



MINUTES

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (ACES)
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2013-NOV-13 AT 4:30 PM
BOARD ROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE (411 DUNSMUIR STREET)**

Members Present:	Diane Brennan, Chair Anne Kerr Calvin Tant Chad Dalrymple Travis Barrington (alternate for Jan Hastings)	Sheri DeBoer Suzanne Andre Glenda Hunter (alternate for Michele Patterson) Wally Wells Ted Perry
Members Absent:	Michele Patterson Jan Hastings	Shelley Serebrin (alternate for Chad Dalrymple)
Staff:	Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner	Rebecca Tubbs, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

Chair D. Brennan called the meeting to order at 4:41 pm, welcoming T. Barrington (NRE rep alternate for J. Hastings) to the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

The agenda was approved as presented with the following late item:

- a) City of Nanaimo Garbage and Recycling Program (A.Kerr)
The latest edition of the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) newsletter (WasteLine) states that the new provincial curbside recycling program will no longer allow residents to recycle plastic bags at the curb. There has been community pushback, including a motion at this year's UBCM asking that the Province stall and renegotiate the deal. The Committee suggested that this be flagged as a potential issue, and that a RDN representative be invited to a future meeting to discuss the issue of solid waste.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2013-OCT-09)

It was moved and seconded that the 2013-OCT-09 Minutes be adopted as presented. The motion was carried.

4. Items Arising from Minutes

None.

5. Delegations

- a) Successful Cities Initiative
For information. W. Wells was asked to provide information on the Successful Cities Initiative. The presentation provided background and context information, including pillars and elements of the initiative, committee structure, progress made to date, etc. The Successful Cities initiative provides a forum and opportunity for community members to "make things happen". The initiative has five pillars (social, cultural, economy, natural environment, and built environment) and 11 elements (connectivity, culture of collaboration, culture of innovation, distinctiveness, livability, entrepreneurial governance, master planning & design, quality of life, social conscience, sustainability, vibrant economy). D. Brennan thanked W. Wells for the presentation.

6. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices

- a) South Downtown Waterfront Initiative – Presentation, Ideas Forum, Design Charrette (Nov 12-16)
For information. As noted at previous meetings, the South Downtown Waterfront Initiative Committee is hosting a series of public events in order to gain public input on the South Downtown Waterfront Study Area.

Presentation by Dr. Larry Beasley

Tapping the Magic of Waterfronts: Lessons for Nanaimo from the 'New Urbanism'.
2013-NOV-12 at 7:00 pm in the Shaw Auditorium. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Ideas Forum

2013-NOV-13 at 7:00 pm at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre
Everyone is welcome to attend.

Design Charrette

2013-NOV-14, 15, 16 at Vancouver Island Conference Centre
Application process for public participation has closed.

- b) Proposed Revisions to the Integrated Pest Management Regulation – Discuss Intentions Paper.
For information. There have been some proposed revisions to the *Integrated Pest Management Regulation*. A link to an intentions paper was provided to members via email prior to the meeting (<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/codes/ipmr/index.htm>). The City may wish to consider revisions to the pesticide bylaw in light of these proposed changes. It was suggested that this item be discussed at a future meeting.

7. Ongoing Business

- a) Riparian Area Setback Variance Policy Review – Receive Comments on Draft DPA Guidelines
The Committee heard a presentation on the proposed changes to the Development Permit Guidelines and Development Permit Information Areas for watercourses and environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs). Having completed an initial review with City staff, the proposed changes were presented to ACES members. Changes were also reviewed with biologists from Nanaimo and surrounding areas as well as the Development Process Review Committee (DPRC). The DPRC stated the importance of having a clear process that lays out how a variance can be applied for. It was noted that the City can require a developer to meet or beat the provincial standards. Proposed changes included:

Pre-Application Stage

- An initial meeting between the owner of the property or applicant and City Staff is needed to review the costs and requirements of the potential project and to discuss redesign of the development concept prior to discussing relaxing other development restrictions and before varying the watercourse setback area.
- These development restrictions include: varying building setbacks; reducing parking requirements; and reorienting the building form.
- If after relaxing these development restrictions as much as reasonably possible, the property still cannot be developed under the current zoning and existing watercourse setback, then a variance can be applied for.

During the Application Stage

- Include an assessment of broader ecological features and functions other than what is required for fish protection under the RAR. These features include: wildlife den sites; bird nesting sites; wildlife trees; seasonal wetlands; amphibian species (native and invasive).
- A clearly written executive summary of the RAR assessment report, prepared by the QEP, for use by City Staff.

Post-Application & Followup Stage

- During the construction / post construction phase, a QEP would inspect the site to ensure all RAR Assessment Report recommendations are implemented. Sufficient bonding will be held to cover costs.

The Committee discussed the revised guidelines, making the following comments:

- Try gaining compliance (through bonding requirement for QEP retainment through the post development phase) instead of forcing the issue as a requirement.
- It was suggested that the heading "Guidelines" in OCP 7.4 be changed to "Requirements and Procedures" to be consistent with OCP 7.6 (Watercourse Development Approval Information Area) and to reflect the existing language used such as "will, shall, must".
- A couple of the Committee members raised concerns about whether the professional opinion of a QEP would be influenced by the developer hiring them. Council needs to have an independent review completed by staff or a QEP hired by the City. Staff noted that the new system would require an executive summary be completed by the QEP to provide Council with a more in depth explanation as to what the report says, what is being varied, what are the mitigation measures, etc.

It was suggested that a follow up meeting be arranged to more closely review the proposed changes with local biologists, who are familiar with the current process. A. Kerr, T. Perry, G. Hebert and C. Tant volunteered to participate. If other members are interested, please inform R. Lawrance.

b) BC Hydro Powersmart Forum (2013-OCT-22) – Debrief & Next Steps

For information. City staff attended this forum to present information on the Realtor and Energy Efficiency Program (REEP), along with Rob Grey (realtor) and Mayor Ruttan. City staff is now looking to pursue a REEP Phase 2, which ACES will likely have a more direct role in. It was suggested that this item be added to the work plan under the Community Sustainability Action Plan item.

c) Bird Death Study – Report Back on Calgary Pet Licensing Bylaw

For information. The Committee discussed this issue at the last meeting and members were asked to seek more information on Calgary's Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw. S. Andre provided background information via email prior to the meeting. In summary, Calgary's bylaw has been a success, stating that pets must be licensed; must remain on owners property; must not disturb the public; must not damage others property; must not scatter garbage; and must not attack other persons or animals. It was decided that this item be considered for addition to a future agenda and / or work plan.

8. New Business

a) Committee Christmas Dinner

Christmas Dinner will be held at the Westwood Bistro on 2013-DEC-12 around 6:00-6:30 pm. Spouses are welcome to attend but must cover their own costs. Staff will make the reservation and forward details to members via email prior to the next meeting.

9. Council Update

None.

10. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting is 2013-DEC-11 at 4:30 pm in the Board Room of the Service and Resource Centre (411 Dunsmuir Street).

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.

APPROVED:



Chair

Date

2013-DEC-11