



MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (ACES)
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2012-DEC-12 AT 4:30 PM
NANAIMO MUSEUM (100 MUSEUM WAY)

Members Present: Diane Brennan, Chair
Calvin Tant
Anne Kerr
Ted Perry

Suzanne Andre
Shelley Serebrin
Sheri DeBoer
Glenda Hunter

Members Absent: Jan Hastings

Wally Wells
Snuneymuxw First Nation Rep

Staff: Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner
Chris Jackson, Manager, Community Planning

Rebecca Tubbs, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

D. Brennan called the meeting to order at 4:41 pm

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

The agenda was approved with the addition of the following items:

a) RDN Team Watersmart Draft Program:

For information. Staff presented a draft list of educational workshops and programs being held by the RDN's Team Watersmart in 2013. Workshops will focus on water conservation, landscaping, pesticide alternatives, etc.

b) Nanaimo River Symposium – Status Update:

Over the last year, NALT has been making efforts to form a watershed round-table for the Nanaimo River watershed. Efforts have included hosting a forum at VIU with a variety of attendees, and working toward completing and adopting a terms of reference. Round-table discussions are supposed to begin in January. The Committee asked that they be kept updated on this item.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2012-NOV-14)

A. Kerr requested that the minutes be revised to more clearly reflect the issue at-hand regarding variance setbacks, the idea of an inventory, reason for delegation's request, etc.:

Item 5A) Bill Merilees, Jennifer O'Rourke & Harriet Rueggeberg – Protection of Riparian Areas within the City of Nanaimo:

D. Brennan welcomed Mr. Bill Merilees, Ms. Jennifer O'Rourke and Ms. Harriet Rueggeberg, who attended the meeting to discuss the protection of riparian habitat. Concerns were raised about the perceived loss of habitat throughout the City. With the recent changes to the Federal Fisheries Act and uncertainty about the effectiveness of the Provincial Riparian Area Regulation, the delegation proposed that the City of Nanaimo review its existing process for variances under the City's Watercourse DPA and Zoning Bylaws.

Examples of variance processes were presented to the Committee from other local government jurisdictions in BC and Alberta. The delegation requested that the Committee review the list of resources and examples provided and consider the mitigation and compensation process adopted in other communities.

D. Brennan thanked the delegations for their presentation.

It was moved and seconded that the 2012-NOV-14 Minutes be adopted as amended.
The motion was carried.

4. Items Arising from Minutes

5. Delegations

- a) Gary Noble, Development Approval Planner – The Watercourse Bylaw Variance Process and a Discussion on its Application:
G. Noble is unable to attend the meeting, but will attend the January meeting. As well, R. Lawrance will prepare a background memo on the City's watercourse bylaw and the current variance process that is used. The memo will respond to specific questions raised by the Committee at the November meeting.

6. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices

7. Ongoing Business

- a) Community Sustainability Action Plan (CSAP) – Implementation next steps:
Staff thanked the Committee for their hard work in preparing the CSAP for Council, which was adopted on 2012-DEC-03. The only concern raised by Council was in regards to the change in target setting, which was explained by staff in attendance.

The next phase will focus on a draft five-year plan, which will involve identifying opportunities to reduce energy and GHGs, and working with stakeholder to develop a community engagement study. Education and public engagement will play a major role over the next year and will include web updates, media releases, promotion of current incentives and working with community groups to enhance public outreach.

As an example, staff is working with a local realtor to develop a Realtor Energy Efficiency Program (REEP) with funding that has been applied for through BC Hydro. BC Hydro has expressed an interest in working with the City and local realtors to develop a program in which realtors promote energy efficiency when selling homes. Promotion ideas include information packages, an EnerGuide rating to be displayed with home listings, various incentives, and (over the long-term), the creation of an energy efficiency credit as part of realtor certification.

8. New Business

- a) Work Plan 2013 – Topics & Issues selection:
Staff reviewed the 2012 work plan. Although every item was not completed, new initiatives were added in response to immediate issues that arose (such as changes to the *Fisheries Act*). It may be helpful for future work plans to include a fewer number of items but to allow for flexibility to add initiatives when needed. The Committee made the following suggestions for the 2013 work plan:
- Consider starting with fewer work plan items, but deliver more impact on those items
 - Create metrics or deliverables (amount of work expected per project, etc.)
 - Include the Green Nanaimo Awards (tentatively scheduled for May 2013)
 - Include an item that allows flexibility to address issues that may arise throughout the year:
"The Committee will remain informed on issues, planning processes, technical developments and other matters related to environmental sustainability in the Nanaimo area, in order to be well-positioned to provide advice to Council as appropriate."
 - Keep informed on the progress of issues that have been discussed/resolved in the past to remain updated on their progress
 - Include the continued promotion of the pesticide bylaw and continuation of the invasive plant management strategy
 - Facilitate a program similar to "Resilient Cities" or the Chamber of Commerces' "Business Before Business".

R. Lawrance will use the above suggestions to create a draft 2013 work plan for review by the Committee at the next meeting.

9. Council Update

At the regular 2012-DEC-03 Council meeting, D. Brennan advised that she will be bringing forward the following motion for consideration at the 2012-DEC-17 Council meeting:

"That Council request that the Planning Department review the riparian setback variation policy, in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (ACES), the Development Process Review Committee (DPRC) and the development community, and forward any resulting recommendations for change for Council's consideration."

10. Next Meeting

The Committee will meet for Christmas Dinner on Friday, 2012-DEC-14 at 5:30 pm at the Westwood Lake Bistro. The next regular meeting is scheduled **for 2013-JAN-09 at 4:30 pm in the Service and Resource Centre (SARC) at 411 Dunsmuir Street (the new building behind City Hall).**

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:19 pm.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date