



MINUTES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2009-OCT-14 AT 4:15 PM
BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL, 455 WALLACE STREET

Present: Jim Kipp, Chair (arrived 4:39 pm) Elizabeth Demattia
Shelley Serebrin Charles Thirkill
Ann Kerr Margaret Henigman, Designate Chair
Meg Savory (arrived 4:47 pm)

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

Guests: Celeste Zimmer, Nanaimo Recycling Exchange

Regrets: Jeff Thomas Wally Wells
Joan Wagner

1. Call to Order

Designate Chair M. Henigman called the meeting to order at 4:19 p.m. in the City Hall Board Room.

R. Lawrance took a moment to introduce Celeste Zimmer from the Nanaimo Recycling Exchange to the Committee.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

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

- a) Educator's Workshop 2009, Coast Waste Management Association, 2009-Oct-21:
R. Lawrance explained that this workshop is part of a bigger conference taking place in Westin, Bear Mountain. As R. Lawrance will not be able to attend, he asked if any Committee members would be interested. Although the workshop is scheduled from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., total time including travel will be approximately 8:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. A. Kerr volunteered to attend the conference.
- b) Poultry Issues – Council issue:
J. Kipp reported that Council has been experiencing issues with residents who own less than one acre of land not being able to have chickens. Although there are concerns with rats, most of Council agrees that this issue is all about sourcing local food. No direction given.
- c) Plastic Bag Ban – Council issue:
J. Kipp explained that the use of plastic grocery bags is another issue that Council has been facing. Although a few grocery stores have chosen to stop using plastic bags, Council does not have the jurisdiction to regulate the use of them. No direction given.
- d) UBCM: Brownfield Redevelopment:
J. Kipp received some documents at the recent UBCM entitled "*The Basics of Brownfield Redevelopment: A Guide for Local Governments in BC*", and "*Transportation Demand Management: A Small and Mid-Size Communities Toolkit*" that he provided to R. Lawrance for review.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2009-Sep-09)

MOVED by A. Kerr, SECONDED by E. Demattia, that the minutes from 2009-Sep-09 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

4. Items Arising from Minutes

A. Kerr asked if any members attended the CIPC meeting on 2009-Oct-07. R. Lawrance and M. Henigman both sit on the Committee and attended the meeting. R. Lawrance reported that he received a cost estimate for reviewing and updating the document entitled "*Controlling Invasive*

Plants: Information and Process Package" (City of Nanaimo Parks, Recreation & Culture Department) from CIPC, which will be discussed later in the meeting (see Item 8a).

M. Henigman noted that the provincial legislation is soon going to be amended and species separated into categories such as "emergent" or "established". These lists, which will be unveiled in the spring, could affect city documents or bylaws that deal with invasive species.

R. Lawrance reported that the cosmetic pesticide bylaw is not being discussed at this meeting because it is still being reviewed by the Bylaw Department. Once reviewed by the Bylaw Department, it will need to be reviewed by a lawyer.

A. Kerr noted that the minutes stated that the Committee was to receive details on the cosmetic pesticide education program. R. Lawrance reported that he does have a generic budget which outlines some of the program's components, noting that it will still need to be adjusted. R. Lawrance distributed a copy of the budget.

5. Budget: (\$2,782.17)

6. Delegation

7. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices

8. Ongoing Business

- a) Review of Parks' "Controlling Invasive Plants: Information & Process Package" - request for funding:
As discussed at the last meeting, Parks' "Controlling Invasive Plants: Information & Process Package" requires an update. The document's main goal is to provide volunteers with background information on invasive plants and key species to focus on removing when volunteering for invasive plant removal in city parks. At the last meeting, ACE decided that they would ask CIPC to review the document for consistency. CIPC has provided a cost estimate of \$1,400 (see attached). This would include a thorough review of the document, from content to formatting.

J. Kipp arrived at 4:39 p.m.

Because the ACE work plan recommends the Committee begin to review how the City deals with invasive species management, the document was identified as needing an update. Because it is a Parks Department document, the Committee did not feel that they should be responsible for the cost. M. Henigman suggested taking some items off of CIPC's cost estimate to reduce the total price. She also suggested specifying to CIPC the total amount of money that the Committee would be willing to spend and ask them what can be done with it.

E. Demattia reminded the Committee that the funds in the budget are only available to them until December, explaining that it would be a good idea to use all of the funds provided. She doesn't feel it is a good idea to wait for something better to come by because the year is coming to an end and the budget needs to be spent by that time.

A. Kerr asked if CIPC's priority list is something we would like to incorporate into our cosmetic pesticide bylaw draft. M. Henigman noted that creating one prioritized list is often difficult because it depends on what the priorities are and what the list is being used for. A prioritized list and a priority list are different. The document at hand includes the Parks' Prioritized list. Those who use Parks' document and those who use the pesticide bylaw are different people. Volunteers helping in the Parks system will be using this document to easily identify the problems and priorities that Parks staff have identified.

M. Savory arrived at 4:47 p.m.

R. Lawrance will forward the letter that he received from CIPC to the Parks Department and ask if there are any funds available there. He added that developing an invasive species strategy is a task that can be added to next year's work plan. If that is something the Committee is interested in, questions to ask would include "Is there any value in having an invasive species strategy for the City of Nanaimo?" and "How are we going to make the strategy work in conjunction with a pesticide bylaw?" C. Thirkill feels that an invasive species strategy will be a difficult issue to address, noting that there is probably a reason why one hasn't yet been created. Creating a strategy would be a way of bringing more attention to the issue.

b) Public Survey on Environmental Issues (Ipsos Reid) – review of questions:

R. Lawrance provided the survey's questions and results to the Committee via e-mail prior to the meeting (see attached), and presented them to the members in PowerPoint format. The Committee felt that many of the results were not a realistic reflection of what is really taking place in Nanaimo.

The Committee would like to see a more comprehensive data report. For instance, in the question that asks what the public's three priority environmental issues are, results for only three responses are shown. The Committee would like to know if there was a more comprehensive list of responses to choose from, or if the three responses displayed were the only options given. R. Lawrance will ask Ipsos Reid if there is a more comprehensive report of this data.

M. Henigman excused herself from the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

c) Cosmetic Pesticide Education Program:

In July, Council made \$25,000 available for the education program. The City has been working with Team Watersmart and is looking forward to the next stage. General budget strategies include a pesticide use survey and results, a local advertising campaign, website and marketing design, community outreach, seminars and workshops, press education days, and regional radio and television advertising (see attached).

R. Lawrance said that he has considered creating a multi-page newspaper insert over the course of the fall/winter to advertise in the paper. The insert would include information on the bylaw, pesticide alternatives, an overall view of the program, resources and links, etc.

J. Kipp feels that a newspaper insert would serve less value than a brochure. M. Savory feels that an insert would use too much paper. A. Kerr suggested sending out the insert during Earth Week. S. Serebrin suggested instead of sending out an insert, to have people submit articles on the issue to the newspaper. M. Savory suggested adding an award to the Green Nanaimo Awards for the reduction of pesticides. R. Lawrance suggested a natural lawn beauty contest.

E. Demattia suggested supplying this type of information to people interested in "block parties". This would help to provide information on a neighbourhood-focused level. She also suggested using a full-page ad in Parks & Rec's spring and fall Leisure Guides to promote the program, noting that a leisure guide usually sticks around the house longer than a newspaper. R. Lawrance will find out which department handles "block party" inquiries and check into Leisure Guide space and cost for the spring/summer edition.

R. Lawrance noted that he hopes to have an information hotline created for people to call and ask questions. The task of answering the phones and providing information would have to be contracted out to different groups, i.e. Community Gardens, Foodshare, and Rhododendron Society.

R. Lawrance added that he would like to approach retailers to discuss how to work with them in promoting the education program. The Committee feels that there is a very important need to provide retailers with the information on alternatives. E. Demattia suggested offering a city sponsorship sticker or logo as an incentive to retailers to increase their sales on alternatives and decrease their pesticide sales. As long as alternatives are being made available, people will choose them.

The Committee is interested in learning more about environmental product logos that are available, and which ones are credible. A. Kerr will find out more about "eco-logos" and what other credible logos are out there.

Celeste Zimmer asked if ACE would be interested in creating a pesticide drop-off event in conjunction with the NRE. It would need to be decided whether or not they would accept herbicides/fungicides. If they decide to accept herbicides/fungicides, the waste is required to be shipped to Alberta through Aerosmith Environmental. She noted that the NRE does not accept items out of the Product Care (PCP Reg#).

9. New Business

a) "Burn-It-Smart" Program / Woodstove Exchange Program – VIHA / MOE discussion:

Air Quality Forum – Information Release, 2009-Nov-03: R. Lawrance reported that the City of Nanaimo is planning on working with VIHA and the MOE to present the results of the air quality study. The study was done using a nephelometer in a vehicle that travelled around the city in a predefined route. R. Lawrance reviewed the results with the Committee via PowerPoint (see attachment). There were three areas recommended that the "Burn-It-Smart" program be focused on; South End, Departure Bay, and Long Lake. C. Thirkill asked how Nanaimo's results compare to national standards. R. Lawrance said that is something to ask VIHA.

He reported that the results of the study have not yet been released to the public or media, but will be presented at a public information forum by representatives of VIHA and MOE on 2009-Nov-03 at the Princess Royal Family Centre. This forum will review the results and take questions from the public.

It is hoped that the reps who present the information at the 2009-Nov-03 forum be the same reps who present the information at any future forums to ensure consistent information. R. Lawrance will ask the reps if they will be available for more than one date.

"Burn-It-Smart" Workshops, 2009-Nov-26, 2009-Nov-27: R. Lawrance explained that the federal "Burn-It-Smart" program has been around for years and focuses on providing information to the public on choosing, storing, cutting and burning wood to minimize smoke in a workshop setting. As the Bylaw Department has received complaints regarding air quality around the city, Council felt the best way to deal with the issue would be through public education. Last year, two workshops took place during the winter and two took place during the fall.

R. Lawrance has pre-booked the same workshop instructor as last year for November 26th and 27th. He is hoping to host "Burn-It-Smart" workshops in the areas of concern as determined by the air quality study (South End, Departure Bay, and Long Lake).

Woodstove Exchange Program: R. Lawrance explained that last year, the province provided funding to municipalities to create a public incentive program to change out pre-1994 woodstoves and replace them with newer models. The initial \$250 incentive was topped-up an additional \$250 incentive from most retailers.

E. Demattia noted that even with the rebate, a change-out is very expensive. Although we are providing a rebate, she noted that one must already have motivation to do it. The efficiency and amount of money saved in terms of wood are things that should be highly emphasized when promoting this program, to help offset the high cost of the change out. M. Savory added that if one doesn't have the ability to change out their woodstove, the workshops will help give them the knowledge to burn efficiently by loading the wood correctly, etc.

E. Demattia excused herself from the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

b) Council Update Schedule – for circulation:

J. Kipp explained that the Council Update Schedule involves a Committee members taking turns watching a Council meeting and reporting back to the Committee on any environmental-related issues that were discussed. Council meetings can be viewed in person, on television, or at any time on the internet.

The schedule was distributed to the members. The completed schedule will be sent back to members for information.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting was rescheduled to be held **Tuesday, 2009-Nov-10** at **4:15 p.m.** in the **Economic Development Meeting Room** (down the hall from the Board Room).

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date