



MINUTES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2010-APR-14 AT 4:15 PM
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM, 455 WALLACE STREET

Present: Jim Kipp
Shelley Serebrin
Anne Kerr
Meg Savory
Charles Thirkill
Joan Wagner

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

Regrets: Margaret Henigman
Jeff Thomas
Wally Wells

1. Call to Order

J. Kipp called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m.

a) Election of Chair:

J. Kipp does not feel that Councilors should act as Chair at Committee meetings. If another member was Chair, they could attend Council meetings as a representative of the Committee upon request. He asked if there were any members interested in volunteering for Chair.

A. Kerr said that she has had experience with a rotating chair system and it worked quite well. The Committee agreed to a rotating chair system on a one-month basis.

2010 Rotating Chair Schedule

May:	A. Kerr	September:	S. Serebrin
June:	J. Wagner	October:	M. Savory
July:	C. Thirkill	November:	T.B.A.
August:	No meeting	December:	T.B.A.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

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

a) Green Design Guidelines Update (A. Kerr):

R. Lawrance explained that he has received good input from the development community, but that the guidelines are currently being reviewed by staff. These guidelines will be one of the outcomes of the Sustainability Action Plan. This item should be discussed at a later date.

b) Economic Development Strategy (A. Kerr):

Input on the Strategy from ACE was put aside when the Economic Development Commission was formed. R. Lawrance has spoken to Marilyn Hutchinson about giving a presentation to ACE. She said that a presentation to ACE is possible once the new Commission members become acquainted with the strategy.

c) The Friends of Harewood Plains – Inaugural Meeting (C. Thirkill):

C. Thirkill informed the Committee that the Friends of Harewood Plains will be meeting on Tuesday, 2010-Apr-27 at 7:00 pm in the Moose Hall (Cranberry Avenue) to discuss ways of protecting the area. The meeting will include a short presentation from GOERT and will include attendees from the Fire, RCMP, and local community.

d) The Nanaimo River Hatchery - Open House (C. Thirkill):

C. Thirkill explained that the open house will take place on Sunday, 2010-May-02 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, at the hatchery (Rugby Road) and will include salmon burgers and socializing.

e) Presentation to SD68 (S. Serebrin):

The SD68 Board has requested that S. Serebrin give a short presentation about what ACE has been doing in regards to education. She is not sure of the date yet. R. Lawrance can provide her with some useful information on ACE's educational efforts to date, when she requests it.

C. Thirkill is curious to know what SD68 is doing to promote environmentalism in their schools. For example, are they greening their grounds, planting vegetation? He noted that the "Environmental Mind Grind" was held on Saturday, and that only one high school was represented (Dover Bay). Both C. Thirkill and R. Lawrance attended the Mind Grind event.

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

MOVED by C. Thirkill, SECONDED by A. Kerr, that the 2010-Mar-10 Minutes be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

4. Items Arising from Minutes

a) 2010-Apr-12 Council Meeting Results - Pesticide Bylaw:

J. Kipp explained that Council received a motion to remove "certified pesticide applicators" from the list of exemptions. The bylaw received three readings and will go to the next Council meeting for adoption.

The reason for the removal of "certified pesticide applicators" from the list of exemptions was that many believe that no one should apply pesticides for cosmetic purposes.

At the last meeting it was recommended that "certified pesticide applicators" be removed from the list of exemptions, and that "invasive plants" be added to the list of exemptions. The Parks Department is concerned that removing the exemption for "certified pesticide applicators" will have cost implications.

A. Kerr feels that the list of "Permitted Pesticides" required by the province already provides certified pesticide applicators with an extensive list of pesticides that they are permitted to use.

R. Lawrance noted that previously, there was a section in the bylaw that dealt with a permitting and signage system. When reviewing the bylaw at the time, staff and the City's lawyer noted that a requirement for signage would not be relevant for a bylaw that protects environmental health. A sign would only be required for the benefit of human health, which municipalities have no jurisdiction over. R. Lawrance noted that a permitting system could possibly come into place at a later date.

C. Thirkill asked if any individual applying a pesticide for an organization must be IPM certified. J. Kipp explained that all employees in a company do not have to be certified, but must be supervised by an IPM certified applicator when applying pesticides.

M. Savory asked if staff's recommendation was influenced by the Parks Department. R. Lawrance explained that there was some interest from Parks to keep "certified pesticide applicators" included in the list of exemptions because they want to continue their IPM approach. He explained that there are some bylaws that include exemptions for City parks as long as the IPM is being applied.

J. Wagner wanted to discuss the results of the Council meeting due to the confusion that took place as she attended the meeting as a delegation. 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.

C. Thirkill thanked J. Wagner for her hard work and persistence on this issue.

J. Wagner explained that there are many cities in BC that have eliminated cosmetic pesticides completely. Why can't Nanaimo do the same? Port Moody has not applied pesticides to their public land in twenty years!

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

S. Serebrin agrees that this bylaw is a great step and that the education program will be what gets the ball rolling and changing people's mindsets. Every time a message is presented, it should be delivered the same each time to emphasize clarity.

M. Savory noted that there were many members of Council such as Councilor Bestwick, Pattje and Holdom, that seemed to have a good understanding of the bylaw. J. Kipp explained that much of the confusion was caused by the fact that the terms "non-essential" and "regulation" had been removed from the bylaw's title since it had last been presented to Council and some members were under the impression that IPM was being eliminated completely.

5. Budget: (\$2,200)

6. Delegations

7. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices

- a) Green Solutions Trade Show & Speaker Forum, 2010-Apr-24
- b) Chase River Estuary Park Day, 2010-May-08
- c) Letter from Pro West Services RE: Proposed Pesticide Bylaw
- d) Council Update Schedule – distribute

8. Ongoing Business

- a) Earth Day Celebrations:
C. Thirkill is organizing an ivy pull in Bowen Park on Saturday, 2010-Apr-24, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. The event is aimed toward high school students, but anyone is welcome to attend. A pizza lunch will be provided.
- b) ACE Subcommittee meeting, 2010-Mar-24:
R. Lawrance had a "tear-off" card developed in the "Go Natural, Go Pesticide Free" format. The card will be located on shelves beside products or at the checkout. It provides people with brief information on the bylaw and directs them to the City's website to learn more.

Review draft educational content:

R. Lawrance provided members with the content that will be featured on the City's website, much of which was based on work from by the Capital Regional District. It has not yet been published. If there is anything that members would like to add, remove or revise, please let R. Lawrance know.

The sheet entitled "How to Read a Label" was borrowed from Kelowna's website. A. Kerr suggested adding this information to the "tear-off" cards.

S. Serebrin suggested adding a list of specific brand names to make products more recognizable to the public. R. Lawrance explained that it would be difficult to do so because brand names and packaging are constantly changing. This way, no matter what the pesticide, a consumer should be able to read the label by looking for the "guarantee" portion of the label that lists the active ingredients.

S. Serebrin suggested setting up an information kiosk in the public libraries. She suggested having a Committee member volunteer some time to answer questions about it.

J. Wagner noted that anyone who is interested in participating in the education subcommittee is still welcome to join. A. Kerr will ask S. Fisher if she is still interested in attending as a NALT representative.

9. New Business

a) Defining Community Sustainability:

Background presentation:

R. Lawrance explained that this discussion will be incorporated in the Terms of Reference rewrite that Legislative Services is currently working on. During a future meeting, staff would like to review the draft rewrite and discuss the incorporation of "sustainability" into the Committee's mandate and what it will involve. This presentation is part of a three-meeting discussion that can be deferred until the next meeting.

10. Council Update

a) 2010-Mar-22 (?):

No report.

b) 2010-Apr-12 (?):

As discussed under Item 4a.

11. Next Meeting

The next regular ACE meeting is scheduled for 2010-May-12 in the City Hall Board Room.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 pm.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date