

**MINUTES**  
**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT**  
**TUESDAY, 2007-NOV-06, TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX**

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

**1. Call to Order:**

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

**2. Adoption of Minutes of 2007-Oct-02 and 2007-Oct-15:**

Deferred to next meeting.

**3. Approval of Agenda and Late Items:**

The Agenda was approved as presented.

**4. Budget:**

\$1,745.45 remains in ACE's regular budget.

**5. Delegations:**

- a) Pam Shaw, Nanaimo Estuary Management Committee (NEMC) Coordinator gave an update on the Committee's activities to date. Some of her comments were:
- City of Nanaimo originally provided \$15,000 to establish the committee and hire the coordinator. Other NEMC members will be approached in future about possible funding.
  - A summer student was hired to do data collection, draft interpretive signs, do public outreach, and eelgrass planting.
  - Received \$30,000 from the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund to develop an estuary monitoring program.
  - Nautilus Environmental was hired to assess the long-term of the estuary, develop monitoring procedures for the indicators, and to determine the causes of what is impacting the estuary.
  - Have determined that the west side of the estuary is "dirtier" than the east side. Toxicity testing and sediment sampling will be done.
  - Determining what the sediment is composed of and the water chemistry will help determine if the pollution is new or old.
  - Future funding will be sought for restoration.
  - Part of the ongoing community outreach will be a series of "Estuary Moments" in the local newspaper.
  - The Committee will continue to provide annual reports to the City.

**6. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices:**

- a) Draft Urban Forest Plan - Copies were distributed and R. Lawrance and A. Kemp advised:
- Preparation of the Plan came as a recommendation from the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission.

- Budget to prepare the draft was limited. Over time, more resources will be put into the initiatives identified in the Plan.
- Will now put more focus on expanding the modules, which will serve as direction to City staff on what service to provide in retaining and protecting its present trees, and planting new trees.
- A questionnaire will be prepared to determine what the community's perceptions are regarding urban forests, whether there is a desire in the community for street trees to be maintained, what they would like to see in their neighbourhoods, and what level of public education will be necessary.
- Anticipated completion date of the Plan is Summer 2008.

ACE members were requested to review the modules and provide R. Lawrance with comments via email, or to mark up their hard copies and bring them to the next meeting.

- b) Draft Jingle Pot Marsh Vegetation Management Plan - Copies were distributed. R. Lawrance advised:

- Because of the many environmental groups interested in the Marsh, a plan considering management of the naturalized areas was initiated.
- Will be going to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for final endorsement.
- In the meantime, ACE members are asked to review the Plan in order to provide feedback at the next meeting, which can then be forwarded to the Commission.

- c) Bird Use of the Nanaimo River Estuary Report - Was previously emailed to Committee members for their information.

## 7. Ongoing Business:

- a) Environmental Fall Forum - The draft invite list was distributed. R. Lawrance will also look into inviting funders to the forum.
- b) Cosmetic Pesticide / Woodburning Issues - R. Lawrance advised that he had discussed these issues with the Manager of Bylaw Services and the Fire Chief. Their opinion was that the City could implement something similar to what North Vancouver has regarding cosmetic pesticide use, but that trying to ban woodburning stoves is very difficult to enforce. The City could, however, look into prohibiting woodburning stoves in new construction. He noted that the City needs a coordinated system in order to track complaints and provide targeted education. Regarding cooperation by insurance companies, Rob advised that when a person applies for house insurance, the companies now ask whether the home has a woodstove, and if so, the age and whether it is CSA approved. This ensures that woodstoves are safe and have been properly inspected. We could look into whether other B.C. communities have worked with insurance firms to ensure woodstoves are CSA approved since 1991 when CSA included standards for emissions.

Rob will continue his investigations on both issues.

## 8. New Business:

- a) Interpretative Sign Project - R. Lawrance requested a volunteer from ACE to assist with reviewing proposals from consultants that will be received on design work for interpretative signage around the Estuary. (Physical building of the signs will be done by the City's Sign Shop.) The anticipated completion date for the project is March 2008. C. Zamora volunteered to sit on the review committee.

- b) Pacific Salmon Foundation - C. Thirkill advised that the Foundation will be holding a dinner/dance and auction on November 24th at Beban Park and that he has tickets for sale if anyone is interested in attending.

**9. Next Committee Meeting:**

The Committee will hold their Christmas Meeting/Social on Tuesday, 2007-Dec-04. A short meeting will be held in the Training Room from 4:15 - 5:15, and then the Committee will proceed to ACME for dinner.

**10. Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

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