

- It was suggested by ACE at their November meeting that the Committee work with the Parks Dept. on projects of mutual interest.
- Some examples where ACE could assist Parks: public information and education, and invasive species management.
- Nature of Nanaimo program is an example where ACE did work with Parks on a trial basis.

T. Hickey noted that Parks could partner with ACE on the following projects:

- Urban Forest program (which is outlined in the Parks Master Plan)
- Interpretive signage – natural history and others

Comments from the Committee:

- A geology student from Malaspina University-College, is currently working on identifying significant geological sites in the City park system and will be attending the February ACE meeting to present her results.
- Could look into working with the Snuneymuxw First Nation on
 - their history with the marine environment
 - tour of Newcastle Island looking at how the SFN used the native vegetation.
- There should be a link between the urban forest plan and the Steep Slope Development Permit Area Guidelines and Zoning Bylaw.
- The Steep Slope Bylaw and Tree Protection Bylaw do not mesh and they should.
- Landscaping Bylaw should also be included in the process.
- Developers are allowed too much leeway in taking out mature trees and replacing them with much smaller one gallon pot trees.
- Could ACE members assist the Parks Dept. in moving the urban forest plan process forward?
- Would also like ACE to work more closely with Parks on their trail program.

T. Hickey responded:

- Alan Kemp is the new Urban Forestry Coordinator and will be looking at urban forest plans from other cities.
- Just starting to set up the urban forest strategy and will be looking for public input.
- A sub-committee of ACE would be welcome to work with the Parks Dept. on this initiative. It could provide input and offer suggestions to a City staff team that would be organized to develop the plan.
- ACE may not be aware of the Parks Trail Guidelines.

R. Lawrance added:

- ACE could invite Jeremy Gye from Jeremy Gye and Associates to make a presentation on the Capital Regional District's urban forest program. We could also contact staff from Saanich, Surrey to attend a staff review of their urban forestry programs to see where Nanaimo could go in developing its own plan.

P. Law, R. Brown, C. Zamora and C. Thirkill put their names forward to form a urban forest sub-committee.

The Chair thanked T. Hickey.

6. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices:

- a) Federation of Canadian Municipalities: Sustainable Community Awards Update.

Was circulated for information.

7. Ongoing Business

- a) ACE Environment Awards Luncheon – Follow-up

R. Lawrance noted:

- Advisory Committee on Environment, Social Planning Advisory Committee, Nanaimo Community Heritage Commission and the Design Advisory Panel co-hosted the luncheon.
- Eighty-five people attended including the award recipients and their guests.

- Their was some concern expressed about the cost of the awards presented to the environment and social planning winners.

Comments from the Committee:

- Thought the luncheon was a great occasion and well planned.
- If the awards are going to be meaningful and sought after, the plaque should reflect this and is a worthwhile expense.
- Should be looked at as a way to recognize those that put so much effort into these worthwhile causes. The City gets much more in return.

b) ACE Environmental Forum – Follow-up

R. Lawrance noted:

- Started the discussion on the environment issues for the OCP 10 Year Review and was a worthwhile effort.
- Some of the people who attended the Forum also attended the OCP 10 Year Review Conference to put forward their environment concerns.
- A very broad range of topics were discussed at the Conference.
- There will be additional workshops held in the new year after the first OCP draft is presented. ACE could also hold another forum if they think it would be useful.

Comments from the Committee:

- A lot of the concerns brought up at the Forum echoed at the Conference.

c) Burn It Smart 2006/07 – January 30th Workshop

- Partnership with RDN

R. Lawrance noted:

- RDN is interested in partnering with ACE.
- Two workshops will be set up – one in the Parksville area and one in Nanaimo with the cost being shared.

- Request for Funding

R. Lawrance asked the Committee if they would support an honorarium for D. Tyndall for her work as MC at the awards banquet.

MOVED by C. Thirkill, SECONDED by R. Brown, that an honorarium of \$100 be paid to D. Tyndall as MC of the awards banquet.

CARRIED

MOVED by C. Thirkill, SECONDED by S. Northrup, that ACE donate \$1500 towards the purchase of property to become part of the Buttertubs Marsh.

CARRIED

R. Lawrance will confirm with the Finance Dept. that ACE can make this type of donation.

8. **Late Item:**

a) Sidewalk Snow Removal:

S. Earle noted:

- Concerned about the lack of snow removal from sidewalks especially around schools and the hospital.

- People have to walk on the road which is a big safety concern.
- Also an environment issue as people are not able to walk or cycle so they use their cars instead.

Comments from the Committee:

- Same problem occurs on the trail systems that are used by commuters (e.g. E&N trail).
- Public should be reminded by the City that it is their responsibility to clear the snow in front of their homes and businesses.
- More public education perhaps with reminders on the radio.
- R. Lawrance advised that the Bylaw Dept. is aware of the problem but is unable to enforce the bylaw on snow removal due to a lack of staff.

9. Next Committee Meeting:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 2007-Jan-02.

10. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

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