



**MINUTES**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY  
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2012-JAN-11 AT 4:30 PM  
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM, 455 WALLACE STREET**

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<b>Members Present:</b>	Anne Kerr, Chair Charles Thirkill Meg Savory	Wally Wells Shelley Serebrin Michael Schellinck
<b>Members Absent:</b>	James Redford Diane Brennan	Joan Wagner
<b>Staff:</b>	Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner	Rebecca Tubbs, Recording Secretary
<b>Guests:</b>	Garland Coulson, President, Nanaimo Astronomy Society	

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**1. Call to Order**

Chair A. Kerr called the meeting to order at 4:38 pm, welcoming G. Coulson of the Nanaimo Astronomy Society.

**2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items**

The agenda was approved as presented with the addition of the following late items:

a) List of Provincially Exempt Pesticides:

It was mentioned that although many of the provincially exempt pesticides currently listed in the City's pesticide bylaw are non-toxic to humans, they are highly toxic to fish, bees, insects, etc. Staff explained that the provincial exemption list is required in the bylaw. The Committee will monitor the provincial special committee on cosmetic pesticides for further developments.

b) Enviro-Walk by Dover Bay Eco Club (2012-MAR-16):

Students from the Dover Bay Eco Club will be organizing a walk on 2012-MAR-16 from Maffeo-Sutton Park to Diana Krall Plaza, to gather and discuss efforts to locally improve the environment.

**3. Adoption of Minutes (2011-DEC-14)**

It was noted that the conference mentioned in Item 8A is the Simon Fraser University's (SFU) Sustainable Cities program.

MOVED and SECONDED that the 2011-DEC-14 Minutes be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

**4. Items Arising from Minutes**

**5. Budget**

**6. Delegations**

a) Light Pollution Concerns in the City of Nanaimo:

G. Coulson, President of the Nanaimo Astronomy Society gave a Powerpoint presentation on light pollution. The presentation included discussion on the following points:

- Light pollution can have many negative effects including increased operating costs; global warming contribution; risk to the health of birds, animals and humans; and it does not reduce crime.
- The Nanaimo Astronomy Society would like to see a reduction in light pollution through streetlight conversion; adding timers and motion detectors to existing lights; establishing a regional light pollution committee; setting up a dark sky reserve; having a post light switch located at Westwood Lake; and having after-hours access to the lake gate.

Staff noted that the Engineering Department is undergoing a review of the City's Engineering Standards and Specifications, and that lighting standards are being looked at as part of the review.

G. Coulson provided members with the Nanaimo Astronomy Society's contact information before excusing himself from the meeting.

## **7. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices**

- a) Greening Your Business, 2012-JAN-18:  
For information.

## **8. Ongoing Business**

- a) 2012 Work Plan – Discussion:  
The Committee reviewed the draft 2012 work plan and suggested that the following changes be made:

### *Sustainability Action Plan:*

- *Note that the "climate change" portion of the plan is complete.*
- *Develop a framework that identifies what a sustainability action plan for Nanaimo will look like.*
- *Framework needs to recognize what has been accomplished so far (social, economic, enviro, etc.) and clarify what aspects of that framework ACES should address.*

### *Invasive Species Management Strategy:*

- *Specify that there are two portions to this item (invasive plant and invasive species) and that the focus in 2012 will be on invasive plants.*

### *Public Information/Outreach:*

- *Change "promote" to "foster, support and facilitate".*
- *Specify which items will be promoted at which events.*

### *Pesticide Education:*

- *Change "establish" to "continue to build on".*
- *Remove "work with Nanaimo Horticultural Society and Community.....".*
- *Include continued support and promotion.*
- *Change priority from High to Medium.*

### *Watercourse / Riparian Health:*

- *Work with School District No. 68 in some capacity (i.e. presentation to a class)*
- *Emphasize the need for public awareness about regulations.*
- *Consider revising the fee structure as a way to generate revenue for education on watercourses/riparian area bylaws.*

### *New Item: Urban Agriculture*

- *Include an item that allows ACES to review existing City policy and legislation relating to urban agriculture/food security/urban chickens/community gardens, etc. with suggested enhancements.*
- *Make priority Medium.*

- b) Draft Council Report Re: Jeff Thomas Environmental Youth Award/Merv Wilkinson Award of Distinction – Finalize/approve:  
Report approved.

c) Sustainability Action Plan – Community Engagement:

S. Herrera was unable to attend the meeting as a delegation to provide feedback on the course she had recently attended (SFU's Sustainable Cities). R. Lawrance presented the information on her behalf via a Powerpoint presentation. Important points included the following were:

- Need to encourage and empower community while providing accurate and important information and measures for success.
- Engaging the community sustains goals for sustainability and helps propel implementation.
- Changing demographics will play a significant role.
- Spectrum of engagement presented as a tool to understand levels of public engagement.

The Committee offered the following comments on the draft plan:

- Summarize the information on page 37. It needs to capture the group's concerns regarding the importance of community-driven projects.
- It was suggested that the name be clarified and changed to "Climate Action Plan – A Component of the Sustainability Action Plan for Nanaimo".

ACTION: Members to review Section 6.3 (Community Engagement) and send comments to staff no later than **2012-JAN-20**.

## 9. New Business

### 10. Council / Committee Update

- a) 2011-DEC-19 Council Meeting: No report.
- b) 2012-JAN-09 Council Meeting: No report.
- c) PNAC Meeting: No report.

### 11. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for **2012-FEB-08** in the City Hall Board Room at 4:30 pm. W. Wells will act as Chair. [ **The meeting room was changed to the Conference Room, City Hall Annex for this meeting. ]**

### 12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.

APPROVED:

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Chair

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Date

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