

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
TUESDAY, 2008-JUL-08, TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX

Present:	Joy Cameron, Chair Steve Earle Nadine Schwager	Ron Brown Shelley Serebrin Angelique Nash-Thurmeier
Staff:	Rob Lawrance	Cindy Hall (Recording Secretary)
Guests:	Jeff Ainge, RDN Minna Mah, Enviro. steward	Lorelei Andrew, Foodshare
Regrets:	Liz Demattia Charles Thirkill	Margaret Henigman Chris Zamora
Absent:	Geoff Garbutt Scott Northrup	Geraldine Manson

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. without a quorum.

2. Adoption of Minutes:

MOVED by S. Earle, SECONDED by S. Serebrin that the Minutes from 2008-Jun-03 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.

4. Budget:

Received for information.

5. Delegation:

- a) Jeff Ainge, Zero Waste Coordinator, Regional District of Nanaimo provided information on the RDN's recycling program:
- RDN's program is slightly different from the City's. The RDN allows glass to be picked up, but not plastic bags, while the City does not allow glass, but does allow plastic bags.
 - The RDN does not provide recycling pickup to residential buildings over two-storeys. It is up to the owners of the buildings to arrange private pickup.
 - The material goes to the material recovery centre and then to the V.I. Recycling Centre where markets are found for it.
 - People are getting better at recycling, so more people are doing it.
 - Since providing recycling service, the RDN and City have both had 700 homes added to their routes.
 - As the RDN contract is nearing its end, there will be potential for them to look at changing their program and consider such things as:
 - whether to provide service to strata lots, townhomes, apartment buildings, etc. as the housing stock has changed;
 - whether to continue picking up glass, as the process becomes costly when glass contaminates the other materials being collected.

- whether to have household sort or a single stream; i.e. material recovery depot with mechanized sorting equipment;
- how often to pick up at residences;
- whether to include plastic bags in the material being collected.
- Would be a good idea to standardize systems with other municipalities, as suggested by an ACE member.
- A symposium was recently held on packaging, with government reps. and large packaging manufacturers in attendance. One problem with regulating packaging is that not all of it comes from Canada.
- The RDN has not been mandated to consider recycling plastic bags, and they do not have the ability to ban them or place a tax on them. The provincial government could, however, be lobbied to bring that into the BC Recycling Regulation. The UBCM recently passed a resolution that a letter be sent to the Ministry of Environment advising that plastic bags are a key concern and asking the provincial government to take action.
- Tofino recently banned plastic bags, but have no enforcement measures. They are asking for voluntary compliance.
- Rossland are initiating a voluntary reduction.
- In the RDN's Waste Composition Study done in 2004, it was noted that plastic bags or film plastic made up 3% of the material in the landfill (1,743 tons out of 55,000 tons). 487 tons of the 1,743 tons was from residential customers.
- There are different types of plastics that require different recycling processes; e.g. biodegradable plastic bags contaminate regular plastic bags.
- Supermarket bags returned to the stores can be baled and sent to the lower mainland.
- B.C. has over 300 outlets that take back plastic bags.
- Charging for bags is an incentive to not use them, and is a cost-saving measure for the store.
- A Committee member noted that the only real answer to the plastic bag problem is to dramatically reduce the number of bags.
- Regarding the composting facility, it was designed for 80 tons per day, but is not being utilized to its full potential.
- If food waste and organics could be kept out of the landfill, it would increase the life expectancy of the landfill.

Committee members will contact retailers with regard to reliance on plastic bags, and will ask what they are doing to encourage less use of bags. They will forward their information to Cindy Hall to compile for the next meeting.

R. Lawrance will look into what the *Local Government Act* will allow the City to do with regard to regulating plastic bag usage, and will invite Gary Franssen, the City's Recycling Manager to a future ACE meeting to further discuss the City's recycling program.

A. Nash-Thurmeier will forward to the Chair, contact information for a consultant who is interested in doing a social marketing plan for the Committee on this issue.

S. Serebrin also noted the book "Fostering Sustainable Behaviour" by Doug Mackenzie as related information in this regard.

6. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices:

- a) Email dated 2008-Jun-25 from Inez Santos regarding PITCH-IN Canada. R. Lawrance will forward the email to the ACE members for discussion at the next meeting.

7. Ongoing Business:

- a) Plastic Bag Ban - Discussed in Item No. 5.
- b) Cosmetic Pesticide Forum - Notes from the Pesticide Forum held 2008-Jun-26 were received and discussion followed. R. Lawrance will prepare a draft bylaw, strategy, and Council Report regarding the use of cosmetic pesticides, for review at the September ACE meeting.
- c) Urban Forest Plan - R. Lawrance advised that the Parks Dept. held open houses and conducted a survey on what should be included in an urban forest plan. Staff are now editing the draft document accordingly and the next draft should be ready in October. Rob will bring it back to ACE for further review at that time.
- d) Assigning a PNAC Rep. - Shelley Serebrin advised that she would be willing to fill this position.
MOVED by S. Earle, SECONDED by A. Nash-Thurmeier that ACE appoint Shelley Serebrin as their representative on the Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee. CARRIED.
(Motion to be ratified at next meeting when quorum is present.)
- e) Proposed Boundary Extension of Municipal Boundaries
Angelique brought to the Committee's attention an 'Elector Response Form' that can be completed and submitted to the Legislative Services Department at City Hall, if a person is opposed to the City's intent to extend the municipal boundaries to include a portion of the property included in the Cable Bay development application.

8. New Business:**9. Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2008-Sep-09.

10. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.