

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

Present:	Joy Cameron, Chair	Ron Brown
	Steve Earle	Charles Thirkill
	<u>Staff:</u>	
	Rob Lawrance	Kevin Brydges
	Cindy Hall (Recording Secretary)	
Regrets:	Margaret Henigman	
Absent:	Geraldine Manson	Scott Northrup
	Caroline Read	Chris Zamora
	Geoff Garbutt	
Others:	Angelique Nash-Thurmeier	

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:20 p.m.

2. Adoption of Minutes:

MOVED by S. Earle, SECONDED by R. Brown that the Minutes from 2007-Dec-04 be adopted with the following amendments:

- Replacing Item 5 (bullet 8) with "Incorporating natural areas into playground design was emphasized at the Forum".
- Replacing Item 6 (bullet 10) with "Should leave larger, concentrated areas of natural vegetation as part of subdivision design, rather than having smaller areas scattered around".

CARRIED.

3. Approval of Agenda and Late Items:

The Agenda was approved with the following addition:

- Earth Day - C. Thirkill
- World Water Day - S. Earle

4. Budget:

Awaiting confirmation of 2008 budget.

5. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices:

- a) Woodburning Inserts/Stoves - A News Release dated 2007-Nov-09 from the Ministry of Environment regarding a Woodstove Exchange Program was distributed. The initial goal of the program is to have 50,000 old woodstoves exchanged province-wide for newer, more efficient burning models or other clean heat sources.

R. Lawrance noted that the call for proposals for the 2009 program will be issued in May 2008, and if the Committee is interested in the City of Nanaimo participating, preparation of the required package should be added to their workplan for 2008. Putting together such a package to take to Council will require extensive work.

The Committee agreed that this should be included in their workplan.

6. Ongoing Business:

- a) Applications for Vacant Seat on ACE - Copies of the three applications received were distributed. C. Thirkill suggested inviting the three applicants to the next meeting in order to provide information on what the Committee does, so that the applicants could determine if sitting on the Committee “would fit for them”.

7. New Business:

- a) ACE Workplan for 2008 - The Committee reviewed their draft workplan for 2008 and the following comments/additions/edits were made:

Issue	Comments / Additions / Edits
Terms of Reference/ Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add revision of the Committee's terms of reference to the workplan in order to change the membership structure. Consider having more at-large members, and a two-tiered membership where certain members could choose to attend if an item is of interest to their organization.
Urban Forest Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently being reviewed by City staff. Committee will be able to comment by March 08.
Woodburning Stoves/Inserts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move this item up the priority list with a goal of having the City's submission package together by November. A. Nash-Thurmeier suggested having Malaspina University-College students create and implement the social marketing campaign as a student project.
Cosmetic Pesticide Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change the word “vegetation” to “organisms” in the workplan item re cosmetic pesticide use. Hold a forum to determine what kind of information the public wants, and what they see as the City's role. S. Earle reiterated that he does not want to just see an education program, but wants to see a bylaw adopted to control pesticide use as some other municipalities on Vancouver Island have done. R. Brown commented that a ban will not stop people from using pesticides. The challenge is to get homeowners educated in order to get pesticides out of their hands. C. Thirkill suggested having an outreach program asking people to give their old containers of pesticides to the recycling depot. R. Lawrance will look into the feasibility of enforcing a bylaw on pesticides in Nanaimo, and how the municipalities who have such bylaws are doing in their enforcement. J. Cameron added that it will also have to be determined whether there would be support at the Council level for such a bylaw.
Restrictions on Plastic Bag Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move this item down the priority list.

Public Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inform the public about the Sustainability Committee.• City is looking at partnering in the Brant Wildlife Festival event.• Unable to find a consultant to do the Interpretive Signage Program because of the scope of work. Will now have to be done in-house. R. Lawrance will contact S. Earle for assistance.
Green Nanaimo Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change '2007' to '2008'.
City Habitat Atlas Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will work with it to determine when updates can occur. Committee will be asked to provide advice in update.

8. Late Items:

- a) Earth Day - C. Thirkill advised that Earth Day activities on April 26th in Nanaimo might be cancelled because the Recycling Depot do not have the resources this year to hold them. He suggested having some kind of "hands-on" activity instead. K. Brydges suggested pulling out the ivy in Bowen Park. R. Lawrance asked Charles to put together a proposal.

Charles also asked what it would take to get a floral emblem in place in Nanaimo. Rob advised that the City's Visibility Committee is the body to take this suggestion to.

- b) World Water Day - S. Earle advised that this will be on March 20th, and that a large event will be held at Mal-U with 'contamination' being the theme this year.

9. Next Committee Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2008-Feb-05.

10. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.