

**MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
MEETING HELD TUESDAY, 2007-MAR-13
IN THE TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX, 238 FRANKLYN STREET**

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

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:20 p.m. by new Chair J. Cameron who was welcomed to the Committee.

2. Delegations:

- a) Gail Adrienne gave a report as ACE's representative on the Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee (PNAC). She gave an overview of the OCP amendment application process and advised the following:
- The process that PNAC is presently going through is complicated because the City is doing a 10-year review of its OCP (Plan Nanaimo), as well as considering 10 applications to amend the OCP. There is uncertainty as to whether the applications should be considered using current OCP policies, or put on hold until after the review is completed.
 - There is controversy amongst PNAC members regarding doing both at the same time. However, despite protests, it appears that both processes will move forward.
 - It also appears to be confusing the public, as public meetings are being held for the 10-year review as well as the OCP amendment round.
 - The whole issue of the UCB is being addressed as several of the applications are requesting to have their property removed from the UCB.
 - In the UCB workshop held as part of the 10-year review, the general feeling was to leave the boundary where it is as there is enough developable land inside the UCB for at least 15 years.
 - Increasing densities outside of Town Centres is also being questioned in relation to one of the applications.
 - A density workshop is still to be held as part of the OCP 10-year review.
 - NALT has offered to host a workshop on 'How we Live on the Land' as it may be possible to increase density if people "lived more lightly".
 - M. Geselbracht is also looking into putting on a session on 'Food Sustainability'.
 - It is anticipated that a Working Paper on the 10-year review will be received in April and a Final Draft in May.

When asked if Gail needed assistance as the PNAC rep. from other ACE members, she advised that she would see the review and amendment round through, but might need someone to take over after that time.

Gail was thanked for her update and she left the meeting.

- b) Ian Gartshore of Energy Solutions for Vancouver Island (ESVI) provided information on the society which provides opportunities for the public, businesses and other sectors to communicate and work together to create solutions to meet Vancouver Island's energy

needs. He suggested that the City, ESVI and Co-op work together to produce a brochure for homeowners on how to make their homes more energy efficient.

Discussion followed:

- R. Lawrance will check with the City's Building Inspection Division to see if they have any such initiatives already underway.
- Would be a good use of the City's website to get such information out to the public.
- Also need to build some public awareness around recent changes to the Building Code.
- One of ESVI's services is to connect people with programs such as energy audits.
- ESVI is also planning to build a website to make the information they provide more accessible.

Mr. Gartshore was thanked for his presentation and he left the meeting.

3. Adoption of Minutes:

MOVED by S. Earle, SECONDED by R. Brown, that the Minutes of 2007-Feb-06 be adopted as presented. CARRIED

4. Approval of Agenda and Late Items:

MOVED by C. Thirkill, SECONDED by R. Brown, that the Agenda be approved with the addition of the following late items:

- 30 Days of Sustainability - R. Lawrance
- City Floral Emblem - C. Thirkill

CARRIED.

5. Budget:

R. Lawrance gave a brief overview of the current budget as follows:

Interpretation Project	\$4000
ACE Regular Budget	\$3488.27
Total	\$7488.27

6. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices:

- a) Email dated 2007-Mar-04 from Linda Crain, 30 Days of Sustainability Society seeking the City of Nanaimo's endorsement of the 'Lights Out BC' initiative.

Committee discussion followed:

- There are not many buildings downtown with lights on 24/7.
- Street lights would not be considered in the initiative because of safety concerns.
- Would need to look into whether there is an applicable site for the initiative in Nanaimo.
- More important for people to turn off their lights on an ongoing basis or to use energy efficient lighting, rather than just for this 30-day initiative.
- Short notice for this year, but could start thinking about being involved next year.

MOVED by C. Thirkill, SECONDED by S. Earle that staff investigate the 'Lights Out BC' initiative for possible participation next year. CARRIED.

7. Ongoing Business:

- a) Urban Forest Plan Report - R. Lawrance advised that Council at its meeting of 2007-Mar-12 authorized the development of an Urban Forest Plan. Meetings will now be organized with City staff to get feedback on current policies. A public event will be held with speakers from other municipalities that have Urban Forest Plans at a later date.

In response to a question from Councillor Cameron, K. Brydges confirmed that regulating tree height will not be part of the Plan.

R. Lawrance will provide further information on the Plan at future ACE meetings.

8. New Business:

- a) ACE Work Plan Report - R. Lawrance reviewed the draft report with the Committee, and the following discussion ensued:
- Don't see any mention of setting targets for air, water and land for environmental quality; i.e. benchmarks to be included in the OCP that could be monitored.
 - The RDN already monitors air quality in Nanaimo.
 - The City has a water management plan for drinking water, but not for surface water.
 - If benchmarks are not set, there is no way to look back to see if we have protected the environment.
 - Costs to do this would be substantial - would have to partner with other organizations.
 - Regimes may already be out there - might just need to capture the data consistently.
 - Need someone to gather info on what is already being done, in order to see what else is needed.
 - The challenge to this would be that we would then get in to the realm of regulating air quality.
 - R. Lawrance will discuss this with his manager, and will also contact the RDN to determine their monitoring practices.
 - Updates on the Nanaimo Estuary Plan should also be included in the Work Plan in order to not lose sight of that issue.

Rob will amend the Work Plan to include updates on the Nanaimo Estuary Committee, and will review the state of the City's indicators to determine if anything should be included in the Work Plan about environmental monitoring for the OCP.

MOVED by S. Earle, SECONDED by C. Thirkill that ACE's 2007 Work Plan be forwarded to Council, and that it be amended at a later date, if necessary, to include a requirement for Indicators. CARRIED.

- b) City Floral Emblem - C. Thirkill advised that *Lotus pinnatus* (Bog Bird's-foot trefoil) is a rare flower whose primary habitat is Harewood Plains, just south of Nanaimo. Ninety percent of all of these flowers growing in Canada are found in Harewood Plains.

MOVED by C. Thirkill, SECONDED by S Earle that City staff explore what procedure would be required for the City of Nanaimo to adopt a floral emblem. CARRIED.

9. Next Committee Meeting:

The next regular meeting date is 2007-Apr-03.

10. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.