

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
TUESDAY, 2007-MAY-01, TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX

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

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:22 p.m. by Chair J. Cameron.

2. Adoption of Minutes:

MOVED by C. Thirkill, SECONDED by R. Brown, that the Minutes of 2007-Apr-03 be adopted as presented. CARRIED

3. Approval of Agenda and Late Items:

MOVED by C. Thirkill, SECONDED by R. Brown, that the Agenda be approved with the following additions:

- News Release re 'Lights Out BC' - R. Lawrance
 - Discussion re pick up of yard waste - J. Cameron
- CARRIED.

4. Budget:

Expenditures from ACE's 2007 budget to date have been for costs associated with the Burn it Smart Workshop held on 2007-Feb-14, and meeting refreshments.

5. Delegations:

In response to a question from J. Cameron, the Committee discussed whether they should have guidelines regarding length of presentations by delegations. It was decided that future delegations will be asked to keep their presentations to 10 minutes, but that the time could be extended if necessary.

6. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices:

- a) An email dated 2007-Apr-20 from Ian Gartshore forwarding information on the following two forums was circulated and discussed:
- Ocean Energy Regional Opportunity Forum to be held in Nanaimo on June 20 & 21. For information and registration, contact Jessica Johnson at project@oreg.ca.
 - Micro-hydro, wind and solar workshop held in Nanaimo on April 29 & 30. For information on what was discussed, contact Roz Powell at communityassets@telus.net.

C. Zamora commented that a project is underway in Campbell River whereby turbines are dropped onto the sea floor in Discovery Passage and the change in tide is used to generate power.

- b) An invitation dated 2007-Apr-16 from Bill Henwood, Project Manager, Parks Canada to a 'Marine Mixer' information session on the proposed southern Strait or Georgia National Marine Conservation Area Reserve Feasibility Study was circulated and discussed. The session will be held at the Coast Bastion Inn in Nanaimo on June 5 from 5 to 8 pm. R. Lawrance noted that the City is being asked for input because they are within the area defined for the feasibility study.
- c) A News Release dated 2007-May-01 advising that Nanaimo City Council had proclaimed May 16 as "Energy Conservation Day" in Nanaimo to tie in with the "30 Days of Sustainability" celebration was circulated and discussed.

C. Thirkill expressed concern about conversion to compact fluorescent light bulbs as they contain mercury, whereas LED lights do not. When LED lights become more accessible, people will then want to convert to those and disposal of the fluorescent lights will be a problem. R. Lawrance noted that the Federal Government will be phasing out use of incandescent lighting, but have not specified what people should convert to.

7. Ongoing Business:

- a) Floral Emblem Process - Following up on February's meeting, R. Lawrance advised that the City presently does not have a floral emblem, nor are they in the process of designating one. He suggested building a case for such designation prior to taking the matter to Council, and asked C. Thirkill to approach the Horticultural Society to gain their support. Suggestions of other agencies to approach were the Botanical Garden Society and NALT. R. Lawrance will also ask the City's Economic Development Department for suggestions on how to approach Council about this.

8. New Business:

- a) Urban Forest Plan - R. Lawrance advised that ACE's role in this process is to be part of a review committee. He asked members interested in reviewing the Plan's draft workplan and related City bylaws, to meet with him following the ACE meeting to set up a meeting time. When asked about the City of North Vancouver's plan, Rob advised that the Parks Dept. have looked into it and found the street tree inventory component to be labour intensive and costly to oversee.
- b) Vancouver Island Heritage and Habitat - An email dated 2007-Apr-23 from Laurie Gourlay and Jackie Moad regarding conservation and protection of local heritage and habitat in the Nanaimo-Cowichan area was circulated and discussed. It was suggested that the City of Nanaimo consider an east coast trail proposal as a conservation catalyst. J. Cameron directed that this item be received for information until something more "concrete" is received by the City.
- c) Toxic Smoke from Woodstoves - R. Lawrance read out an email dated 2007-Apr-23 from Melody Isvik of Nanaimo complaining about toxic smoke from a neighbour's woodstove. Rob advised that the City has no bylaws addressing this problem, and that the Bylaw Dept. receives few complaints of this nature. He noted that a draft indoor burning bylaw was prepared a few years ago addressing what could and could not be burned, but that City staff did not support it because of the difficulty enforcing it. An education piece was developed instead; i.e. Burn it Smart Workshop. Discussion followed:
 - Such a bylaw would be very difficult to monitor.
 - Add information to the City's Garbage schedule that is sent to all Nanaimo homes, asking residents not to burn household garbage in their woodstoves.
 - Also place information in the City's Leisure Guide.
 - Consider a rebate to people wanting to replace their stove.

- Announce air quality on the radio or have a link to City's website.

R. Lawrance will make enquiries with City staff about adding information into the City's garbage schedule, Leisure Guide and website. He will also check to see what other municipalities are doing in this regard, and will report back to the Committee at a later date.

- d) Yard Waste Pick-up - J. Cameron enquired why the City of Nanaimo does not have a yard waste pick-up service, or an organic waste composting service such as Ladysmith's. Is it something the City could take on, or complement a private service? R. Lawrance will follow-up on this and report back to the Committee.
- e) Sustainability Forum - R. Lawrance will attend this forum in Nanaimo on 2007-May-05 and will report back to the Committee.
- f) Friends of the Catstream - J. Cameron reported that this group are unhappy with the trail that runs between Second Street and the Nanaimo Ice Centre; more specifically, the asphalt on the trail. They have begun contacting the media about their concerns. C. Thirkill advised that the reason asphalt was used was because it stays put on the trail, and requires little maintenance. K. Brydges will provide Joy with background information about the trail.

9. Next Committee Meeting:

The next regular meeting date is Tuesday, 2007-Jun-05.

10. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.