

**MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
ORIENTATION MEETING HELD TUESDAY, 2006-JULY-04
IN THE TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX, 238 FRANKLYN STREET**

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| Present: | Ron Brown Pete Law | Charles Thirkill |
| | <u>Staff</u> Rob Lawrance Paul Thorkelsson Fran Grant (Recording Secretary) | Kevin Brydges |
| Regrets: | Scott Northrup Chris Zamora | Steve Earle Councillor Bill Holdom Christina Thomas |
| Guests: | Mike Geselbracht | |

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair R. Brown at 4:20 p.m.

2. Adoption of Minutes from 2006-June-06:

Carried over to the next meeting due to the lack of quorum.

3. Budget:

R. Lawrance advised that there is \$3453 remaining in the 2006 budget.

4. Delegations:

No delegations.

Request M. Geselbracht to give a presentation on food sustainability.

R. Lawrance will send the request to all Committee members and noted that the presentation could be done at the September meeting.

5. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices:

a) ACE Environmental forum:

R. Lawrance noted that:

- Space has be reserved at the Beban Park lounge on November 15, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Topic ideas:
 - OCP 10 year review: long term strategy for the OCP Environment section – what needs to be improved.
 - Climate change: to get public input on the climate change plan.

Comments from the Committee on OCP review form topic:

- Would need to do some homework to understand and clarify where we are now and how is the current section working.
- Would need to have a series of workshop or a charrette as this is a very complex issue for the public to grasp.

6. **Ongoing Business**

a) ACE Environment Awards:

R. Lawrance distributed copies of the draft timeline and description of the new categories for the Awards and noted that:

- The ACE Awards process has usually been done in the spring but was delayed this year to complete the review process and implement the changes.
- All the award categories have been revised and updated to broaden the scope of the awards.
- The financial sponsor aspect has been dropped for now.
- A tentative date for the awards reception and luncheon has been set for Nov. 09 at Beban Park Lounge.
- Could delay the Environment awards until the spring if the Committee feels this would be too rushed.
- It is proposed that the reception will combine the ACE awards with other Committees of Council's award programs: Social Planning Advisory Committee, Heritage Advisory Commission and Design Advisory Panel.
- The idea of the luncheon was put forward to show more appreciation to the recipients.
- Need to finalize the ACE awards program before the end of August if they are to be presented in November.
- Publicity would need to start in early September. ACE would review the applications in October in order to get Council's approval by November.

Comments from the Committee:

- Publicize on Shaw cable as well as send stories to other media.
- Marketing is the key – getting the word out to potential recipients or those interested in nominating someone.
- Feel the financial aspect of the award is still a good idea as it might inspire people to try and do something positive.

R. Lawrance asked that any additional comments or ideas be sent to him as soon as possible.

7. **New Business:**

a) Council Referral: City support for federal motion (M-38) on Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs)

R. Lawrance gave a brief overview of Member of Parliament Peter Julian's letter (included in ACE Agenda package) to the City requesting Nanaimo's support for the motion to ban PBDEs. He noted that:

- The letter asks the City to pass a bylaw to ban PBDEs.
- Duncan and Victoria have passed bylaws. Will look at these bylaws to get more information on this issue.
- Think the chemical is mainly used as a fire retardant in electronics.
- Asked Committee members to pass along any information they find on this issue.

Comments from the Committee:

- Suggest that this issue also be referred to the City's Fire Dept. to see if there are effective alternatives to PBDEs.

8. Late Item:

a) Departure Bay Neighbourhood Plan

R. Lawrance distributed copies of the Plan and noted that:

- ACE should discuss the environment component of the "Implementation" section.
- Section 4.1.2, #9 would be a very expensive project, not the estimated "moderate" cost shown in the plan.

K. Brydges advised that there is some discussion on enhancing Departure Bay Creek and perhaps moving it off private property so that it can be properly restored.

Comments from the Committee:

- This would be a good opportunity to plant some much needed conifers in Wood Stream Park. The park also needs measures to keep people on the designated pathways. Currently they walk all over the place and have destroyed a lot of the ground cover vegetation.

R. Lawrance advised that there may be some funding available to improve signage in City parks that could be used to help with this problem. Should also look at other ways to improve the path that could be done sooner.

- Involve area residents in monitoring the water quality of Departure Bay Creek.

K. Brydges advised that the City's Public Works Dept. does some water quality monitoring of the beach area for health and safety reasons.

- The topics in this table are much more complex than shown in the document.
- Don't think that Streamkeepers group named in the table is still active in Nanaimo.

The Committee agreed they would like to have a more detailed discussion on the plans for Departure Bay Creek at a future meeting.

b) Ecovillage tour:

At their June meeting, the Committee expressed an interest in going for a tour of the Ecovillage. M. Geselbracht will organize the tour and noted that it takes approximately two hours.

R. Lawrance will send an invitation to the Committee to see how many are interested and when they are available.

9. Next Committee Meeting:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 2006-Sept-12

10. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.