

**MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT  
MEETING HELD TUESDAY, 2007-FEB-06  
IN THE TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX, 238 FRANKLYN STREET**

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<b>Present:</b>	Bill Holdom, Chair	Ron Brown
	Caroline Read	Charles Thirkill
	Steve Earle	Chris Zamora
	<u>Staff</u>	
	Rob Lawrance	Kevin Brydges
	Richard Harding	Al Kemp
	Fran Grant (Recording Secretary)	
<b>Regrets:</b>	Scott Northrup	Pete Law
<b>Guest:</b>	Melissa Dinsdale	

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair B. Holdom at 4:20 p.m.

**2. Adoption of Minutes from 2006-Dec-05 and, 2007-Jan-02:**

MOVED by R. Brown, SECONDED by S. Earle, that the Minutes of 2006-Dec-06 and 2007-Jan-02 be adopted as presented. CARRIED

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

- a) Vancouver Island Energy Forum (R. Lawrance)
- b) Water Resources (S. Earle)

MOVED by C. Zamora, SECONDED by R. Brown, that the Agenda be approved as presented with the addition of two late items. CARRIED

**4. Budget:**

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

Interpretation Project	\$4000
ACE Regular Budget	\$4287
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8287</b>

He also noted that the Interpretation project is new funding for this year.

**5. Delegations:**

Melissa Dinsdale, Malaspina University-College, Geology Department gave a presentation on Assessing the Geological Features of Nanaimo's City Parks for Public Interpretative Opportunities.

M. Dinsdale gave the following answers to questions from the Committee:

- Some fossils can be found at the top of Mt. Benson.
- The tomboles at Pipers Lagoon may contain some artificial fill.
- Pipers Lagoon has many basalt outcroppings.
- Final report for her project will be forwarded to ACE.

M. Dinsdale made the following suggestions for the interpretation project:

- Chose four sites to interpret Nanaimo's geological history: Jack Point / Biggs Park, Bowen Park, Sugar Loaf Mountain and Pipers Lagoon as they each represent distinct times in Nanaimo's geology history.

Comments from the Committee:

- An interpretive sign could show an aerial view from Sugarloaf Mountain showing how Departure Bay would have looked with glacier.
- Would be interested in putting this presentation on the Parks web site.

R. Harding noted:

- Parks cannot do the research so appreciates these types of efforts.
- Parks Dept. is also working with different groups (i.e. Heritage Commission) on signage interpretation.
- Parks Dept. needs volunteers as these are labour intensive research projects.
- Have done a project on Neck Point Park with heritage and natural interpretation signage.

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

- a) Homeowner Protection Office: Green Roof Design and Homeowner Insurance Coverage:

R. Lawrance circulated for information a letter sent to Council. A conference is being planned at a later date.

- b) West Coast Environmental Law: The Green Buildings Guide:

R. Lawrance circulated for information.

- c) Vancouver Island Energy Forum:

R. Lawrance circulated information and noted that the Forum is being held in Nanaimo on April 30 and May 01, 2007

- d) Vancouver Island Water Resource Vulnerability Mapping Project:

S. Earle distributed copies for information.

## 7. **Ongoing Business:**

- a) Natural History Sign Interpretation Project:

- Review draft Garry Oak sign

R. Lawrance displayed the draft sign and noted:

- Sign will be displayed along waterfront walkway somewhere between Pipers Lagoon and Departure Bay.
- Will send PDF version of sign to Committee members to review.

- Estuary sign partnership:

R. Lawrance noted that the Snuneymuxw First Nation is interested in partnering with the City on Nanaimo Estuary interpretive signage.

- b) Urban Forestry: Draft report on plan process and discussion on guiding principles:

R. Harding noted:

- Funds have been allocated in the capital budget to do an urban forest plan.
- ACE's involvement has been formalized in the report and will be asked to review and comment on the plan.
- Distributed copies of the report and gave a brief overview.
- There will be a lot of public involvement and a stakeholders group will be formed.
- A kick-off event is planned for April to focus public attention.
- Will look for partnership opportunities.
- May do some public surveys and hold an open house.
- Hope to have a draft plan to ACE in the fall of 2007.
- Do not want this to be a bylaw but an overall vision for the City, which will bring all corporate policy documents and bylaws connected to urban forestry into the vision (i.e. Tree Protection Bylaw, Steep Slope Development Guidelines).
- Looking closely at what other municipalities are doing in this area.

Comments from the Committee:

- Would like to see the plan become part of the OCP and neighbourhood plans.
- Public education is an important part of keeping the urban forest.
- Can we make sure that trees become part of redevelopment in the downtown?
- Tree Protection Bylaw has no teeth and would like to see other policy documents integrated into the Urban Forest Plan.
- Need to adapt to the coming climate change and identify what types of trees will do well in the future.
- Need to define what an urban forest is and what it does so the public will understand.
- Look at what are appropriate planting practices for street trees.
- Get developers on side – the Guidelines for Landscape in City Streets was a good start.
- Change the word 'forestry' to 'forest' as many people associate forestry with the cutting of trees.
- A funding request could be made under the Trees Canada program for planting along the E&N railway.

A. Kemp added:

- Looking at street tree options such as not having landscaping planted until new houses have been built. Currently they are planted too early and get destroyed by building activity.
- Bonding monies could be held back until construction has been completed.

MOVED by S. Earle, SECONDED by R. Brown, that ACE endorse in principal the Urban Forest Plan report to Council. CARRIED

**8. New Business:**

a) ACE Work Plan Report:

As the meeting was running late, this item was put over to the March agenda

**9. Next Committee Meeting:**

Note: The next regular meeting has been changed to 2007-Mar-13.

**10. Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.