

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
TUESDAY, 2008-APR-01, TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX

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

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. without a quorum. Chair Cameron announced that Shelley Serebrin had been appointed as an 'Environment Community' member, and Angelique Nash-Thurmeier as the 'Youth/Student' member.

2. Adoption of Minutes of 2008-Jan-08 & 2008-Feb-05 & 2008-Mar-06:

Deferred to next meeting.

3. Approval of Agenda and Late Items:

The Agenda was approved with the following addition:

- Bike to Work Week - R. Lawrance

4. Budget:

R. Lawrance advised that \$1,000 will be added to ACE's budget, in light of their recent concerns. He also clarified that the \$4,070 shown in their budget is a carried over amount for previously approved signage projects.

5. Delegation:

None.

6. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices:

- a) Letter dated 2008-Feb-21 from Janet Irvine to Captain Doug Bell regarding smoke control, fire prevention and residential wood burning.

R. Lawrance advised that Bylaw Services have consistently stated they do not receive many complaints related to woodstove smoke. This could, however, be partially a result of the City not having a bylaw; people know that no action will be taken. The Fire Department is reluctant to allocate resources to monitor chimney smoke, because by the time they attend, the fire could have been put out.

Powell River's bylaw sets out efficiency requirements that the woodstoves must meet, and what fuels are permitted to be burned. Efficiency and proper installation of the woodstoves is tied to acquiring house insurance. Their system works on a complaint basis, and their Assistant Fire Chief advises that there have been very few complaints because prior to the bylaw coming into effect, an intense education campaign was carried out.

To receive feedback on whether the Provincial Government's woodstove exchange program would be feasible for Nanaimo, a 'Burn it Smart' information session will be held on Wed. April 23 at the Oliver Woods Centre. The coordinator of the program will provide information on the program, as well as Zigi Gadomski from the Wood Energy Technicians of BC (WETBC) who will provide advice on applying to this program. Reps. from the local woodstove industry and insurance companies will also be invited to provide a local perspective.

Some comments made during discussion were:

- Insurance companies are starting to be more involved in this issue because more and more fires are being caused by faulty woodstoves.
- This isn't about not burning, but about making burning as efficient as possible.
- There is a course that bylaw officers can take to learn how to measure the opacity of smoke.
- Level of inversion is pretty rare in Nanaimo because of its location to the ocean and the high winds.

Rob will continue with organizing the session, and will also look into doing an online survey and press release at a later date.

7. Ongoing Business:

- a) Draft Terms of Reference Report - R. Lawrance advised that the report was not forwarded to Council because of concerns some ACE members had regarding government reps. not being voting members.

After discussion, Rob was directed to contact the government reps. and remind them that they had seats on the Committee, and ask whether they are still interested in filling those seats. He will then edit the Terms of Reference report accordingly and forward it to Council.

- b) Earth Day Event - C. Thirkill, N. Schwager and S. Serebrin reported on preparations being made for the Earth Day event to be held in Bowen Park on April 26. Rob will look into whether the City can cover the cost of chairs for Library plaza during the showing of "The Eleventh Hour", and Shelley will contact Kirsty MacDonald at the Parks Yard regarding parks display materials.
- c) Cosmetic Pesticide Use - R. Lawrance advised that Nancy Falconer of the B.C. Cancer Society had advised that the provincial-wide survey on this topic had been completed and will be released to the media on April 3. She will either present the findings to City Council on April 14, or at the next ACE meeting on May 6.

Rob also noted that he has received an invitation from the CRD to attend a seminar on April 3 on reducing pesticide use and the role of local government. ACE members who wish to attend should contact Rob.

- d) Draft Revised OCP - J. Cameron advised that a public open house will be held on April 10 at 7:00 pm at Beban Park to review the draft OCP.

8. New Business:

- a) Bike to Work Week - R. Lawrance noted that the City will be participating in 'Bike to Work Week' from June 3-8. There will be staff challenges as well as inter-business challenges with a kick-off event on April 24 which will be MC'd by Bruce Williams from

the A-Channel. Rob will contact Angelique about possible participation by Mal-U; i.e. organizing a "Celebration Station" at Malaspina, during Bike to Work week.

9. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2008-May-06.

10. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

g:\compln\ace\age_min\2008\Min_Apr01