

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
TUESDAY, 2008-OCT-07, TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX

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

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:11 p.m. without a quorum.

2. Adoption of Minutes:

MOVED by N. Schwager, SECONDED by E. Demattia, that the Minutes of 2008-Sep-09 be adopted.
CARRIED.

(Motion to be ratified at next meeting when quorum is present.)

3. Approval of Agenda and Late Items:

The agenda was approved as presented with the following addition:

a) Food Forum: Food Link Nanaimo (November 29) - Angelique Nash-Thurmeier

4. Budget: (\$1385.91)

- Part of this budget (\$1,200) will be required to provide support for the "Burn-It-Smart" programs and to host workshops.
 - Nanaimo Recycling Exchange will have a "Burn-It-Smart" booth at the Fall home show at Beban (towards end of October)
 - promotional information for the "Burn-It-Smart" program will be placed on the "Citypage" and on the City website.

5. Delegation:

a) Colin McCartie to discuss concerns regarding Bull Frogs in Green Lake:

- Colin contacted Kevin Brydges regarding the bullfrog invasion in Green Lake in hopes that ACE would present the issue to council so funding could be made available for areas of Nanaimo dealing with bullfrogs.
- As a resident of Green Lake, Colin has seen the impact of these bullfrogs on the environment and residents.
- In early spring of this year, the lake appeared to be "boiling" due to thousands of tadpoles.
- Lakes affected include Green Lake, Brennan Lake, and Quesnel Lake in Cedar.
 - some residents from these communities have never seen anything of this degree and have contacted Colin with their concerns, and described the frogs as a "plague"
- Colin and his neighbours raised approximately \$1000 and contacted Stan Orchard, Biologist, of Bullfrog Control Inc. for assistance.
 - Orchard has been involved in managing bullfrogs species from Qualicum to Victoria
 - is currently working with the Capital Regional District (CRD) because of frogs migrating into their watershed

- The CRD is only now taking action because the frogs are thought to pose a threat to water quality
- The approach taken by Mr. Orchard and the neighbourhood volunteers is to scan lakes, cull for breeding adults and females, and to trap and destroy them.
- The adult population has been reduced and hopefully this has minimized the influx of eggs until next spring when the frogs will re-emerge. (March)
- This effort is a two- to three-year commitment for Green Lake alone.
 - even if Green Lake gets the bullfrog situation under control, similar efforts would have to be done around other lakes and ponds in the City
- Colin brought a DVD for the ACE to review, as well as several news articles.
- Colin called the Ministry of Environment and spoke with Shawn Pendercast.
 - was told to take the matter into his own hands because there was no provincial funding available
- Colin's main goal is to raise awareness in Nanaimo about this invasive species as well as try to tap into municipal funds and try to gain support for a more regional approach to manage the frogs.
- Colin's recommendations for action include:
 - the city provide educational programs for residents
 - provide funding for neighbourhoods to deal with eradication themselves
 - have the city hire professionals like Stan Orchard to recommend equipment and train people on such equipment, as well as buy equipment so that residents can tackle the issue on a volunteer basis

ACE Comments:

- The *Local Government Act* Spheres of Concurrent Jurisdiction – Environment and Wildlife Local governments can initiate invasive species control programs. Bullfrogs are recognized as an invasive species.
 - it is allowable for local government to develop their own eradication programs
- We do have an invasive species removal program in our parks for invasive plant species, such as English ivy, daphne, and giant hogweed.
 - no effort has been put toward invasive animals
- Because a bullfrog migrates, it is challenging to control the species in a place the size of Nanaimo.
 - would have to tackle the issue on a regional basis rather than single city or the bullfrogs would be back again later
- No funding has been made available for invasive animal control from provincial sources.
- A coordinated effort is needed to get the funding together.
 - use 'grassroots' efforts to get this issue off the ground
 - it needs to become a big issue to grab the attention of "the people" that are responsible for the funding
 - should consider putting limited funds where it will be most helpful
 - Nanaimo may not be the place
- Purnima Govindarajulu, Small Mammal and Herpetofauna Specialist, of the Ministry of Environment is developing a plan to address bullfrog management for the province.
- If Purnima is available, the committee would like to get her perspective by having her present on the topic.
 - she is aware of many facts on this issue that are not made available to the public (facts that may not be media friendly)
 - scientific knowledge will help create a better understanding of the issue
- The committee will contact other people who may be interested in this topic about the presentation.
- It is also possible for this topic to be added to the January work plan (action to be taken January).
- It may not be possible to take action by the spring.

6. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices:

- a) Lung Association of B.C. / B.C. Ministry of Environment: Provincial Woodstove Exchange Program Agreement
 - For information

- b) Draft – Urban Forest Plan Modules
 - For information

7. Ongoing Business:

a) Plastic Bag Ban (Nadine, Liz, Joy)

- An e-mail was sent to the ACE committee stating that the retail council is now working on implementing a plastic bag ban.
- Nadine, Liz and Joy still need to set up a date to get together and come up with ideas for a strategy for Nanaimo to present back to the committee.
 - trying to come up with an achievable work plan that can be done so that we have something to present to council
 - may work in conjunction with Public Works
- Hoping that the promotion of the compostable bag is still a possibility.
- Retail council and a number of associations, including the Grocery Association of B.C., have created a body of goals and objectives and have set targets to reduce plastic bags.
- ACE should look at these objectives and see if we can add anything the City can contribute toward.

b) Cosmetic Pesticide Use – Next Steps

- The restriction on the use of cosmetic pesticide in residential areas has been passed by council.
- Many people were looking for a complete ban, which we are not able to do.
- The restriction's timeline is now kicking in.
 - Parks will find funding to start the education program by next spring
 - a draft bylaw will be developed by Rob and the Bylaw Department, and introduced to Council by March 2010

c) Provincial Woodstove/Insert Change-out Program – Funding Request for “Burn-It-Smart” Workshops

- Now starting the “Burn-It-Smart” education program.
- There are two dates during December for the “Burn-It-Smart” workshops.
- The province has been in touch with local insert-retailers and informed them of the change-out program.
- Will be working with retailers in the spring to help promote and run the change-out program.
- Partnering with retailers (March -April) who will also be offering incentives during that time.
- Individuals returning their old woodstove will be given a voucher good at a number of retailers to go towards the purchase of a new woodstove/insert.
- Working with Nanaimo Recycling Exchange.
 - will accept old stoves and destroy and track them
 - some funding will also go towards hiring the educational coordinators to coordinate the educational events.
- The B.C. Lung Association has made approximately \$30,000 available for the first of a two-year change-out program.
- The “Burn-It-Smart” education program covers information on the handling, storing, and burning of wood.
 - the workshops will mention that a certified person must install the new woodstoves
 - It will include advice about fireplaces – may get people thinking about the option of an insert if they hadn't before considered that option
- The ACE committee should fund some of the “Burn-It-Smart” workshop expenses.
 - funding would be used to cover advertisements, workshop costs
- There is funding available for the second workshop date from the Community Planning Department.

Motion proposed via e-mail on October 9, 2008:

MOVED by E. Demattia, SECONDED by C. Thirkill, that the use of ACE funds up to \$1,200 cover advertisement and workshop costs for the “Burn-it-Smart” campaign for the Fall/Winter of 2008.
CARRIED.

- Janet Irvine was introduced and invited to speak to the committee by the Chair.
 - Janet supplied a video titled "Woodstoves: Burn Hot, Burn Clean" to the committee and Cam Scott.
 - Rob will talk to Cam about posting a video like that on the City's website
- The City of Nanaimo is now keeping record of wood smoke complaints. These complaints will be mapped.
 - during second year of the change-out program, we can target neighborhood areas that have numerous complaints
- Mobile air-quality monitoring is planned for the fall/winter.
 - V.I.H.A will coordinate this

d) Urban Forest Plan Update – Modules Review – Alan Kemp

A. Kemp discussed:

- The preliminary draft was presented to ACE - the modules were to be reviewed.
- The Urban Forest Management Plan has been reissued so ACE can review the modules.
 - please have your questions or comments back to Rob within the next two weeks (by October 21)
 - the modules will be reissued by next week, so please have your comments to Rob no later than two weeks from that date (by October 24).
- The Urban Forest Management Plan and Official Community Plan will compliment each other.
- Fruit trees and fruit plants were not specifically added to the Urban Forest Management Plan.
 - it could be added to the Urban Forest Management plan that food trees and food plants be dealt with through the OCP (Section 3.4 Food Security strategy)
 - could be tied into landscaping around buildings?
- The Urban Forest Management Plan is to be presented to the Parks Commission at the October 29 meeting as well as the Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee (PNAC) by October or November.
- Under MODULE 2: Parks and Natural Areas Management: The parks chosen for the Forest Management Plan were chosen because they are heavily used, heavily forested with Douglas fir, and have serious stress issues. (people, climate, invasive species)
- Under MODULE 7: Planning and Enforcement: could the language be stricter?
 - not just incentives to do well but actual standards that must be followed
- Should provide an incentive for developers to want to do better, not a disincentive.
- Penalties will be become stricter.
 - our penalties are more lenient than other municipalities
- Is there any way to dovetail with the Urban Forest Management Plan with the Green Building Codes to make educational workshops talk about or reference certain Green Building Code guidelines?
 - there are provincial guidelines that have just recently been implemented (watersmart legislation)
- There is an opportunity now, with the changes in the Community Charter, Bill 27 to Climate Change, to include the following requirements for development permit areas:
 - more flexibility on landscaping (drought-resistant plants)
 - siting of the building (solar orientation)
 - require specific features in developments (permeable surfaces)
- The Community Charter allows municipalities to have more say on these things than they had before.
 - staff will be reviewing and updating the City's Form and Character development permit area (DPA 9), with the Bill 27 amendments in mind
 - all of these features should dovetail nicely into the Urban Forest Management Plan

MOVED by E. Demattia, SECONDED by N. Schwager, that the correspondence (Modules) above be received as presented.

(Motion to be ratified at next meeting when quorum is present.)

8. New Business:

- a) Sustainable City/Green Building Public Forum 23-OCT-08 – Ace support and participation?

- ACE has received an invite to this forum.
- The presentations will focus on the homeowner.
 - what is green building?
 - what is a green home?
- Please R.S.V.P. with Rob if you would like to attend.

b) Food Forum: Food Link Nanaimo (November 29)

Angelique noted:

- Food Link Nanaimo Is an organization that is working to create linkages in the community for food security.
 - includes development of a local food charter
 - explores ways to create a food charter for school, work, business, organization, etc.
 - an open-community process
- Is there any way for ACE to look at food security or to become a part of this forum?
 - wants to bring it to the next work plan
- Angelique should approach the Social Planning Advisory Committee (SPAC) regarding this issue.
 - Angelique will contact John Horn and see if he would like to attend

9. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2008.

10. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

g:\compln\ace\age_min\2008\Min_Oct07