

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
TUESDAY, 2008-JUN-03, TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX

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

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda and Late Items:

The Agenda was approved with the addition of the following updates:

- Discussion re knotweed in Beban Park - M. Henigman
- Update on Earth Day - C. Thirkill
- ACE representative on PNAC - R. Lawrance

3. Budget:

Received for information.

4. Delegation:

None.

5. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices:

None.

6. Ongoing Business:

- a) Cosmetic Pesticide Forum - R. Lawrance advised that he has tentatively scheduled the forum for June 24 from 1:30-3:30 pm in the Training Room. (Date and time to be confirmed.) The purpose of the forum will be to review current practices in B.C., determine whether there are public concerns in Nanaimo, and identify tools and options the City could adopt. He will invite reps. from the Cancer Society and the Institute for Sustainable Horticulture to do presentations. Other suggestions for attendees were City Council, a rep. from the RDN, retailers, and reps. from the horticultural industry. Rob noted that prior to the forum he will pull together some B.C. bylaws and either email them out to ACE members or post them on the FTP site.
- b) Plastic Bag Ban - S. Serebrin described a documentary that she recently viewed on the internet regarding how the issue of massive accumulation of plastic bags is being looked at around the world. (www.cbc.ca/doczone/battleofthebag/video/htm/). After considerable discussion on this topic, Rob advised that he would invite a representative from the RDN's Solid Waste department to attend the next ACE meeting to look at the overall plan and discuss whether any partnerships could be formed. As UBC has had a

sustainability plan for many years, it was also suggested that a representative from their Office of Sustainability be invited to a future ACE meeting.

7. Adoption of Minutes of Jan.08, Feb.05, Mar.06, Apr.01 & May06:

MOVED by C. Thirkill, SECONDED by C. Zamora that the ACE Minutes from Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr. and May 2008 be adopted. CARRIED.

8. Ongoing Business (cont.)

- c) Urban Forest Plan - R. Lawrance advised that open houses for this Plan will be held on June 24 at Oliver Woods, June 25 on Protection Island, and June 26 at Maffeo Sutton Pavilion. Parks staff will then discuss the public feedback with their consultants, and a more detailed module will be developed. More open houses will be held in the Fall on the revised draft with an estimated adoption date of January 2009. Some comments were:

- What are the Parks Department's overall objectives, and what bars have been set to reach those objectives?
- Have issues around conservation mapping.
- Is there a lot of scientific rigor under it? Do the people involved in preparing the Plan have a deep understanding of the issues?
- Will there be an evaluation piece?
- There may be budget issues.

Rob will arrange a session between ACE members and Parks Dept. staff to discuss the draft Urban Forest Plan.

- d) Terms of Membership - R. Lawrance reported that Council approved amending ACE's Terms of Reference to increase the number of at-large members from one to three. As required, ads have been placed and it is anticipated that Council will choose the two new members at the June 23rd Council meeting.

9. New Business:

- a) Millstone Side Channel - A video provided by C. Thirkill was viewed by the Committee. It described the process involved in developing the Millstone Side Channel. Following the video, a question was raised about introducing a new species into the river. Charles replied that the "pristine" argument does not apply, and the newly introduced fish will not threaten any wild stock.
- b) Raines Cabin - C. Thirkill advised that the 'Raines Cabin' located in Bowen Park near the petting zoo has to be either moved out of the park or demolished. As this is a historic log cabin, it would be unfortunate if it were not restored and put into a historic park.
- c) Earth Day - C. Thirkill reported that the organizing committee is expecting to have a surplus after all of the expenses have been accounted for, and it is intended that excess funds will be held by the Nanaimo Recycling Exchange for next year's event.
- d) Knotweed - M. Henigman advised of her concern regarding the proliferation of knotweed in Beban Park near the dog park. As there has been fill placed in that area, Maggie questioned whether the plants are coming from the fill and whether City practices are therefore compounding the problem. She also advised that the current eco systems at Piper's Park are being changed by natural and "man-made" succession. As a result,

Nanaimo is at risk of losing the vegetation communities that everyone loves. She suggested looking into partnering with the First Nations in a management regime.

R. Lawrance noted that the Parks Department has a contact number to report invasive species, and Parks staff regularly go out and remove them when reported.

Rob will contact Ian Howatt with regard to initiating interest by the First Nations in Piper's Park. He will also contact the Parks Dept. about the knotweed in Beban Park. It was also suggested that he contact Grant Murray at the Mal-U Institute for Coastal Research regarding a natural resource use project that they are involved in with DFO and two First Nations bands.

- e) PNAC Rep. - R. Lawrance advised that an ACE representative is required on the Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee, and asked the Committee members to consider this for discussion at the next meeting.

10. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2008-Jul-08.

11. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.