



MINUTES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2010-FEB-10 AT 4:15 PM
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM, 455 WALLACE STREET

Present: Jim Kipp, Chair
Shelley Serebrin
Susan Fisher (Alternate for Anne Kerr)
Meg Savory
Margaret Henigman
Wally Wells
Charles Thirkill
Joan Wagner
Jeff Thomas

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

Regrets: None

Guests: Adrienne Schroeder

1. Call to Order

J. Kipp called the meeting to order at 4:27 pm.

The Committee welcomed A. Schroeder to the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

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

a) Addition of “sustainability” to ACE mandate:

J. Kipp informed members that it was decided by Council to add the term “sustainability” to ACE’s mandate.

b) Millstone River – Bowen Park Redevelopment:

C. Thirkill reported that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has issued a “Stop Work Order” on Bowen Park against the development of the new amphitheatre, claiming that the development will take place too close to the creek. C. Thirkill sits on the Millstone Steering Committee and agrees that the amphitheatre is a great idea, but that construction would take place at a bad time of year.

In previous years, the City’s environmental coordinator was responsible for dealing with these issues. C. Thirkill feels that \$100,000 / year would be better spent on employing an environmental coordinator than dealing with lawsuits. C. Thirkill explained that it is also important that the City meet or exceed standards when doing any type of work around a creek.

c) Regional District of Nanaimo – Agricultural overview:

J. Kipp distributed a copy of the Regional District of Nanaimo’s Agricultural Overview to members for review.

d) Island West Coast Developments Office Tour:

S. Serebrin noted that the Island West Coast Developments office (2214 McCullough Road) will be hosting a tour of their LEED gold building. She commented on it from the Sustainability Committee’s newsletter. It was suggested that the Committee tour there someday.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2010-Jan-13)

MOVED by S. Serebrin, SECONDED by C. Thirkill, that the 2010-Jan-13 Minutes be adopted as presented. CARRIED

W. Wells arrived at 4:34 pm.

4. Items Arising from Minutes

Retailer Forum

R. Lawrance explained that the Committee should meet with nursery and gardening retailers to discuss how best to coordinate a pesticide alternatives education program in Nanaimo. Once an invite list is complete, an invitation will be drafted and sent out. Some retailers mentioned include Long Lake Nursery, Home Hardware, Green Thumb, and Diana's. See Item 8B for more discussion.

5. Budget: (\$2,500 subject to Council approval)

6. Delegation

a) Report (S. Serebrin) The Human Hive Conference:

S. Serebrin provided a report summary to members via e-mail prior to the meeting. In November, she attended a conference called "The Human Hive: Creating Intelligent, Livable Cities", by Marilyn Hamilton, Professor at Royal Roads University. Topics included things such as designing a learning framework to help raise awareness and involve as much of the community as possible on envisioning a sustainable community.

Suggested links included www.sustainableinfrastructure.com, www.crcresearch.org, and www.bustingbureaucracy.com.

7. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices

8. Ongoing Business

a) Draft Workplan 2010

The draft workplan was distributed to members via e-mail prior to the meeting. Changes have been made and items have been prioritized based on the Committee's feedback in January.

R. Lawrance will prepare a report to Council on the workplan. If there are any more suggested changes, please submit them to R. Lawrance immediately.

Community Sustainability / Climate Change Programs

J. Wagner noted that the term "sustainability" is too broad. R. Lawrance explained that it has been left broad due to the large volume of work that still needs to be done. S. Serebrin would like to add "to promote and implement" to the Expected Outcomes.

R. Lawrance suggested that LSVs be removed from ACE's workplan. Council will be creating a Transportation Committee, and LSVs may be something better addressed by them.

J. Wagner suggested that this be an item the committees work on together.

Habitat Atlas

M. Henigman asked R. Lawrance if any field surveys have been done to collect new data for the Habitat Atlas. R. Lawrance explained that the intent is to provide information from research conducted by VIU and other sources on environmental features in the city.

M. Henigman noted that the Stream Atlas may also require updates.

Wood Burning Stoves / Inserts

J. Kipp noted that issues surrounding woodstove emissions have been brought to Council's attention at recent meetings. Council has concluded that these issues are of a civil matter and cannot be restricted by the City. R. Lawrance noted that there is currently no funding available for a 2011 Changeout Program. It was suggested that City funds be set aside to continue the program on a yearly basis.

The Committee accepted the 2010 workplan as presented.

M. Henigman excused herself from the meeting at 5:32 pm.

b) Cosmetic Pesticide Education Program

R. Lawrance noted that banners are currently being manufactured. He has been talking to the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department about holding some summer courses. ACE members would like to create a subcommittee to build up the education program.

Retailer Forum

J. Wagner suggested that a subcommittee meet on 2010-Feb-24 to discuss overall goals for the education program this year and that retailers be invited to attend. S. Fisher reminded the Committee to take into account that retailers are approaching their busy season.

R. Lawrance will create an agenda for the subcommittee meeting. R. Tubbs will check the availability of the Board Room at 4:15 pm on 2010-Feb-24 and provide details to members by e-mail.

Bylaw

R. Lawrance explained that the lawyer has brought some issues to his attention that need to be discussed with the Bylaw Department. The lawyer has had concerns with the section that addresses invasive species and it may be easier to remove from the exemption list. The lawyer feels it is too difficult to enforce a bylaw that restricts use, except on invasive species. R. Lawrance will provide members with a draft bylaw and draft Council report at the next meeting.

J. Wagner does not agree that IPM conveys the right message. Although it is an improvement on traditional methods, she feels that it does not take enough of a leadership role to be used as our model. R. Lawrance explained that the message it sends is to use alternatives before considering pesticides and emphasized there is a high level of awareness that needs to take place within the City. Once the bylaw is implemented (May 2011) and one year has passed, the Committee should review then.

c) Burn-It-Smart! Day, 2010-Feb-24

Burn-It-Smart! Day will be held 2010-Feb-24. The Nanaimo Recycling Exchange will be hosting "The Great Stove Pitch, Putt & Toss" from 11:00 am – noon, and Sun-Ray Heating will be hosting a Burn-It-Smart! workshop from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. All events are free.

9. New Business

a) Climate Change Targets & Green Design Guidelines Review:

R. Lawrance handed out some notes to members. The City is required by the Province to set GHG emission reduction targets into the City's OCP by May of this year. There is no restriction to what the target must be, but general policies and actions should be identified. The City has been working with the RDN to create an overarching regional target. It has been decided to stick with the target set by the Province (33% reduction by 2020, 80% reduction by 2050). Section 5.1 of Nanaimo's Official Community Plan (OCP) is currently being revised to include the GHG reduction targets. A draft of this revision will be presented to PNAC for review.

R. Lawrance is also working on a Sustainability Action Plan which will include a number of actions that deal with emissions regulation measures from buildings, transportation, solid waste, energy generation, etc.

S. Serebrin asked R. Lawrance why the City chose a target of 33%. R. Lawrance explained that that is the target set by the province and which (in discussion with the Regional District) is reasonable to use. S. Serebrin feels that a 33% reduction target is too little than what is needed. J. Kipp noted that although it may be less of a reduction than what is needed, it is not less than what is possible. R. Lawrance explained that sometimes the point of setting a target is not solely to reach the target, but to achieve the motivation to start the process of change.

R. Lawrance noted that the Action Plan will be worked on in greater detail once the reduction targets have been added to the OCP. ACE will have a role in developing the Action Plan.

J. Wagner excused herself from the meeting at 5:58 pm.

R. Lawrance continued to explain that he is currently developing a set of Green Urban Design Guidelines. These draft guidelines propose incentives to developers to encourage environmental design choices. The incentives are based on a checklist system. Areas covered include site access and connectivity, environmental stewardship, rainwater management, energy conservation in building design, pedestrian access/circulation, alternative transit/parking, etc.

M. Savory arrived at the meeting at 6:05 pm.

Both R. Lawrance and Gary Noble have consulted with developers and architects who have reviewed the document and agree that it is taking a reasonable approach in creating revised 'Green' guidelines, especially when implemented in phases. R. Lawrance would like to complete a basic set of guidelines before the end of the summer. The other incentive components will need further review and come later. R. Lawrance will provide ACE an opportunity to review a draft of the guidelines and checklist once they have been completed.

A. Schroeder excused herself from the meeting at 6:19 pm. She will contact R. Lawrance regarding the subcommittee meeting on 2010-Feb-24.

R. Lawrance reminded the Committee that these guidelines will apply to new construction (very small percentage per year). Greater success in GHG reductions will come by improving energy efficiency of existing building stock over time.

W. Wells suggested including focus on ways the community can stop assets from degrading. For example, ways to get rainwater back into the ground. What can we do in new developments and to retrofit old developments to minimize the use of municipal assets?

- b) PNAC Update:
J. Wagner no longer in attendance.

10. Council Update

- a) 2010-Jan-25:
No update.
- b) 2010-Feb-08:
No update.

11. Next Meeting

The Cosmetic Pesticide Education Program subcommittee meeting is scheduled for 2010-Feb-24 at 4:15 pm in the City Hall Board Room.

The next ACE meeting is scheduled for 2010-Mar-10 in the City Hall Board Room.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 pm.

APPROVED:

Chair

2010-Mar-10

Date