



MINUTES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2009-SEP-09 AT 4:15 PM
BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL, 455 WALLACE STREET

Present: Jim Kipp, Chair
Shelley Serebrin
Joan Wagner
Meg Savory
Elizabeth Demattia
Wally Wells
Anne Kerr
Charles Thirkill
Margaret Henigman

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 4:18 p.m. in the City Hall Board Room.

The Committee took a moment to introduce themselves to E. Demattia as this is the first meeting that she has been in attendance for.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

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

- a) Paperless Agenda Packages (J. Kipp):
It was decided by the Committee that agenda packages will be distributed to members via e-mail for all future meetings. Members will be responsible for bringing any printed documentation they feel is required. Paper copies can be supplied if requested.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2009-Jul-08)

The following change was made by the M. Henigman:

- a) **Invasive Species Management Discussion:** *"As there are hundreds of invasive species on Vancouver Island, the Ministry of Environment (MOE) focuses on a list of species which are most detrimental to ~~human health~~ ecosystem integrity."*

MOVED by E. Demattia, SECONDED by W. Wells, that the minutes from 2009-Jul-08 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

A. Kerr feels it is important to have a priority list of invasive plants, noting that the list provided by the Parks Department differs from the list provided on the CIPC website. M. Henigman explained that the lists vary because those who have created the lists have different priorities. For instance, the list used by the Parks Department also includes methods to control noxious weeds and plants.

R. Lawrance suggested that we provide a base list of priority invasive plants on the City's website and refer to another website as updates arise. M. Henigman recommended that the list be referenced to CIPC's list of Priority Invasive Plants. E. Demattia suggested referencing our list to more than one other list. Members agree that the list should be referenced to a provincial or Ministry-based website to ensure accuracy.

J. Kipp informed the Committee that once the bylaw has been approved by Council, updates to the bylaw will need to be presented to Council.

S. Serebrin arrived at 4:38 p.m.

In response to items arising from the 2009-Jul-08 minutes, R. Lawrance reported to the Committee that “residential property” is defined by the use, not the zoning. He also reported that the “Guide to Controlling Invasive Plants” has not yet been reviewed for consistency by CIPC, but will be discussed at the next CIPC meeting that is being held on 2009-OCT-07.

4. Budget: (\$2,782.17)

5. Delegation

6. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices

- a) N.A.L.T. “Run for the Mountain” Event (2009-Sep-19):
For info only.
- b) 2009 Powersmart Forum (2009-Oct-13, 14, 15):
R. Lawrance informed the Committee of the BC Hydro’s annual Powersmart Forum that is taking place next month. If there are any members interested in attending, please contact R. Lawrance. If interested members would like to be reimbursed for expenses, fund allocation will have to be discussed by the Committee.
- c) Gary Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team (G.O.E.R.T.) AGM (2009-Sep-30):
C. Thirkill (arrived late) mentioned that he would be attending the A.G.M. and would report back to the Committee at the October meeting.

7. Ongoing Business

The Committee decided that Item 7c) would be deferred until the end of the meeting.

- a) Woodstove Change-out Program – Update:
R. Lawrance reported that this year’s program was successful. He has applied for more funding for 2010 to replace a total of 100 stoves. The program will be starting over the course of the fall/winter.
- b) Cosmetic Pesticide Education Program – Update:
R. Lawrance reported that he has been meeting with the RDN to streamline information for the education program. Updates have been added to the City’s website, and Capewell Designs is currently working on logos, newspaper inserts and updates, etc. The costs for design will be approximately \$5,000 of the education program’s \$25,000 budget.

R. Lawrance noted that the \$25,000 budget will be mainly used to cover the cost of promotional materials, as seminars have not been successful in attracting the right audience. Advertising for workshops has only been attracting people who are already interested in the issue. R. Lawrance believes that they will have better success in promoting the program if they “piggyback” along with other events such as the Home Show. There will be more details on the education program next month.

C. Thirkill arrived at 4:53.

The “Pesticide Issues” e-mail that was distributed to members before the meeting (see attached), shows that there are opposers out there that have been challenging municipal pesticide bylaws. M. Savory noted that as we build our bylaw, we need to be cautious that the materials and information used to educate people has been researched thoroughly before being presented as fact.

J. Wagner disagrees with society’s way of trying to prove things are dangerous before restricting them, instead of proving things are safe before using them.

c) Pesticide Bylaw Review Meeting:

At 5:10, the Committee began a line-by-line review of the draft bylaw. Please see attached bylaw to view the revisions that were made.

E. Demattia excused herself at 6:03

R. Lawrance explained that after changes have been made to the bylaw, it will be reviewed by a lawyer. A Council Report will then be drafted and presented to the Committee for review at the October meeting.

R. Lawrance explained that Schedule A (Permitted Pesticides) is a provincial list of pesticides that is permitted for any kind of bylaw because it is included in the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Regulation. Whether or not Schedule A can be amended will need to be determined by a lawyer. If amendments are possible, the Committee will have a chance to make amendments before the bylaw is finalized.

8. New Businessa) Public Survey on Environmental Values (Ipsos Reid):

R. Lawrance explained that the City has subscribed to the Ipsos Reid Environmental Survey, which asks a standard set of questions with the addition of a Waste Management and Pesticide Module. This was not previously brought to the Committee's attention as it arose during the summer. The survey was completed during late August/early September.

J. Wagner and M. Savory expressed worry for some of the questions, such as "*Are you prepared to pay increased property taxes to address important local environment issues?*" They feel that questions of this nature imply that being more sustainable costs more. E. Demattia explained that sociological surveys traditionally ask a wide variety of questions to try to understand different views. R. Lawrance will provide members with the actual list of questions that were asked.

J. Kipp suggested that this Committee take part in "Council Updates" (formerly "Council Monitoring"), explaining that it involves Committee members taking turns to review and report Council activity. If interested, a "Council Update Schedule" can be circulated at the next meeting.

9. Next Meeting

The next regular scheduled meeting will be held Wednesday, 2009-Oct-14 at 4:15 p.m. in the City Hall Board Room.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date