



MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2010-DEC-08 AT 4:15 PM
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM, 455 WALLACE STREET

Present: Charles Thirkill, Chair
Jim Kipp
Joan Wagner
Wally Wells
Anne Kerr
Shelley Serebrin
Meg Savory

Staff: Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner
Rebecca Tubbs (Recording Secretary)

Regrets: Jeff Thomas

1. Call to Order

Chair C. Thirkill called the meeting to order at 4:20 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

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

a) News Article: City of Vancouver Energy Plan:

J. Wagner read a news article regarding the City of Vancouver's energy plan. R. Lawrance noted that Nanaimo's Sustainability Action Plan will be the similar equivalent to Vancouver's plan. J. Wagner suggested that R. Lawrance contact someone from the City of Vancouver to share information and discuss who was involved in their process (community groups, business groups, etc.). J. Wagner gave the article to R. Lawrance to distribute to members after the meeting.

b) New Meeting Start Time:

J. Kipp noted that the current 4:15 pm start time seems to be a problem for some members.

MOVED by M. Savory, SECONDED by W. Wells, that the ACES regular meeting time be changed to 4:30 pm.

CARRIED.

c) Urban Agriculture Bylaw:

Due to the current urban agriculture issue being looked at in Lantzville (Dirk Becker), S. Serebrin wonders what ramifications any steps taken may have on Nanaimo. Should this be discussed at a future meeting?

R. Lawrance has talked to R. Churchill of Bylaw Services and he had said that the real issue behind the complaint in Lantzville was due to an unsightly premises; large piles of manure in the front yard of a residential neighbourhood. R. Churchill will be looking into Victoria's practices to see what they are doing. Lantzville will be holding a public process around the issue and S. Serebrin will follow it by attending meetings and reporting back to the Committee with pertinent information. R. Lawrance also needs to talk to D. Stewart of the Planning Department as Nanaimo's zoning bylaw is currently undergoing major changes that could potentially affect this issue.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2010-NOV-10)

a) A. Kerr noted the following changes:

Item 4a) Position of Environmental Coordinator: This is an issue that the Committee will discuss but that needs to be deferred until the 2011 workplan is discussed.

Item 6b) "He recommends outsourcing the responsibility of such a job to an outside organization....."

MOVED by J. Kipp, SECONDED by J. Wagner, that the 2010-NOV-10 Minutes be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

4. Items Arising from Minutes**5. Budget (\$490.77)****6. Delegation****7. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices****8. Ongoing Business**a) Sustainability Action Plan:- Engaging the Public on Climate Change Workshop (2010-DEC-16):

R. Lawrance distributed a copy of the agenda and confirmed attendees to Committee members for information. The purpose of the workshop is to connect with local leaders and find out what types of climate change actions/initiatives are currently being undertaken in Nanaimo. How can we collaborate and work with together on the Sustainability Action Plan?

R. Lawrance explained that many people were contacted but the list provided shows the members which were able to attend. Committee members suggested that the following people be invited:

- Nanaimo Area Land Trust
- Nanaimo Recycling Exchange
- Recycling Coalition
- Peter, City Green
- Engineering or Public Works
- Snuneymuxw First Nation
- Ian Gartshore, Energy Solutions
- Jordan Ellis, Green Drinks
- Steve Arnett, Nanaimo Youth Services Association
- Sustainability Solutions Group, Vancouver Island University
- Marjorie Stewart, Foodshare Society / Heritage Foodservice
- Jenny Horn, Vancouver Island University

Any additional suggestions can be sent to R. Lawrance via e-mail.

R. Lawrance emphasized that everything won't get solved in one day. We want to create a clear vision for what to do in the next five years. He would like to hold one or two more meetings in the new year, have the process wrapped up by the spring 2011, and complete the Sustainability Action Plan by summer 2011.

J. Kipp suggested that the Committee use the answers gathered at the workshop to create a list of priorities. A. Kerr suggested that R. Lawrance provide BC Healthy Communities with some information so that the workshop can be tailored to suit Nanaimo as much as possible.

R. Lawrance will be preparing a discussion paper that includes background information on climate change, as well as an agenda to send out to attendees on Friday.

b) Pesticide-Free Education / Promotion Meeting with Parks Department (2010-OCT-21) - Debrief:

R. Lawrance met with the Parks Department to discuss the work they have been doing in City parks over the summer, as well as planning for next year's bylaw to take effect. The Parks Department has continued to avoid cosmetic pesticides by experimenting with other non-chemical approaches throughout City parks to gather information about the products. The main complaint

that the Parks Department has received has been directed toward the grass growing through the bricks at Diana Krall Plaza.

Over the summer, the Parks Department created a series on Shaw Cable that showcased their practices. Signage will be created and posted through parks to demonstrate the City's effort over the last few months.

The Parks Department will be helping to organize an Earth Day event in 2011 at Maffeo-Sutton Park, with a special emphasis on pesticide-free gardening and lawn care. Companies, community groups, etc., will be giving presentations. The list of invitations is being created so if members have any suggestions they can let R. Lawrance know.

J. Wagner suggested that a member of the Parks Department attend ACES meetings when items of interest are being discussed (i.e. cosmetic pesticide bylaw).

R. Lawrance and G. Pasaluko of the Parks Department will be writing a report to Council to update them on what has been taking place in City parks and provide them with information on the bylaw before it comes into effect. R. Lawrance would like to present this to Council during February, well before the bylaw's implementation. Once the report has been drafted, G. Pasaluko can be invited to a meeting and possibly give some sort of presentation.

c) Sustainable Transportation in Liveable Communities Forum (2010-NOV-13) Debrief :

J. Wagner attended. It was an interesting event with a variety good speakers from BC Transit, RDN Transit, Cycling coalition, railway advocates among others and a good discussion. She commented that the agenda was too large to complete in one day which left many issues too open-ended. Unfortunately, steps for moving the process did not evolve during the session.

C. Thirkill noted how important it is to "wrap-up" these kinds of events, like the Committee's workshop on 2010-DEC-16.

d) Salute to Coho (2010-NOV-20) – Debrief:

There were two parts to this event, one of which was cancelled due to snow. Over two weeks, C. Thirkill led about eight school classes through the park and up the channel to watch the salmon spawning. He would like to do the same event next year. They saw over 300 fish go through the fish camera.

e) Friends of Harewood Plains Meeting (2010-NOV-24) – Debrief:

Because of the time of year, only a couple of community members attended. The intent of the meeting was to gain greater community support and memberships. The group is still looking for three more members to make it an official community organization. The next meeting is scheduled for 2011-MAR-30 at the Chase River Firehall.

f) Departure Creek Community Meeting (2010-NOV-18) – Debrief:

R. Lawrance, who attended, and A. Kerr, who did not attend but was briefed by NALT, reported on a well-attended session that was held to raise public awareness and neighbourhood involvement around Departure Creek. There were a number of short presentations (City of Nanaimo, Nanaimo & Area Land Trust, Departure Bay Neighbourhood Association, Vancouver Island University) on the Departure Creek Project. Community members were invited to participate in storm-drain markings, tree plantings, and a Stream Keepers course. R. Lawrance noted concerns expressed by residents regarding the invasive plants in the watershed and wondered if they should take action and how to go about it. Other concerns included stream bank erosion, storm water and resultant pollution.

g) Advertisements for ACES Members:

There are three vacant positions available on the Committee. A request for representation from VIU has been sent. An advertisement for two community-at-large (with expertise in waste management, water or energy conservation), has been submitted. Successful nominations will be selected in January and hopefully available for the January/February 2011 meeting.

S. Serebrin arrived at 5:39 pm.

9. New Business

a) Draft Committee Funding Policy:

R. Lawrance noted that this document should be called a guide, not policy. At the previous meeting, he was asked by the Committee to create a set of criteria to be used when making decisions on Committee member funding requests.

The guide outlines the following process for Committee funding requests: The requester submits a one-page submission to R. Lawrance by the Friday before the regularly scheduled ACES meeting. The submission would include name, date and location of event, outline of intent and learning outcomes, reason for attending the event and how it applies to ACES workplan implementation. The submission will be provided to members at the meeting to then make a motion to accept or deny the request.

J. Kipp suggested that 100% of travel costs be reimbursed.

M. Savory likes the idea of a guide and feels that, even if the workshop is valuable, funding a single Committee member to attend is low on the Committee's list of funding priorities. Members should come to the Committee already educated and ready-to-go. She doesn't think taxpayers should pay for individual Committee member expenses. She agrees with, for example, inviting a speaker to present to the whole group.

A. Kerr feels that the Committee is not in the business of educating Committee members. She feels that the money is better spent directly toward implementation of the workplan and community-type events, such as the workshop.

C. Thirkill noted that in some cases, the Committee is left with a large amount of remaining funds at the end of the year that are not used.

S. Serebrin agrees that money should be spent to bring learning to the whole Committee, although coming from an education background, she knows that most businesses offer opportunity for professional development. She feels that a portion of the budget should be set aside for professional development. Not all Committee members come to the table with all of the ready answers that are expected; there are always new areas in which we are not experts. She noted that although sending a Committee member to an event may be a small expenditure, it can prove to be of great value.

J. Wagner agrees with the idea of funds being used to educate the majority of the Committee when possible. She wouldn't like to rule out individual funding opportunities.

R. Lawrance suggested the idea of adding another column to the workplan that identifies rough cost estimates (approximate) for each of the Committee's workplan items. This would help give Committee members an idea of where potential costs may be. J. Wagner suggested not using figures, but simply listing items by priority. Prioritizing items leaves it open on a case-by-case basis.

S. Serebrin added that she does agree that the Committee's major workplan items need to be funded; however, she doesn't think that the Committee's small budget should be considered substantial enough to support all of them. There is other funding available to be put toward those purposes.

M. Savory thinks it makes logical sense to create a workplan, as well as a budget for that workplan and spend funds based on that process. If there are unexpected expenses, they can be discussed at that time. The funds should be allocated toward the Committee's priorities.

J. Wagner wonders how it will work if there is too little time between the event and the Committee meeting to present the proposal.

S. Serebrin wants to emphasize that individual education is an important aspect of being a member of the Committee. Having the ability to attend an information event and bring more of one's own knowledge to the Committee is very valuable and needs to be recognized.

10. Council / Committee Update

- a) 2010-NOV-22 Council Meeting (W. Wells)
No report.
- b) PNAC Meeting (M. Savory):
No report.

11. Next Meeting

Christmas dinner to follow on 2010-DEC-09 at the Diner's Rendezvous at 6:00 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 2010-JAN-12 in the City Hall Board Room at 4:30 pm. J. Wagner will act as Chair.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 pm.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date