

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
TUESDAY, 2008-NOV-04, TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX

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

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda and Late Items:

The agenda was approved as presented with the following additions:

- Alan Kemp – Status of Forest Plan Update & Feedback
- The Habitat Atlas discussion will be deferred until next month
- Christmas Dinner location for December meeting

MOVED by N. Schwager, SECONDED by E. Demattia, that the agenda be approved as presented.
CARRIED.

3. Adoption of Minutes:

MOVED by M. Henigman, SECONDED by N. Schwager, that the Minutes of the 2008-Oct-07 meeting be adopted. CARRIED.

4. Budget: (\$159.95)

- The new council will decide the amount of our new budget.
- Last year's budget was \$4075 and it will probably remain the same.
 - any additional funding requires a request to council

5. Delegation:

a) Alan Kemp – Urban Forest Plan Update & Feedback:

- Comments from Margaret, Shelly, and Angelique were forwarded via email to Rob and Alan.
 - clarification for climate change impacts: rainfall events will be heavier, dry periods will be longer
 - was not able to include a separate module regarding a food strategy, but this is addressed in Section 3.4 of the Official Community Plan
- Rob and Alan will be bringing the plan to senior management for review later in November.
- There has been a request by Plan Nanaimo Advisory Council (PNAC) to go over the Urban Forest Plan recommendations and review the progress that is being made at a future meeting.
- Hoping to bring the plan to council in January/February 2009.
- If accepted in draft form, one more open house will have to be held.
- This "living document" will ultimately be seen as very positive.

- Module 1 will be put on the City website as well as the City page.
- There are still detailed issues that need to be worked out.
 - this plan provides a good starting foundation
- Without the Urban Forest Plan document being recognized by the Parks Commission and council, funding will not be obtainable.
- The Vancouver Island Conference Centre is a good venue to house educational displays and information regarding the Urban Forest Plan.

*Reaching New Audiences in Canadian Environmental Learning
EECOM's 2008/2009 National Leadership Clinic*

- Participating teams will plan, design, develop and deliver an action plan to build the capacity of their organizations to reach new audiences in environmental learning.
- Clinic is expected to expand and enhance the networks of local, regional, provincial, and national environment educators, building on shared experiences and expertise, and to forge new alliances and networks for environmental education and communication across Canada.
- Full details about this program and the application process are available at:
http://www.eecom.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=14&Item
- A stronger emphasis needs to be put on Earth Day.
 - it is a day that has good potential to become more mainstream
 - more people need to be involved and more activities need to be available
 - co-ordinate events with neighbourhoods (i.e. tree planting)
 - encourage schools to introduce and emphasize the importance of Earth Day
 - should start this in January so there is time left for planning

6. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices:

- a) ACE 2008 Annual Work Plan
- b) NALT 2008 Civic All-Candidates Forums about Environment Sustainability Questions

7. Ongoing Business:

a) Plastic bag use – Discussion:

- Nadine had a meeting with RDN to talk about a plan on what can be done in regards to reducing the use of plastic bags.
- The solid waste department in the City of Nanaimo and RDN are currently working with retailers move toward using compostable bags.
- Manufacturers and retailer's associations are looking towards reducing plastic bags by 50%.
- Retailers are looking for ways to help promote compostable bags.
- An educational campaign will be held regarding difference between compostable vs. biodegradable bags and why switching makes sense.
- Information will be available on the City's website.
- A pledge will be available that retailers can sign if they are practicing positive strategies in the reduction of plastic bags (i.e. bronze, silver, gold, platinum rated retailers)
 - this strategy helps focus on rewarding the good instead of penalizing the bad
- The plastic bag use reduction will fold into the 2010 city composting project.

b) General discussion on next year's work plan:

The 2008 Work Plan Recommendations that ACE has addressed in the past year include the following:

- Woodburning stoves and inserts
- Cosmetic pesticide use:
 - a report has been completed and a bylaw is now being looked at
 - it needs to be made publicly clear that the bylaw will not necessarily entail a total ban – this has not been determined

- Urban Forest Management Plan:
 - should be completed in March 2009
- Public information and outreach:
 - the Sustainable City Forum held October 26 was such a success\
 - more of these need to be held
 - how do we define sustainability in Nanaimo?
- Green Nanaimo Awards:
 - deferred until next spring
 - may change the categories to include “packaging reduction” or “plastic bag bans”
 - Rob will bring the Green Nanaimo Awards application form to next meeting so that possible changes can be made
- Habitat atlas:
 - includes mapping, geotechnical reports, habitat protection, etc.
 - has been available for the last 4 years and has been actively used
 - this resource has potential and deserves an update
- Applications for new committee members come out in December as long as council approves that the committee will continue.
- ACE will begin working on next year’s work plan in January 2009.
- Rob would like to begin planning a draft 2009 work plan at the next meeting.
 - would like to define a budget for the work plan prior to adoption
 - present ideas for the 2009 work plan to Rob during the December meeting

ACE comments:

- The City should work with RDN to develop a strategy to promote compostable bags.
- Educating the masses on Integrated Pest Management is important.
- Should be looking at the demonstrated successes of IPM that the public can relate to.

b) Bullfrog Follow-up and Discussion:

- Margaret talked to Purnima, who is the provincial specialist on amphibians.
 - she has been tasked to put together a provincial-wide strategy to control bullfrogs and should have a draft plan by mid-December
- Workshops including local governments and water districts will be taking place.
- Purnima wants to develop and use new science to shed light on the truth and to understand the biology and lifestyles of this pest.
 - this will define what is achievable in regards to controlling this species
- Purnima would be interested in presenting a discussion or workshop to ACE later during the winter.
 - she will possibly look at inviting someone along who is from the group who does evening frog hunts to speak with ACE
- Could potentially hold a neighbourhood forum on this issue.
 - contact neighbourhood associations to attend
 - could work with VIU horticultural center on plantings to limit invasive frogs moving into new bodies of water
 - the importance of co-existing with invasive species instead of supporting an environment that can easily be invaded should be emphasized
 - the importance treating the land appropriately considering the given habitat

8. New Business:

a) NALT Candidate Forum Discussion

- No ACE members attended this forum.
- Some information included in the preambles was wrong and inadequate.
 - “the bylaw limiting the height of buildings along the waterfront has been eliminated”
 - “A bylaw to ban the use of cosmetic pesticides currently proposed for the City of Nanaimo”
 - check your facts

- confirm policy
 - next time do not include the preamble
- What NALT was trying to achieve in this forum, was an honest perspective from each candidate without outside information to influence their answer.

b) Update of City Habitat Atlas:

Deferred until next meeting.

c) Christmas Dinner location for December meeting:

ACE members will e-mail restaurant suggestions to Rob.
He will make a list and send it back for a vote.

9. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 2, 2008 in Board Room at City Hall.
Christmas Dinner will be followed at Zougla Restaurant (2021 Estevan Road).

10. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

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