



MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2010-MAY-12 AT 4:15 PM
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM, 455 WALLACE STREET

Present:	Jim Kipp (arrived 4:37 pm) Shelley Serebrin Anne Kerr, Chair	Jeff Thomas Charles Thirkill Joan Wagner
Staff:	Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner	Rebecca Tubbs (Recording Secretary)
Guests:	Joyce Lee	
Regrets:	Meg Savory	Wally Wells

1. Call to Order

Chair A. Kerr called the meeting to order at 4:26 p.m.

The Committee introduced themselves to J. Lee. R. Lawrance informed the Committee that M. Henigman has decided to resign from the Committee due to work constraints and other commitments.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

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

- a) RDN Watercourses (J. Wagner)
- b) Green Business Focus Group (R. Lawrance)
- c) Parks Natural Areas Management – Update R. Lawrance)
- d) Damage to Riparian Area along Long Lake (A. Kerr)
- e) Economic Development Commission – status (J. Kipp)

J. Kipp arrived at 4:37 pm.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2010-Apr-14)

- a) J. Wagner requested that the following be removed from Item 4a): *“The bylaw was given first, second, third,.....one year from that date”*.

It was also requested that the following statement be removed: *“It was obvious to J. Wagner that.....a common understanding for all”*; and replaced with: *“She recommended that ACE state a clear definition of “non-essential” use and explain that the province regulates all other use and defines when pesticides will be used.”*

- b) *“A. Kerr feels that much of these misconceptions can be ~~included~~ addressed in the education program. Although the bylaw is a good base, the year-long education program is most important.”*

MOVED by J. Wagner, SECONDED by C. Thirkill, that the 2010-Apr-14 Minutes be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

4. Items Arising from Minutes

5. Budget: (\$2,115)

6. Delegations

7. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices

- a) Floral Emblem for Nanaimo – Open House, 2010-May-08:
C. Thirkill explained that an open house was recently held by City staff to collect suggestions and input from the public regarding Nanaimo's floral emblem. He was unable to attend the event and has not heard about the feedback that was received. R. Lawrance said that suggestions and input for floral emblems will be accepted until the end of the month. C. Thirkill has heard positive feedback from the public on his suggested choice (*Lotus Pinnatus*), particularly on the fact that it is rare and unique to Nanaimo. J. Wagner said that having *Lotus Pinnatus* as Nanaimo's floral emblem could help to raise awareness about protecting the sensitive Harewood Plains area in which it grows.
- b) Action Plan to limit ATVs on Mt. Tuam:
For information. R. Lawrance explained that the plan was created to restrict the use of ATVs in a sensitive area on Salt Spring Island. R. Lawrance thought that C. Thirkill might find it of value in light of the work he does on Harewood Plains. It provides a good case study to follow in the future. A. Kerr noted that their plan of having an enforcement officer attend the site on high-traffic weekends will be a good way to enforce the restrictions.
- c) RDN Watercourses:
J. Wagner attends the "Green Drinks" event that is held on the fourth Wednesday of every month. It is organized by Jordan Ellis at "The Vault" coffee shop. This month, a representative from the RDN will attend to speak about RDN watercourses. The event is held from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, with presentations starting at 6:00 pm. If anyone is interested in attending, contact J. Wagner.
- d) Green Business Focus Group:
R. Lawrance explained that he had recently been sent an invitation to a "green economy focus group session" by the GLOBE foundation. The GLOBE foundation is collecting information for the provincial government. Their objectives are to engage key labor market stakeholders on BC's green economy. He provided members with a copy of "British Columbia's Green Economy" as background information. The session will be held 2010-MAY-18 in the Economic Development meeting room to discuss green economy in Nanaimo. R. Lawrance will give a report on the results of the session at next month's meeting.

A. Kerr said that the information gathered at the session will be helpful when ACE provides input for the Economic Development Strategy.

8. Ongoing Business

- a) Parks Natural Areas Management - Update:
R. Lawrance explained that Parks Department staff has been trying to improve in natural area management. They have been holding a number of "tailgate" meetings with members of Parks operational staff to discuss natural areas management and issues. Recently, R. Lawrance joined the group to take a walk around the newly acquired section of Neck Point Park. Issues discussed included protecting species habitat, natural alternatives for pest removal, successional planting as a tool in managing invasive plants, etc. They also discussed plans for restoring the area where the house was located, back into a Garry Oak habitat. These, along with other suggestions, will be considered for addition to the Neck Point Master Plan. The meeting helped to provide a better understanding of working with natural processes as a way to minimize work and save money.

Dave Pollster, who works in restoration management and is a board member of the Garry Oak Ecosystem Restoration Team (GOERT), attended the meeting as well. J. Lee added that Dave Pollster also teaches at UVIC's restoration program.
- a) Earth Day Celebrations, 2010-Apr-22 – debrief:
C. Thirkill said that the ivy pull in Bowen Park was a great success. There were 13 students in attendance. The students pulled ivy, trapped fish, and did some water chemistry. They will

receive a certificate for participating. J. Wagner was also in attendance. C. Thirkill will forward photos from the event to R. Lawrance after the meeting.

b) Cosmetic Pesticide Education – update:

– Issues:

At the last meeting R. Lawrance showed the committee some of the educational materials that he and the design consultant had been working on. The educational materials will be distributed to retail outlets to help get the word out about the bylaw. He would like to send out packages to retailers once he receives the printed materials. The package would include a cover letter, pad of 'tear-off' sheets to be located on the shelves beside the products, information cards to be located at the cash registers, a copy of the bylaw, and other informational brochures. The design consultant recommended that "how to read a label" not be included on the information card due to lack of space. She did, however, come up with a short-list of ideas to include on the card, as well as a link that directs people to the website for more information.

J. Wagner noted that she has seen some pesticide containers that have no labels. J. Kipp noted that all products are required to list a "GUARANTEE". R. Lawrance will forward a copy of labeling regulations to J. Wagner for information.

A. Kerr does not think the term "commonly used ingredients" should be used on the information cards if the committee would like to see them become "uncommon". She recommends that the list be changed to "active ingredients" and that a reference to look for the "GUARANTEE" be included. J. Kipp suggested that the term "acetic acid" be changed to "vinegar".

– Administration Report:

R. Lawrance explained that a report was presented to Council on 2010-APR-26 that outlined the administrative procedures to take place when implementing the education program and Bylaw 7102. It was recommended that the Bylaw 7102 be adopted with no amendments, that the bylaw be monitored for six months, and that a report be prepared for Council on whether a permit system is needed to evaluate the use of non-cosmetic pesticide at that time. The report also provided clarification on who would be responsible for implementing the bylaw.

J. Wagner noted that statements on page four of the report imply that implementation of the bylaw would have high cost implications; yet, page six of the report explains that Port Moody has had very few infractions since implementing the bylaw. In comparison to other municipalities, she does not feel that there would not be enough work created by the bylaw to justify hiring another employee. C. Thirkill noted that 75% of residents already support the pesticide regulation and feels that the concern is coming from within staff.

A. Kerr asked who would be responsible to make the determination about whether a specific use is for economic, cosmetic, or safety reasons. The determination will have to be made by somebody. J. Kipp explained that Parks is concerned that they will have to handle the large volume of inquiries that may arise because there is currently no clear definition of "non-essential", and because Bylaw staff is not trained to make these determinations.

R. Lawrance suggested that part of the education program include meetings with Bylaw staff to become more knowledgeable on the subject. J. Wagner does not think that people will have difficulty with identifying invasive species on their own as they are now listed on the City's website and photos are available through Google images.

S. Serebrin suggested that the City of Nanaimo allow the public to know that the bylaw will be monitored for the next six months and encourage them to provide feedback on ways of improvement. If the public knows that the program is being monitored, they may provide more feedback. This idea could be addressed in the education program and used as a tool to modify the program in the future.

J. Wagner noted that the report states that the education program will be collaborated on by the Parks Department and the Environmental Planner and feels that the education subcommittee and the Parks Department should be communicating. R. Lawrance will ask G. Pasaluko to attend the future subcommittee meeting.

C. Thirkill agrees that the workload created by Bylaw 7102 may not be large enough to justify a new position, but that it would be large enough to justify half of a position. The other half could be the environmental coordinator, who was previously used to enforce environmental bylaws. C. Thirkill explained that although a bylaw officer cannot be expected to deal with these types of issues, an environmental coordinator can. C. Thirkill strongly believes that the City of Nanaimo should have an environmental coordinator and feels that the pesticide bylaw is a perfect example of something they would be responsible for handling.

S. Serebrin excused herself from the meeting at 5:30 pm so that she could give a presentation of the Committee's progress to the SD68 Education Committee.

- Future Subcommittee Meeting:

At the meeting, the subcommittee can focus on how to convey the message of "non-essential". R. Lawrance will e-mail members with a proposed date and time. A. Kerr requested that S. Fisher be notified of the meeting. J. Wagner noted that a representative from Community Gardens would like to attend.

c) Economic Development Commission – status:

J. Kipp noted that although the basic structure of the Economic Development Commission has been set, they are still waiting for a rep from VIU. They were unable to get a position for an "environment community" representative on the Commission.

A. Kerr asked R. Lawrance if ACE would be providing information for the Economic Development Strategy Review. R. Lawrance explained that he had planned to have a staff member from the Economic Development Department attend an ACE meeting and give a presentation on the review. Due to recent staffing changes, it is unclear at this point about who would be able to give the presentation.

9. New Business

a) Defining Community Sustainability:

- Background Presentation:

R. Lawrance explained that the next step in ACE's workplan is to address the concept of "sustainability" and to determine what the City's role in it will be. R. Lawrance gave a Powerpoint Presentation to the Committee that outlined the policy development of community sustainability. Topics discussed included existing land use policies, influencing factors, challenges and goals of sustainability, the city's roles (internal/external), progress-to-date, green building policies and practices, corporate sustainability initiatives, GHG target setting, and the next steps.

- Discussion:

R. Lawrance explained that Legislative Services is currently working on revising the Committee's terms of reference. He would like to, however, get initial comments and ideas from the Committee so that they can be added to the discussion on setting a new mandate. R. Lawrance would like to address both the mandate and terms of reference at the July meeting and determine an initial framework for the Sustainability Action Plan, which will be the community plan for Nanaimo.

J. Wagner asked if the City currently has a working definition of "sustainability". R. Lawrance said that the "bruntland" definition is included in the OCP. J. Kipp said that the definition in the OCP is a starting point and that the Committee does not have to be involved in the definition of "sustainability" because there are many other people that play a role in the

outcome. ACE will need to have a clear plan on how to relate with many community interests that will have a role to play.

A. Kerr noted that the proposed mandate with the addition of “sustainability” will dramatically change the structure of the Committee. R. Lawrance agrees, but again noted that ACE will not have to represent the economic or social perspectives. He recommended that members focus on “environmental sustainability”.

- GHG Report / IPCC Policy Maker:

The GHG report and IPCC Policy Maker documents were distributed to the Committee via e-mail prior to the meeting for information.

b) Electric vehicles for vehicle fleet:

R. Lawrance informed the Committee that an electric vehicle fleet for Nanaimo is being conditionally supported by Council. Provincially, it is being coordinated by the Fraser Basin Council. The City of Nanaimo will be receiving a grant to help pay for the cost of 4-6 electric vehicles.

c) Damage to Riparian Area along Long Lake:

A. Kerr circulated an e-mail that NALT had received from an upset resident on Long Lake regarding their neighbor's removal of trees and vegetation within the watercourse protection area. A before and after photo was also provided and showed the removal of all trees and vegetation on the property. Was this done without a permit? What can ACE do about this infraction and ensure that it does not happen in the future?

R. Lawrance explained that normal practice requires that tree removal be done by permit after an Urban Forester, A. Kemp, attends the site to assess the situation. The issue would be handled between the Bylaw department and A. Kemp. R. Lawrance is unsure what happened in this particular situation, but can contact A. Kemp to find out more information such as whether or not a permit was granted, an assessment was done, and why the ground vegetation was removed. The request, however, must be worded in a way that reflects the mandate of ACE; long term policy development. J. Kipp suggested inviting A. Kemp to attend a future meeting and discuss the process of tree permits and other ways that the City can minimize situations like this in the future. C. Thirkill will also be forwarding this issue to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).

R. Lawrance said that this situation underscores the value of education. A. Kerr does not agree and feels that many people would rather go ahead with the removal and pay the fine than deal with the process of obtaining a permit, etc.

C. Thirkill recalls D. Lindsay saying that the new Riparian Area Regulations made the position of an Environmental Coordinator redundant, and feels that the Environmental Coordinator did much more than monitor permits.

10. Council Update

a) 2010-Apr-26:

A. Kerr distributed a summary of notes taken at the 2010-APR-26 meeting.

b) 2010-May-10:

No environmental related issues. C. Thirkill noted particular interest in the discussion regarding the waterworks supply contract as well as a tourism study. The contract for a waterworks supplier was changed from a one-year contract to a five-year contract. In regards to the tourism study, the City received a grant of \$154,000 to complete a “tourism study”. Because the study was done in-house, staff was requesting to use the remaining funds for a score sign at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre.

11. Next Meeting

The Committee will attempt a start time at 4:30 pm, as some members are finding it difficult to arrive at 4:15 pm. The next regular ACE meeting is scheduled for 2010-Jun-09 in the City Hall Board Room. J. Wagner will act as Chair.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:39 pm.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date