

BiodiverCity Advisory committee letter to Council

City of Calgary BiodiverCity Advisory Committee

June 25, 2024

Her Worship, Mayor Gondek and Members of Council

c/o City Clerk's Office

Mail Code #8007

P.O. Box 2100, Station M

Calgary AB Canada T2P 2M5

Dear Madam Mayor and Council Members:

As chair of the BiodiverCity Advisory Committee (BAC), I am writing to inform you that the public members of the BAC think it unwise for Mayor and Council to disband the committee.

Council established this committee to support the strategic plan, Our BiodiverCity (2015-2025). Over the past 10 years, the City of Calgary has developed and implemented important policies and programs to protect and increase biodiversity in Calgary. Our most critical strategic advice to you today is that you must not lose focus on the importance of biodiversity, protecting natural areas, and increasing ecoliteracy among Calgary's rapidly growing population.

Biodiversity plays a crucial role in both climate change mitigation and adaptation. Beyond that, biodiversity is essential to life on earth. Employment and Social Development Canada cites 35 "plausible" global disruptions that could reshape Canada and the world in the near future. Ranked second by the highest combination of likelihood and impact is the scenario where "*Biodiversity is lost and ecosystems collapse in seven years*".

Within the BiodiverCity Advisory Committee there exists strong expertise and members share a common goal of advancing biodiversity in Calgary. Maintaining the BAC membership and not becoming a subcommittee of the Climate Advisory Committee will ensure that a focus on biodiversity is not lost.

The BAC respectfully requests that we continue to be a part of your formal public consultation. Instead of disbanding the committee, we urge City Council to engage the BAC well in advance of critical decisions that will significantly impact biodiversity in Calgary.

Yours truly,



Dianne E. Allen, Chair, BiodiverCity Advisory Committee

BiodiverCity Advisory Committee Members:

Sara Jordan-McLachlan, Vice Chair

Dr. Mindi Summers

Dr. Lea Randall

Berna-Dean Holland

Matthew Rygus

Natalie Mcleod

Amanda Dickson

Stephanie Findlay