



MINUTES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2009-DEC-09 AT 4:15 PM
FRANKLYN STREET TRAINING ROOM, 238 FRANKLYN STREET

Present: Jim Kipp, Chair
Shelley Serebrin (arrived 4:43 pm)
Anne Kerr
Meg Savory
Wally Wells
Charles Thirkill
Margaret Henigman
Joan Wagner

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

Regrets: Jeff Thomas

1. Call to Order

Chair J. Kipp called the meeting to order at 4:25 p.m. in the Franklyn Street Training Room.
J. Wagner took a moment to apologize for her recent absences as she had been working toward her LEED accreditation.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

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

- a) E. Demattia's Letter of Resignation:
R. Lawrance explained that E. Demattia has resigned her position on the Committee. Advertisements for a youth and at-large member will be posted in the new year, with the election of new members to take place after the end of committee terms, 2010-Feb-08.
- b) Alternate NALT Representative for A. Kerr:
A. Kerr informed the Committee that she will be unable to attend meetings from January to March. She will be arranging for an alternate representative from NALT, Susan Fisher, Plant Manager of the Natural Abundance Nursery, to attend in her place.
- c) MOE Committee Involvement:
M. Henigman informed the Committee that, because of a review of her job description, she is only able to attend meetings that contain agenda items relating to conservation. She will check agendas for related items and let someone know if she is able to come or not.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2009-Nov-10)

The minutes were approved as presented with the following changes:

- a) A. Kerr requested that Item 11 of the 2009-Nov-10 minutes be changed to appear as below:

The next meeting is scheduled for 2009-Dec-09 in the City Hall Board Room. The Committee will then proceed to Asteras Greek Taverna (347 Wesley Street) for dinner.

- b) A. Kerr requested that Item 4 b) of the 2009-Nov-10 minutes be changed to appear as below:

At the September meeting, C. Zimmer, Nanaimo Recycling Exchange, asked if ACE would be interested in creating a pesticide drop-off event in conjunction with the NRE. However, she subsequently noted that the requirement to ship these wastes to Alberta, through Aerosmith Environmental, is an expensive proposition. C. Zimmer wondered if some of the funds earmarked for the Cosmetic Pesticides Education Program could be directed to paying for this removal service. Otherwise, the NRE may not have sufficient funds to deal with the additional pesticide disposal demand created by the public's increased awareness and action. This dilemma was noted, but it is unlikely that the funds can be re-allocated without going back to Council. R. Lawrance asked C. Zimmer to create a cost estimate for removal service. He will be

meeting with the RDN this week to discuss their pesticide programs and may be able to get some help from them regarding funding.

MOVED by M. Savory, SECONDED by W. Wells, that the minutes from 2009-Nov-10 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

4. Items Arising from Minutes

a) Cosmetic Pesticide Education Program:

- Update:

R. Lawrance informed the members that has met with the RDN and that they are working together to create a budget for the education program. R. Lawrance will continue to work with the RDN in December to create an ad for the Leisure Guide and will have a draft completed for the Committee's approval in January. R. Lawrance reported that the pesticide bylaw is still being reviewed by the lawyer, but should be returned soon. R. Lawrance will provide members with a draft council report when it is available.

A. Kerr noticed that the raw Ipsos Reid data contained information that could help the Committee create a marketing strategy for the education program. She noted strong trends in the answers given by different demographics such as in males/females, and in the age group that admits to applying pesticides. This data can help target education to specific groups.

R. Lawrance figures that much of the issue will be trying to persuade nurseries and other plant retailers to participate in the program. An emphasis on promoting alternatives over chemicals needs to be made to retailers. R. Lawrance suggested inviting retailers that are interested in working with the City to a forum to brainstorm ideas. J. Wagner suggested inviting retailers that already promote alternatives to discuss their experiences/successes.

J. Wagner suggested creating a subcommittee that deals with city-retailer relationships. W. Wells knows that many businesses realize the success that comes with making good environmental decisions, so they make these choices voluntarily. Many businesses don't realize the success that promoting environmental friendliness can provide.

- Eco-Logos:

A. Kerr distributed information to members via e-mail before the meeting (see attached). A. Kerr reported that in her research of environmental product logos, there appeared to be no credible logos for pesticides alternatives. The two most recognized 'green' product logos, EcoLogo (Canada) and Green Seal (USA) which have credible third-party verification, do not have any pesticide alternatives on their product lists. In response to a query from R. Lawrance, she felt that although there are many environmental logos available in the market, there are none for pesticide alternatives with enough credibility (especially 3rd party verification) for the City of Nanaimo to support them.

J. Kipp added that the Sustainability B.C. Toolkit has a lot of information regarding eco-logos and products. It should be added to the education program that the green logos out there are all different; some legitimate and many green-washed. We should make it clear to people that they need to read what they are buying and make educated decisions.

J. Wagner noted that the best certification is third-party certification.

5. Budget: (\$2,404.25)

S. Serebrin was reminded to return the receipts from the workshop she attended by the end of December to receive reimbursement for her costs. J. Kipp noted that any residual budget will go towards next year's budget.

J. Wagner asked if the Committee could consider allocating the remaining funds towards assistance for the Nanaimo Recycling Exchange's pesticide drop-off event. R. Lawrance explained that it is too

late in the year and that the Committee would have had to receive a proposal and amount by now. J. Kipp explained that if we restrict the use of pesticides, we must provide people a way to dispose of them. R. Lawrance will ask the Nanaimo Recycling Exchange to create a cost estimate for pesticide disposal based on figures from similar events. R. Lawrance explained that another option would be to limit the drop-off to, for example, the first 100 people.

6. Delegation

- a) Mr. Lawrence Sperling (297 Villa) – Neighbour's woodstove emissions (Late):
Mr. Spirling gave his delegation after New Business Items. He attended the meeting due to the height of his neighbour's chimney. Because the chimney is level to Mr. Spirling's window, smoke has been entering his house. He feels this is to blame for his wife's health problems. Although he has continuously contacted the City regarding this issue, it has not been resolved. When he asked his neighbor to extend the height of his chimney, he was told he would have to pay for it himself. Because the height of the chimney conforms to building code, he is not obligated to extend it. J. Kipp informed Mr. Spirling that this matter has little to do with this Committee and that the issue should be presented to Council. J. Kipp reassured Mr. Spirling that he would look more deeply into this matter and respond back to him with information from Legislative Services.

7. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices

- a) Conference report - The Human Hive:
S. Serebrin will have a completed report summary available for the next meeting. She will send it to members via e-mail before the January meeting where it will be discussed and presented.

8. Ongoing Business

- a) "Burn-It-Smart" Workshops, Nov 26 & 27 – Debrief:
R. Lawrance reported although ads were placed in the newspaper and on the radio, attendee numbers were low (7-8). The workshop instructor reported low numbers elsewhere, too. Last year, attendee numbers were much higher (about 45). R. Lawrance will try to organize another workshop in February in conjunction with the woodstove change-out.

Prior to the meeting, R. Lawrance distributed an e-mail to members from Vicki Morrell that focuses on health concerns related to wood smoke. She is trying to form an organization that will lobby Council to develop a bylaw that restricts woodstove use. M. Savory noted that they appear to be a new organization. Their website includes links to some very good information www.burningissues.org. M. Savory suggested adding a woodstove bylaw review to the workplan.

- b) Nature walk through Bowen Park – Debrief:
Members who attended had a great time. They expressed interest in this type of event and would like to organize more of them. M. Henigman suggested another nature walk in the spring to identify more invasive plants. J. Kipp suggested visiting the mud flats at the Nanaimo River Estuary.

9. New Business

- a) ACE Workplan:
R. Lawrance asked the Committee to start thinking about things to add or change to the workplan for next year (see attached). He reviewed the 2009 workplan for completion.

Project / Issue	Summary
Revise Committee Terms of Reference	R. Lawrance explained that this will be revisited in 2010 through Legislative Services.
City Habitat Atlas	R. Lawrance noted that this has huge potential as an educational tool for a variety of environmental information. The I.T. Department will be looking to incorporate the Atlas into the City website.
Invasive Species Management	R. Lawrance would like to invite Melissa, CIPC

	Co-ordinator, to visit the Committee in February to discuss their function, management solution, ways to work together, etc.
Wood Burning Stoves / Inserts	R. Lawrance reported that they have received money for another change-out. Education has been taking place but should be improved. J. Kipp suggested providing information at the Home Show. (Rob will e-mail Jim a reminder RE: Home show)
Community Sustainability / Climate Change Programs	R. Lawrance informed the Committee that more information has been added to the webpage such as links to energy conservation sites. He has also received some interest in electric vehicles on roadways. This may be an issue for the Sustainability Committee. J. Kipp suggested that we find out if they will proceed with developing a bylaw.
Cosmetic Pesticide Use	R. Lawrance noted that they will be coordinating the drop-off event with the NRE, the bylaw is currently being reviewed, and that a Council Report for the bylaw will be drafted and presented at the next meeting.
Public Information / Outreach	Public information and outreach is ongoing.
Green Nanaimo Awards	Awards took place this year. R. Lawrance explained that they will probably take place every two years from now on. J. Wagner would like a "green garden award" to be created.

J. Wagner asked whether members will be able to circulate the draft bylaw to interested parties before it is presented to Council. R. Lawrance explained that it needs to be presented to Council before it is shown to the public. Distributing the bylaw beyond this Committee could become an issue if Council does not want it to be seen yet. A. Kerr asked that once the bylaw is brought to Council, that J. Kipp ensure adequate time is given between readings for the public to get a chance to review it and provide suggestions. R. Lawrance reminded the Committee that there will be a year of education before the bylaw is implemented. J. Kipp assured the Committee that it is possible to delay Council approval so that the public can have a chance to provide input. W. Wells suggested having the bylaw pass second reading and then deferring it.

J. Wagner noted that she would be interested in adding "green mapping" to the workplan. It includes natural and man-made elements. She will bring an example to the next meeting.

C. Thirkill would like to have more interest taken in Earth Day celebrations. He explained that very little takes place in Nanaimo on days such as Earth Day or River Day, and that they are hugely missed opportunities to promote Nanaimo's environment. He would like to see Earth Day celebrations take place on a more mainstream level. S. Serebrin would like to see barriers for hosting these celebrations reduced. She noted that one of the barriers of last year's celebration was that the organizers were required by the City to have insurance to use the park. The hassle this caused resulted in lack of advertising. J. Kipp suggested that this item be brought up under New Business at the January meeting.

b) NALT Proposal to incorporate native plants in new developments:

A. Kerr explained that NALT is interested in action to see all new landscaping in the City of Nanaimo and the RDN incorporate the use of native plant species. NALT would like legislation passed that would require private and public corporations to incorporate a minimum amount of native species in their landscaping. NALT is interested in making a presentation to Council in February or March.

A. Kerr would like to add this issue to the workplan. It should also be added to look at precedents in other communities, what Nanaimo is already doing, decide what native plants will be used, etc.

R. Lawrance suggested that he could review the draft Green Design Guidelines at one of the upcoming meetings. He explained that the draft Guidelines are performance-based, and also include many landscaping aspects, including: storm water retention, native plant use, retention of existing trees, green walls/roofs, etc.

c) Economic Development Strategy Review – green business component:

W. Wells explained to the Committee that the first meeting to review consultant proposals took place yesterday. These proposals go to Council and consultants should start work on 2009-Dec-18 and complete the review by April 2010. W. Wells provided members with copies of the Terms of Reference. He noted that the current Economic Development Strategy is very economic-oriented, is missing some things, and contains some conflicting terms. It is a City priority to have green industry, but how is that defined? He would like members to review the document and provide him with input and information. He will begin drafting the information and bring it to the January meeting ready to be added as input. R. Lawrance noted that we will add this issue to the workplan so Council is aware we are looking to provide input.

The complete Economic Development Strategy is available online and can be sent to members via e-mail.

10. Council Update

- a) 2009-Nov-23 (S. Serebrin):
Will present at next meeting.
- b) 2009-Dec-07 (C. Thirkill):
Will present at next meeting.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 2010-Jan-13 at the City Hall Board Room.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m. The Committee then proceeded to Asteras Greek Taverna (347 Wesley Street) for a Christmas dinner.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date