

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
TUESDAY, 2008-SEP-09, TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX

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

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.

2. Adoption of Minutes:

MOVED by N. Schwager, SECONDED by C. Zamora, that the Motions from the 2008-Jul-08 meeting be adopted. CARRIED.

MOVED by R. Brown, SECONDED by S. Serebrin, that the Minutes of 2008-Jul-08 be adopted. CARRIED.

3. Approval of Agenda and Late Items:

The Agenda was approved as presented.

Changes made to the "Cosmetic Pesticide Reduction Strategy" Council Report include:

- More time is needed to research and draft the bylaw. It should be drafted by April 2009.
- In the third paragraph of the report, the various components for Integrated Pest Management have been itemized.

Cosmetic Pesticide Reduction Program

R. Lawrence noted:

- The report is an outline of how this process will unfold and progress.
- The program would run for a span of up to three years:
 - Year 1 – Educational awareness
 - Year 2 – Educational awareness and a restrictive mechanism (Bylaw)
 - Year 3 – Review – Is this working? Any adjustments?
(Will also see if Federal or Provincial governments have made changes to domestic pesticide regulations at that time.)
- Because the program will be implemented over three years, we will have a chance to look back and see if it is working.
- We are still waiting for the details for an outline of an education plan.
- Funding to be provided to the Parks Department to run a public education program beginning in March 2009 under the supervision of Joan Plasteras, Parks Operations Manager.

- This project will be implemented using the next available 2009 or 2010 budget opportunity.
- There is some available funding in Community Planning as well as other sources, but this is not confirmed.

ACE Comments:

- What does “restricted” mean?
 - restriction means that users must gain a permit or have appropriate accreditation to use cosmetic pesticides in residential areas. Then, one would be given the allowance to use cosmetic pesticides following an IPM process for residential properties.
 - this restriction does not apply to City or commercial property.
 - the restriction is not about eradicating pesticide use, but about going through an IPM process, reducing the opportunity or need to use pesticides at all.
 - not intended for cases that use of pesticides are for health reasons or preservation of a home.
- Define: cosmetic, restricted, residential, pesticides (fungicides, insecticides, herbicides?)
- What are the long term effects/ramifications of restricting pesticide use?
- Why are we restricting residential use when commercial buildings have more use for it?
- What is the expense of someone becoming accredited, and staying accredited?
- Educational awareness is one of the biggest elements for success:
 - there ARE alternatives to cosmetic pesticide use.
 - provide information in a user-friendly way.
 - information could be made easily available on the City of Nanaimo’s website.
 - retailers need to educate and inform people that are buying these products, as well as suggest less impacting alternatives.

Try to encourage local industry to become accredited. The program is about promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and getting companies to use this practice. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is monitored through the licensing process.

In summary:

- Section 3 of the Council Report should clarify that the bylaw is focusing on backyard residential users only.
- Any bylaw that is researched and drafted would include consultation with people from the industry as well as The Canadian Cancer Society.
- Will not add recommendations from Council until we have had a thorough look, and the Council Report will come back when the draft bylaw is returned.
- This committee is in favor of restricting cosmetic pesticide use in residential areas.

ACE comments:

- The Council Report should add to the wording that this restriction is dealing strictly with residential properties.

MOVED by E. Demattia, SECONDED by N. Schwager, that the Cosmetic Pesticide Reduction Strategy Report be taken to Council on 2008-Sep-29. CARRIED

4. Budget:

\$2,418.85 remaining.

5. **Delegation:**

a) Gary Franssen, Manager, Sanitation & Recycling re current City of Nanaimo approach towards plastics recycling:

- This program is focused on single-family to fourplex properties located within City limits. Some small companies are included.
- The type of film-plastic that plastic grocery shopping bags are made of can be recycled and marketed. This is the only kind of film-plastic that is accepted.
- There are seven different kinds of plastic (they don't mix during processing). These plastics must be separated to make any sort of valuable product.
- For plastic shopping bags to be recycled, a clean, uncontaminated, single-type stream of plastic shopping bags is needed.
 - these bags do not include other kinds of plastic bags. (i.e. bags with hard plastic handles, string, foil)
- Mixed-plastic products are melted and used for many things (i.e. park bench, construction materials) – made in a plant in Saanich/Victoria.
- There is a difference between compostable and biodegradable bags.
 - manufacturers are secretive in their procedures regarding compostable plastic products.
- When compostable bags become more popular, they will reduce the clean stream of regular plastic shopping bags, contaminating them with other types of plastics and reducing the market value.
- Compostable bags should be made easily identifiable. (i.e. standard color, logo)
 - the “compostable” ICS logo appears on most compostable products.
 - one problem: longevity.
- There is a higher cost for compostable bags at the moment, because there is a very low demand for them.
 - we need to find a way to lower the cost of these bags to the homeowner.
 - by promoting compostable bags, we could raise a demand and reduce the cost.
 - retail needs to have a part in this cost reduction.
- If retailers offered only compostable grocery bags, the stream of plastic bags would be “consistent”.
- Industries want to be “green” but there are so many choices it becomes overwhelming.
 - retailers need to know the right facts to make the right decisions.
 - stores could offer Paper? Plastic? Or compostable?
 - people need to know the right facts to make the right decisions.
 - let people make their own choices in a positive way instead of forcing people into a change.
 - retailers could stop offering free plastic shopping bags and instead, charge a small levy for a compostable bag.
- The Kitchen Waste program has become very popular to those who have tried it out.
- A requirement for the Kitchen Waste program is that the container be lined with a compostable bag for the process to work.
- May be implemented city-wide within the City of Nanaimo by 2010, but there is a need for a composting plant for the process.
 - Is there room at the current composting plant or do we need another one to control the volume?

Ways in which ACE can help include the following:

- contact people from the grocery and retail industry to introduce this problem.
- does legislation support council by putting a levy on plastic grocery shopping bags?

- find out whether or not it is within our jurisdiction to put a levy on or ban plastic grocery shopping bags.
- get together as a smaller group to discuss the issue and present it to the committee.
 - Joy, Nadine, Liz

After talking with industry, Gary Franssen will be back to discuss the information found at a later meeting. This issue will go to council sometime in November 2008 outlining the program and how it will be implemented.

6. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices:

LiveSmart BC Efficiency Incentive Program

7. Ongoing Business:

- a) Plastic Bag Ban – As discussed above.
- b) Cosmetic Pesticide Reduction Program– As discussed above.
- c) Provincial Woodstove/Insert Change-out Program – Update

R. Lawrence noted:

- Rebecca Freedman from the Ministry advised that funding is most likely available for this program.
- Has gone through the application process regarding a 3-year education; heavy on educational awareness during the fall/winter seasons.
- Working with Nanaimo Recycling Exchange to promote this program.
- Change-out Program (March/April).
 - coordinate with retailers who already offer incentives/rebates during that time of year.
- Approximately 75 stoves to be changed out in the year.
- After hearing more confirmation, Rob will report back in October with the details.
- Rob will put together an informational report for Council.
- The “Burn-it-Smart” program will be done along with the Nanaimo Recycling Exchange this fall/winter.

- d) Urban Forest Plan -Update – Deferred until the 2008-Oct-07 meeting.

8. New Business:

9. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2008-Oct-07.

10. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.