing.

The BiodiverCity Advisory Committee's specific responsibilities include:

Advising Council on biodiversity issues and provide advice, collaborate with researchers and institutions to advance innovation in conserving Calgary's biodiversity and ensuring appropriate City of Calgary staff, Council, communities and local businesses have access to information to advance actions supported by Our BiodiverCity and the Durban Commitment and, support biodiversity, eco-literacy, or related initiatives in the community.

The updated Terms of Reference more accurately reflects the importance of the work the BiodiverCity Advisory Committee does and the need for improved timely communication with council members on issues related to biodiversity.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION (EXTERNAL)

- ☐ Public Engagement was undertaken
- ☒ Public Communication or Engagement was not required
- ☐ Public/Stakeholders were informed

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☐ Stakeholder dialogue/relations were undertaken

IMPLICATIONS

Social

More focus on the BiodiverCity Advisory Committee at Council will likely result in more opportunities for Calgarians to connect with our Parks system, increasing the mental and physical health of our citizens.

Environmental

These updated Terms of Reference will provide more opportunity to involve impacts to biodiversity in Council and Administration decision making, improving the overall health and resilience of Calgary's natural systems.

Economic

Not Applicable

Service and Financial Implications

No anticipated financial impact

RISK

There are no anticipated risks with the minor changes in the Terms of Reference rewrite. The risk of not accepting these changes would be removing biodiversity impacts from the conversation when making decisions regarding City matters, leading to a less healthy and resilient Parks system.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Draft Revised Terms of Reference

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Doug Morgan	Operational Services	Inform