



MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2011-JUN-08 AT 4:30 PM
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM, 455 WALLACE STREET

Present:	Anne Kerr, Chair Charles Thirkill Shelley Serebrin	Wally Wells Joan Wagner
Staff:	Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner	Rebecca Tubbs (Recording Secretary)
Regrets	Jeff Thomas James Redford Jim Kipp	Meg Savory Michael Schellinck Michele Patterson

1. Call to Order

Chair A. Kerr called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

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

a) Transportation Master Plan (R. Lawrance):

The 18-month process for creating the City's Transportation Master Plan will soon begin. Two open houses have been scheduled for public input:

- June 14 from 4-8 pm at the Beban Social Lounge
- June 16 from 5-8 pm at the Chase River Fire Hall #4

R. Lawrance will invite a member of the Transportation Committee to a future ACES meeting to discuss how ACES can assist in the development of the Transportation Master Plan. More information, and an online survey, is available online at www.nanaimo.ca/transportationplan.

b) Zoning Bylaw (R. Lawrance):

The City's lawyer recently reviewed the proposed new zoning bylaw and concluded that the landscape point system, as presented within Part 17 of the bylaw, contains requirements for specific types of landscape that cannot legally be done through a zoning bylaw. It is possible to fix the checklist and add it back to the zoning bylaw via an amendment in the future.

Based on the lawyer's advice, the landscape requirements (other than for screening and separation of uses) have been removed from the zoning bylaw. Instead, the sustainable design guidelines will provide this information through the development permit process.

c) Green Building Workshops & Open Houses (A. Kerr):

The Regional District of Nanaimo will be holding some green building workshops and open houses at various locations across the City on June 12 and June 26. More information is available online at www.rdn.bc.ca/cms.asp?wpID=2461.

ACTION: Information forwarded to members via e-mail after the meeting.

d) Regional Growth Strategy Process (A. Kerr/J. Wagner):

A. Kerr and J. Wagner have been discussing the process for the RDN's Regional Growth Strategy. They feel it would be valuable for Lisa Bhopalsingh to attend a future ACES meeting to provide information on the Regional Growth Strategy.

R. Lawrance has an interest, from an educational perspective, to hear how the Regional Growth Strategy is going and how they handle density on a regional level. Having an understanding of the arguments in favor of density and impact on the community could be helpful information to ACES when it comes time to identify actions to meet emissions reduction targets.

ACTION: R. Lawrance to invite Lisa Bhopalsingh from the RDN to the September meeting to provide ACES with a general understanding of the Regional Growth Strategy. R. Tubbs to

forward members a copy of the process timeline and a link to the RDN's Regional Growth Strategy website.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2011-MAY-11)

See bottom of Item 6A.

4. Items Arising from Minutes

- a) Update on Pesticide Bylaw:
Deferred until next meeting as M. Savory is not in attendance.

5. Budget (\$1,265.49)

6. Delegations

- a) Doug Bell, Captain, Nanaimo Fire Department:
A. Kerr welcomed D. Bell to the meeting. D. Bell gave an overview of the recently adopted backyard burning bylaw. New restrictions for cooking fires include fires being contained within a device no wider than 24 inches in diameter, must use clean burning wood, fire cannot exceed two hours in duration, and wood smoke cannot be a nuisance. All calls for service are done on a complaint-basis and all complaints are followed-up on. All fines start at \$200.

The Fire Department commonly receives complaints regarding the burning of garbage and debris in woodstoves. There is little that the Fire Department can do to respond to these types of complaints at this time. Unless something specific is included in the bylaw, the City must prove that a resident is actually burning garbage inside of their home. The good news is that the number of woodstove complaints is declining.

D. Bell is not aware of any communities that have been successful in regulating woodstoves. Some communities recommend that residents not burn anything during an "inversion" but always have issues with enforcement. Powell River tried to create a bylaw that insisted all stoves be "CSA" approved (meaning approved for wood burning and not for burning garbage). If a fire was caused as a result of burning garbage, the homeowner's insurance would be null and void. D. Bell noted that the majority of people abide by the rules without an issue, but that the most effective way to reduce infractions is to implement a deterrent (fine).

S. Serebrin arrived at 4:44 pm. Quorum reached.

Public education and awareness efforts include attending schools, malls, public events, seasonal media campaigns, other ads, etc. The Fire Department noticed a huge decline in the number of house fires since their Christmas ad campaign blitz. Fire crews receive a few hours of public education each week which helps teach them how to respond to questions that they receive from the public. The Fire Department's long term goal is to put prevention and public education ahead of fire suppression. R. Lawrance suggested that ACES ask Council to increase the ad budget for the Fire Department to include more information regarding wood burning in their ad campaigns.

A. Kerr thanked D. Bell for attending the meeting. He left the meeting at 5:20 pm.

With quorum present since S. Serebrin's arrival, the Minutes were adopted as noted below:

MOVED by C. Thirkill, SECONDED by A. Kerr, that the 2011-MAY-11 Minutes be adopted as presented.
CARRIED.

7. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices

8. Ongoing Business

- a) Green Nanaimo Awards & Luncheon (2011-MAY-18) Debrief:
The event was successful and the award recipients seemed pleased to be publicly recognized. The Committee enjoyed seeing the recipients of the other awards as well. It was suggested that

the ACES review the selection and qualification criteria, award category structure etc., at some point in the future.

b) Sustainability Action Plan – “Check-in” Meeting (2011-JUN-16) (R. Lawrance):

The purpose of the meeting is to have Stantec review the results of the CEES with community stakeholders and provide a follow-up from the December workshop. The event will be held from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm in the City Annex Training Room and will include lunch. R. Lawrance will send out a final agenda to confirm all attendees by June 10.

Future community engagement sessions will include open houses during the fall to gather public input, presentation to the neighbourhood network meeting (neighbourhood perspective), and a Chamber of Commerce meeting with small and medium business (business perspective).

J. Wagner excused herself from the meeting at 5:57 pm. Quorum no longer present.

A. Kerr suggested that some of the figures be corrected and that a glossary of acronyms be developed. R. Lawrance agreed that some of the information in the CEES report is not clear and has asked Stantec to include with the report an appendix that explains how the figures were derived. Stantec has agreed to these changes and will be presenting a revised study at the meeting on June 16.

ACTION: R. Lawrance to send a final agenda to members via e-mail by June 10.

9. New Business

a) Invasive Species Strategy – Scope of Work:

Deferred until next meeting as quorum is no longer present.

R. Lawrance distributed to members a copy of Coquitlam's invasive species strategy as information. He recommended that the creation of an invasive species strategy be prepared for addition to next year's work plan. That will allow an opportunity to request a budget from Council. At that point, ACES may decide to handle it themselves or budget for a consultant to deal with it. He recommends that a budget be set to cover the cost of developing such a strategy (that is, if Council agrees to the added funds).

C. Thirkill noted that this is exactly the type of thing that the Environmental Coordinator (a position now removed from the City) would handle. The issue of invasive plants is so general within the community and it requires stewardship, community group action, etc.

ACTION: R. Lawrance will forward an e-copy of Coquitlam's invasive species strategy to members for information after the meeting. Item deferred until next meeting as Ongoing Business.

10. Council / Committee Update

a) 2011-MAY-16 Council Meeting: No report.

b) PNAC Meeting: No report.

11. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for **2011-JUL-13** in the City Hall Board Room at 4:30 pm. M. Savory will act as Chair.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date