

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
TUESDAY, 2008-DEC-02 AT THE CITY HALL
BOARD ROOM (455 WALLACE STREET)

Present:	Nadine Schwager, Acting Chair Elizabeth Demattia Margaret Henigman Angelique Nash-Thurmeier	Shelley Serebrin Steve Earle Ron Brown Charles Thirkill
Staff:	Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner Kevin Brydges, Environmental Coordinator	Rebecca Tubbs (Recording Secretary)
Guests:	Jim Kipp Dirk Becker	Bev Brown Minna Mah
Regrets:	Joy Cameron, Chair Scott Northrup Geoff Garbutt	Geraldine Manson Chris Zamora

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair N. Schwager, at 4:03 p.m. at the City Hall Board Room.

2. Approval of Agenda and Late Items:

The agenda was approved as presented with the following additions:

- Welcome Jim Kipp
- Dirk Becker, pesticides (Dirk Becker)
- Food Summit update (A. Nash-Thurmeier)

3. Adoption of Minutes:

MOVED by C. Thirkill, SECONDED by N. Schwager, that the Minutes of the 2008-Nov-04 meeting be adopted. CARRIED.

4. Budget: (\$)

5. Delegation:

a) Dirk Becker – Pesticide use:

D. Becker presented information emphasizing the long-term effects of pesticide use on humans and animals.

- He emphasized the effects of chemicals found in pesticides on the human body due to prolonged exposure (toxic-load).
- The following is an example he gave: (i.e. a horse eats food that has had pesticide sprayed on it, digests the food, and the fertilizer is used for new crops. The crops die.)
- He stated that 1000 new chemicals are introduced to environment every year on the west coast.
- Companies are testing individual chemicals, except chemicals behave differently and take longer to biodegrade when they are mixed.
 - synergistic: chemicals are stronger once combined
- D. Becker provided three handouts to the committee members that included various articles regarding the dangers of pesticides.

6. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices:

- a) Letter from Joy Cameron (via email)
- b) Environment Mind Grind – Sponsor request (via email)
- c) Welcome Jim Kipp
- d) Committee Application forms (2009)
- e) GeoNanaimo Interpretive Signs

7. Ongoing Business:**a) Review 2009 Workplan ideas:**

- Pesticide bylaw follow-up (report to council in March).
- Woodstove exchange / Change-out program (currently working with the province and local retailers).
- E. Demattia suggested encouragement of green growth and development.
- S. Serebrin asks how this committee could collaborate with PNAC.
 - ACE rep on PNAC
- A. Nash-Thurmeier hopes to see the issue of food security in ACE's 2009 workplan.
- Host an informational session for all members regarding environmental approval process (storm water, climate change, etc).
- Improving transportation and mobility.
 - new plan for walkways, connect communities, pedestrian and bike trails

b) Review of "geoNanaimo"/ Interpretive signs:

- The geoNanaimo signs are interpretive signs on the geological history of Nanaimo.
 - "geoNanaimo" is a self-guided tour through Nanaimo's geology
 - the signs are a way for people to appreciate and understand the geological history of Nanaimo
- The signs are proposed to be posted at four parks, each having a unique look at the geology of the city.
 - there will be one sign per park:
 - Jack Point / Biggs Park
 - Bowen Park
 - Sugarloaf Mountain Park
 - Piper's Lagoon Park
- Signs will be constructed of 3 x 4 ft, sloped Mylar panels (to meet park sign standards).
- The image on the sign is from the GeoScape series (permission granted by VIU) and research completed through S. Earle and Melissa Dinsdale, a geology student at VIU.
- Target audience is residential citizens.

ACE Comments:

- E. Demattia suggests rearranging the text (too much information at the top and not enough at the bottom).
 - Too much text is unappealing.
 - More detailed information could be supplied online (with reference to a website on sign).
 - Make the signs more interactive.
 - break up the categories into more specific groups
 - Separate and minimize the information shown on the sign and provide leads to other signs in the park.
 - include more than one sign in each park: more signs that reference back to the first sign
 - (i.e. a sign along the trail as you are walking, highlighting a park feature)
 - Regarding the small maps: identify where you are (NSWE arrows, scale, labels).
 - Some information on the signs is incorrect (i.e. the sandstone formations: different processes are being shown in the photographs).
 - An extra banner could be featured down the side of the sign, highlighting other parks to visit, instead of using a large amount of space on every sign to list other locations.
 - Consider budgeting for a replacement sign.
- Any more suggestions or comments can be sent to R. Lawrance via e-mail (before February).

8. New Business:

a) Electric vehicles in Nanaimo (C. Thirkill):

- What is the status of low-speed vehicles in Nanaimo?
 - a low-speed vehicle is considered one that has an attainable speed of 30 km/h and a maximum speed of 40 km/h on a paved surface
- Provincial law makes operating an electric vehicle illegal unless a city's bylaw permits it.
 - Qualicum beach has passed a bylaw and may be able to provide an example for Nanaimo
- A city fleet of electric vehicles could help lead the way by example.
- Vancouver Island is the perfect place to pilot electric vehicles (mild temperatures, shorter commutes).

b) Food Summit update (A. Nash-Thurmeier):

- This past weekend there was a food summit.
- It was geared around municipal engagement between food organizations and the city.
- It is included in the city's OCP to work with food organizations within the city to create healthy food systems.
- Angelique would like to have food strategy included in the 2009 ACE workplan.
- Deborah Jensen or John Horn are the key staff contacts; they are currently working on a food strategy for Nanaimo.
- There is lots of available city land that could be used for food crops.
- May be a good idea for ACE to meet with Social Planning Advisory Committee (SPAC).
 - may be interesting to work together on a food strategy
 - will need to define ACE's role in relation to its mandate
- Food security will become a much bigger issue in the next 10-15 years.
- Vancouver Island produces a limited inventory of food.
 - we produce only 6% of our food supply locally and import 94%
 - there is only a five-day supply of food available on the island
- An important issue to consider is carrying capacity.
 - what are the limits to Nanaimo's growth?

c) Saturday, December 13: 100 Fir trees available (C. Thirkill):

- The Nanaimo Fish and Game Club will be digging up 100 fir trees from NALT's "Natural Abundance" nursery and transplanting them to the banks of the Millstone River. If you would like one, please let C. Thirkill know.
 - delivery is available
 - donation by charity

9. Next Meeting:

- New committees will be endorsed by council by January and the Chairs will be announced in December.
- Public advertisements must be endorsed and filled.
- The first meeting may carry on no later than February.
 - get 2009 application forms in quickly
 - look for ads in the paper for "Member-at-Large" positions

10. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Christmas dinner to follow at Zougla Restaurant (2021 Estevan Road).