



MINUTES

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 2011-APR-05 AT 4:30 PM
CITY ANNEX TRAINING ROOM, 238 FRANKLYN STREET**

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

1. Call to Order

Chair M. Savory called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

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

- a) Draft Amenity Requirements for Additional Density in New Zoning Bylaw (R. Lawrance):
R. Lawrance provided the Committee with "Schedule E – Draft List of Amenity Requirements" which has been added to the New Zoning Bylaw. The schedule requires developers to provide amenities and achieve the minimum points required if they want to increase density in a proposed development. R. Lawrance would appreciate some feedback from members on the document. Does it address what it needs to? Does the point weighting make sense?

ACTION: Members to send comments on Schedule E to R. Lawrance prior to 2011-APR-19.

- b) Environmental Refugees (C. Thirkill):
What policies does Nanaimo have in place for accepting environmental refugees? Since the recent nuclear crisis in Japan, it may be something to explore further.
- c) Morrell Sanctuary Plant Sale (A. Kerr):
Morrell Sanctuary's 17th annual plant sale will be held 2011-MAY-07 from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm and will have a large variety of garden plants, grasses, native plants, seeds and potted plants for sale.
- d) Pesticide Bylaw Education / Implementation (R. Lawrance / A. Kerr):
R. Lawrance and the Parks Department recently sent a report to Council to provide them with an update on the upcoming pesticide bylaw and the education efforts that have been taking place.
- e) Urban Agriculture (J. Wagner):
There has been a strong interest in urban gardening this year. J. Wagner has heard of and will be attending some interesting and practical presentations/workshops from a variety of speakers (Linda Gilkinson; Carol Herriot, Author of the *Zero Mile Diet*; Urban Food Forests). She suggested that the Committee consider sponsoring one of the speakers to present in Nanaimo.

ACTION: J. Wagner to attend presentations/workshops and report back to ACES.

- f) YPN Community Gardens (R. Lawrance):
The Young Professionals of Nanaimo has organized a group looking to create temporary community gardens (raised beds) on the sites of old service stations. Some potential sites have been identified and the group is now looking for fundraising opportunities. There are some concerns regarding site contamination which will be researched further.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2011-MAR-09)

MOVED by W. Wells, SECONDED by J. Redford, that the 2011-MAR-09 Minutes be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

4. Items Arising from Minutes

- a) Issue of Pesticide Product Care Program (PCP) presented to Council:
J. Kipp not in attendance.

ACTION: Deferred until the next meeting.

- b) Pesticide Drop-off Event – Status Update:
M. Schellinck not in attendance.

ACTION: Deferred until the next meeting.

- c) Climate Change Workshop Note Review / Second Workshop in April?:

A special meeting will be held 2011-APR-18 at 4:30 pm in the City Annex (238 Franklyn Street) to review the notes from December's climate change workshop. Once the notes have been composed into a more comprehensive format, they will be sent to the workshop participants, along with the CEES from Stantec.

At the same special meeting, members will review nominations for the Green Nanaimo Awards and select recipients. Three nominations have been received to-date. Deadline for nominations is 2011-APR-11.

ACTION: Notes from climate change workshop and nominations for Green Awards to be sent to members to review prior to the special 2011-APR-18 meeting.

- d) “Ask a Gardener” Online Q&A Feature:

The Parks Department has agreed to help answer the public's gardening questions via an online Q&A feature. A request has been made to the IT Department to create an online forum function, but they have said that it will take some time due to their high work load. In the interim, an e-mail address will be created for questions to be sent to. Questions will be received and answered by Gail Pasaluko or Jim Plasteras of the Parks Department, or Rob Lawrance.

ACTION: Staff to inform members when Q&A feature is available on the City website.

- e) Recommendation for Native Planting Requirement in Zoning Bylaw – Outcome:

NALT has been asking that the term “planted material” in Section 17.1 (Required Landscaping) of the Zoning Bylaw be changed to “native plant species suitable to site conditions”. D. Lovick of NALT has met with Dave Stewart to discuss NALT's proposed changes, which has resulted in a change being proposed at the Level 2 Treatment. This means that it was added to the list of options that would be presented to developers looking to get more “sustainability” points. It was suggested that Dave Stewart attend the next ACES meeting to answer the Committee's questions surrounding the new Zoning Bylaw.

ACTION: Dave Stewart to attend the next meeting to address the Committee's questions and concerns regarding the new Zoning Bylaw. Committee questions to be sent to R. Lawrance prior to the meeting to provide Dave with a heads-up. R. Tubbs to e-mail members with a link to the new Zoning Bylaw.

- f) Delegation Invitation to Transportation Committee Member:

The City's Transportation Committee is currently looking at models from other communities on how to create a transportation plan for Nanaimo. Inviting a member from the Committee to a future ACES meeting could help ACES decide how best to provide input on the sustainability elements within the transportation plan.

ACTION: Deferred until next meeting. R. Lawrance to discuss with Engineering Department about the best time for ACES to provide input into the transportation plan, and ask him to attend a future ACES meeting.

5. Budget (\$2,319.67)

6. Delegations

7. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices

- a) Staff Report RE: Pesticide Use Bylaw 2010 No. 7102 – For information:
Distributed at the meeting for information.

- b) Nanaimo Better Breathers, 2011-APR-18:

R. Lawrance will be attending the Nanaimo Better Breathers meeting (a group organized through the BC Lung Association to educate on air quality issues) to give a presentation on woodstoves and air quality (presentation provided to members for review).

One main item on the Committee's work plan is to explore regulatory options for managing wood smoke in residential areas. Is this possible? Currently there are no bylaws in Nanaimo that regulate wood stoves or wood smoke. There are, however, models available from other communities that have been able to improve the efficiency of existing woodstoves.

ACTION: Members to send any comments regarding R. Lawrance's presentation to him prior to 2011-APR-18. R. Lawrance to present to ACES at the next meeting and continue with an in-depth discussion.

8. Ongoing Business

- a) Special ACES Meeting to Review Green Nanaimo Award Nominations:

See Item 4C. ACES to meet for a special meeting on 2011-APR-18 at 4:30 pm in the City Annex (238 Franklyn Street) to review nominations and select recipients.

- b) Committee Awards Luncheon, 2011-MAY-18:

The Green Nanaimo Awards will be presented to recipients at this luncheon. It has been scheduled for 2011-MAY-18 from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm at Oliver Woods Community Centre. A catered lunch will be provided. Invitations will be sent to members at the start of the month.

ACTION: R. Tubbs to resend nomination form for Green Nanaimo Awards and list of past award winners to Committee members for information.

9. New Business

None.

10. Council / Committee Update

- a) 2011-MAR-14 Council Meeting: No report.

- b) 2011-MAR-28 Council Meeting: No report.

- c) PNAC Meeting: M. Savory encouraged Committee members to read and comment on the City's new zoning bylaw, which is available online. The topic of urban agriculture is being weaved into the proposed new bylaw, but there are still questions that need to be answered: min/max lot size? the sale of products? Although Dave Stewart from the Current Planning Department may attend the next ACES meeting for more input from ACES, the time for input is now.

11. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 2011-MAY-11 in the City Hall Board Room at 4:30 pm.
A. Kerr will act as Chair.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 pm.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date