

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
TUESDAY, 2008-FEB-05, TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX

Present:	Joy Cameron, Chair	Ron Brown
	Steve Earle	Charles Thirkill
	<u>Staff:</u>	
	Rob Lawrance	
	Cindy Hall (Recording Secretary)	
Regrets:	Margaret Henigman	Chris Zamora
	Caroline Read	
Absent:	Geraldine Manson	Scott Northrup
	Geoff Garbutt	
Others:	Angelique Nash-Thurmeier	Elizabeth Demattia
	Nadine Schwager	Shelley Serebrin
	Minna Mah	Nancy Falconer
	Chris Midgley	

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:20 p.m. without a quorum, and introductions were made. R. Lawrance advised that Caroline Read has decided to resign from the Committee due to a time conflict with one of her courses. [She did note in her correspondence that she could continue if the meeting day was changed.]

2. Adoption of Minutes of 2008-Jan-08:

Deferred to next meeting.

3. Approval of Agenda and Late Items:

The Agenda was approved with the following additions:

- Steep Slopes - C. Thirkill
- RDN Sustainability Coordinator - C. Midgley

4. Budget:

C. Thirkill noted that the amount allocated for 'Conferences & Seminars' appears to be low in the 2008 Provisional Budget, and that \$1,500 would be a more appropriate amount. R. Lawrance will look into this.

A. Nash-Thurmeier questioned where funds would come from for the 'Public Information/Outreach' portion of the 2008 Workplan. R. Lawrance advised that there are funds that might be available in the Community Planning Division budget, but proposals including detailed budgets would have to be considered first. In-kind resources from other City departments could also be considered.

5. Delegation:

Nancy Falconer, Canadian Cancer Society gave a PowerPoint presentation on 'Pesticides and Cancer: The Need for an Effective Bylaw'. Some points made were:

- There is a growing body of evidence linking exposure to pesticides with certain types of cancer.
- Children are especially vulnerable.
- Cancer Society calls for a ban on the use of cosmetic pesticides because there are no countervailing health benefits.

- In 2001, the Supreme Court of Canada upheld the right of municipalities to pass bylaws restricting the cosmetic use of pesticides, and since then, over 130 Canadian municipalities have passed bylaws banning the use of cosmetic pesticides.
- Bylaws should restrict use of cosmetic pesticides; not just educate, and should include both public and private property. They can allow for use in exceptional situations, with giving notice being a requirement.
- Polls show that the majority of citizens support such bylaws. A public opinion poll will be done in Nanaimo in the near future.
- There are many alternatives to pesticides.
- Passing a bylaw shows leadership by the municipality, and adds to the community's desirability for residents and tourists.
- Bylaws banning the use of cosmetic pesticides do not harm businesses, and may actually increase business for ones that provide alternative lawn and garden care.
- Strong bylaws are short and simple. Some have "pay to spray" regulations.

Discussion followed:

- Bylaw ban would not include agriculture as this is a separate industry, and would require major changes by all levels of government.
- Pesticides are also an endocrine disrupter.
- The CRD bylaw is taking a long time to go through because it has to be passed as a health bylaw.
- The City of Nanaimo's Bylaw Dept. is concerned that they do not have the expertise to enforce such a bylaw. The North Shore's bylaw is enforced by a Health Officer.
- Getting retailers on board to provide education is key.

J. Cameron thanked Ms. Falconer for her presentation, and requested that when the poll is conducted in Nanaimo, that the results be forwarded to R. Lawrance, as this may assist in building the groundwork to prepare a bylaw.

6. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices:

- a) Building Green in a Changing Climate Conference, Courtenay, March 4th & 5th - R. Lawrance advised that there are funds in the budget if any member wishes to attend this conference. He also noted a series of presentations is being prepared with the City's Building Dept. on how Nanaimo can become a more sustainable community. He will provide information on the series at the next meeting.

7. Ongoing Business:

- a) 2008 ACE Workplan - R. Lawrance reviewed the draft workplan with the Committee. Some suggestions were:

Terms of Reference:

- Look at making RDN/SFN/DFO/MOE reps. supporting roles.
- Bring draft revised Terms of Reference to the next meeting.

Woodburning Stoves/Inserts:

- Need to start putting together the City's Change-out proposal for the May call out.
- Include a description of what the change-out program is and its impact.
- Program is to replace pre-1991 woodstoves with newer types of stoves.
- Look at other cities' programs.

Cosmetic Pesticide Use:

- If the City prepares a bylaw, it will be directed towards people who have not had training in Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
- Bylaw should include a mechanism for alerting neighbours when pesticides are needed by posting signage.
- If you ban insecticides, what will you replace it with? Would get into a cost factor as to who could afford to maintain their property. Need to be cautious on this.
- If considering cost factors, what is the cost of cancer?
- The esthetic norm over time changes.
- Add an education component. Maybe get students to do outreach work.
- R. Lawrance will need to work with a sub-committee on this.

S. Earle left the meeting.

Urban Forest Plan:

- Be sure to get M. Henigman's comments on the draft plan.
- Include native species in the planting list.

Public Info/Outreach:

- Will look at having a funders' forum.
- Put info on City's website.
- Look into partnering with the Building Dept. on the topic of energy conservation.

R. Lawrance noted that the 'Plastic Bag' item was removed from this year's workplan, but could be considered in 2009.

8. New Business:

- a) Earth Day - C. Thirkill advised that 2008 Earth Day celebrations have been tentatively set for April 26th at Bowen Park. He has sent R. Lawrance a proposal with regard to the City partnering on this event as awnings, tables, electrical hook-up, etc. will be required. A "hands-on" event is planned with activities such as ivy pulling, and planting vegetation around the new stream built by DFO. He asked Rob if the City would consider donating \$500 to the event to assist with the costs of refreshments and entertainment. Rob will look into this request, but thought the City's donation might be in-kind; i.e. park rental, tables, etc.

E. Demattia suggested contacting the Nature Conservancy for ongoing support after Earth Day. C. Thirkill stated that the Coastal Invasive Plant Committee could also be approached.

- b) Steep Slopes - C. Thirkill questioned the safety of the retaining walls built at Eagle Heights off of Hammond Bay Road and the likelihood of slope failure. J. Cameron asked R. Lawrance to report back on what protection there is to homeowners in that subdivision.

R. Brown noted the substantial wash-out at Cherry Lane.

- b) RDN Sustainability Coordinator - Chris Midgley advised that he started with the RDN in January as Sustainability Coordinator. He is presently identifying priority projects and determining the consequences of implementing them or not. Another project will be to develop a green building policy and strategy for the RDN. He will contact the City and other municipalities in order to collaborate and avoid duplication. R. Lawrance thanked Chris for attending the meeting today, and thought there may be an opportunity for them to work together. A. Nash-Thurmeier suggested that Chris be invited to the upcoming

sustainability series; in particular the one that Joe Van Belleghem from Dockside Green might speak at.

9. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2008-Mar-04.

10. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

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