



MINUTES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2011-FEB-09 AT 4:30 PM
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM, 455 WALLACE STREET

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

1. Call to Order

Chair S. Serebrin called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm. New members were welcomed and introduced to the Committee.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

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

- a) Idling Bylaw (J. Kipp): To be deferred until the next meeting.
- b) Cell Towers (J. Kipp): To be deferred until the next meeting
- c) NALT Seminar Series (A. Kerr):
Nancy Turner, Ph. D., Author of "Earth's Blanket" will be giving a seminar on 2011-MAR-06 at 2:00 pm in the Christ Community Church Auditorium (2221 Bowen Road). The seminar will explore themes of traditional First Nation's harvest and uses of edible and medicinal plants in the Pacific Northwest.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2011-JAN-12)

MOVED by J. Kipp, SECONDED by W. Wells, that the 2011-JAN-12 Minutes be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

4. Items Arising from Minutes

- a) Information regarding feasibility of a "staggered" membership:
At the last meeting it was asked whether or not a "staggered" membership process, similar to PNAC, would be possible for ACES.

The answer received by Legislative Services was that since the recent restructuring of all of the committees, all of Council's advisory committees (with the exception of PNAC) have been assigned uniform start/end dates. They would prefer that the terms remain consistent. PNAC is an exception that Council agreed on due to the nature of the work, the number of members, and that many members are representatives from other advisory committees. If ACES is interested in pursuing this type of change, it will ultimately be up to Council.

It was suggested that this item be added to a future workplan or brought forward to Council at the end of the year for consideration for the 2012 committees.

ACTION: To be revisited at a later date.

5. Budget (to be determined)**6. Delegations****a) Cosmetic Pesticide Bylaw Implementation / Education:**

With the cosmetic pesticide bylaw taking effect in April, the education portion of the program needs to be focused on. G. Pasaluko, Horticulture Supervisor, Parks Department, has attended the meeting to explain what the Parks Department has been doing in regards to pest management in the City and their experiences to-date. She prepared a PowerPoint presentation for the Committee which included topics such as education efforts, cultural practices, soil management, manual/biological controls, alternative treatments, staff observations, challenges for 2011, horticulture shift, natural areas management, volunteer work, etc. (see attached).

It may be the public's perception that the City uses chemicals on their lawns and gardens because they look so good, but that is not the case. Especially in recent years, pesticides are only considered for a small scope of treatments such as curbs, gutters and paving stones.

The Committee's suggestions for ways the Parks Department can better communicate their efforts to the public included more media promotion, providing information on-site, involving schools and environmental clubs, community gardens, newspaper articles and photos, signage within City parks, Parks staff attending sports events to talk to parents, etc.

The Committee thanked G. Pasaluko for attending the meeting.

ACTION: PowerPoint slides to be distributed to members via email after the meeting.

7. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices

- a) Final Committee Expense Guide: For information.
- b) Member Contact List – Updated: For information.
- c) Green Nanaimo Awards – Nomination Form:
Nomination forms were distributed to members for information. The Committee will review nominations and select the recipients at the regular 2011-APR-13 meeting.
- d) Woodstove Changeout Program – Poster:
The 2011 Woodstove Changeout Program will begin February 21. The program encourages people to upgrade their old woodstoves to more energy-efficient systems by awarding 75 rebates of \$250.

8. Ongoing Business**a) Sustainable Design Guidelines – Draft for Comment:**

R. Lawrance distributed the draft guidelines to Committee members for comment by the end of the month. The main idea of the guidelines is to include an integrated design team into the development process and to lay out a baseline for development applications. The guidelines also include a sustainability checklist. Developers can review the checklist to ensure that a wide variety of environmental components are included / considered in their projects. This is the first part of a two-part process. The guidelines will later be followed up with a green incentives process that provides a group of incentives for those who want to become even "greener". In addition to ACES, the draft guidelines are being distributed to a small group of developers and builders, as well as the Design Advisory Panel (DAP) for comment.

ACTION: Members to review draft document and send comments to R. Lawrance before 2011-FEB-28.

Side note: Draft Zoning Bylaw Rewrite: A. Kerr noted that the most recent version of the draft zoning bylaw still does not include a requirement for the planting of native species. R. Lawrance suggested that she contact D. Stewart directly with her concerns.

ACTION: A. Kerr to approach D. Stewart with concerns surrounding a requirement for native planting to be included in the zoning bylaw. S. Fisher to report back on her behalf at the next meeting.

J. Wagner arrived at 5:42 pm.

Side note: Climate Change Workshop: The City is currently working to complete a Community Energy and Emissions Study (CEES) with Stantec Consulting. The consultants are hoping to have a draft version prepared in March, which will be distributed to Committee members at that time.

R. Lawrance has drafted up the notes and feedback from the climate change workshop held in December and distributed them to ACES members that were in attendance. He would like to review the notes with those in attendance to help interpret what the final recommendations were and to meet the next step in the process. A second workshop in March, to review the results of the CEES and build upon the input received at the December workshop, should be pursued next.

ACTION: R. Lawrance to send out possible dates to meet to review workshop notes. Revised notes to be distributed to members at the next meeting as information. Discuss possibility of second workshop in March.

9. New Business

a) 2011 Work Plan:

A copy of the draft 2011 work plan was distributed to members for information. The report includes a status report for 2011 and the Committee's goals for 2011. It was suggested that the priority level of "Pesticide Education" be changed from MODERATE to HIGH.

MOVED by J. Wagner, SECONDED by M. Schellinck, that the 2011 ACES Workplan be approved.
CARRIED.

M. Patterson left the meeting at 5:56 pm.

Pesticide Drop-off Event: There have been many questions from the public regarding the disposal of old pesticides. It has been previously suggested to hold a "drop-off" event in collaboration with the Nanaimo Recycling Exchange (NRE).

At this time, the NRE can only accept products with a PCP number. The landfill can only accept products that are a solid. There currently are no facilities that are able to take liquid chemicals without a PCP number.

An event such as this can be very expensive. The cost to pick up a drum of liquid herbicide is approx \$250 per 45 gallon drum. Although the Committee's budget could not support such an event, R. Lawrance would like to explore this idea more. It would be ideal to have this event take place in conjunction with the Earth Day event.

Poster from the Nanaimo Recycling Exchange: M. Schellinck distributed a poster that has been created by the NRE to help educate and inform people about the proper disposal of pesticides. They have kept the poster very simple and will be distributing it to the landfill and posting it on their website.

The Committee suggested that a few changes be made, including adding the term "disposal" to the poster, and enlarging the text size of "alternatives to pesticides" and "how to dispose of pesticides".

M. Schellinck will revise the poster and then distribute it to members via e-mail after the meeting. He will be meeting with the City and the RDN soon to determine the possibility of a drop-off event.

ACTION: To be discussed at the next meeting. M. Schellinck to distribute revised poster to members via e-mail after the meeting.

10. Council / Committee Update

- a) 2011-JAN-24 Council Meeting:
No environmental-related issues.
- b) PNAC Meeting:
No environmental-related issues.

11. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 2011-MAR-09 in the City Hall Board Room at 4:30 pm.
W. Wells will act as Chair.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date