

**MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
ORIENTATION MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, 2006-MAY-02
IN THE TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX, 238 FRANKLYN STREET**

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

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-Apr-04:

MOVED by P. Law, SECONDED by S Earle, that the minutes of 2006-Apr-04 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. Delegations:

- a) Jeremy Gye, Gye & Associates Urban Forestry Consultants – the Capital Regional District Urban Forestry Stewardship Initiative

R. Lawrance introduced J. Gye and noted that ACE requested this presentation in order to learn more about the Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative (UFI) at the suggestion of P. Law.

J. Gye gave a presentation on the Urban Forestry Stewardship Initiative and also noted that:

- A discussion paper on this issue is available on the web site www.hat.bc.ca
- Distributed copies of Executive Summary to Committee members
- Recommended approach:
 - > Start with a vision statement
 - > There needs to be a 100 year approach that is region wide
 - > The UFI has become a blue print for local environment groups

J. Gye gave the following answers to questions from the Committee:

- The Canadian Forest Strategy now contains a section on urban forestry
- Funding is available from Trees Canada for urban forest development.
- The value to the community of trees being removed for development is greatly undervalued by municipalities. The value should be assessed on loss of water retention, slope stability, wind break, shade, etc. Funds raised can/should be used to acquire forest lands.

- Identify what attributes are that you require for particular functions. Develop a urban forest classification system and map the community. Hire a conservation biologist to do a gap analysis and identify what tools are needed to fill those gaps.
- Most long term plans do not use agricultural land information. Important to give this value and have it appear on mapping systems.
- When development is occurring, need to estimate which next generation of trees would best suit the environment of the development. Increase density and allow cluster housing to save green space.
- Would help to put planners, designers, architects and developers into a room and don't let them out until they have come up with solutions and a higher standard of development.
- Forest fires are a concern in managing trees. You can do this without turning everything into a moonscape. It helps to take out older, less healthy trees and plant new ones.
- Saanich has been a partner on urban forests from the start. They have created a corporate plan which includes a commitment to take an urban forest tree management approach that all departments have to conform to. For this to work, you have to have commitment from the highest staff and political levels.
- Urban forests have gradients with different types of treed environments from the urban downtown to the rural outskirts.

R. Lawrance added that the City's bylaws for Steep Slope Development Permit Area Guidelines, Watercourse Development Permit Areas and Environmentally Sensitive Areas help to protect some green space.

The Chair thanked J. Gye for his informative presentation.

Comments from the Committee:

- Agricultural food values also need to be represented.
- Would like ACE to work with the Parks Dept. on this issue.
- This could be an opportunity for ACE to work with the community and facilitate a public forum on urban forestry.
- Include interested environmental groups.
- Need to do a better job managing trees in City parks with streams.
- If useful, we could make a recommendation to Council that a strategy be established for an urban forest system linking City parks.
- ACE could work with Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee to have this issue included in the 10 year OCP review.

The Committee agreed that this issue would make a good topic for the 2006 Environmental Forum.

R. Lawrance noted that:

the Parks & Recreation Dept. will be sending a report to Council on urban forests. He will talk to R. Harding, Parks Manager, about its details

4. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices:

- a) Energy Efficient Housing Workshop – Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

R. Lawrance noted that the workshop is being held on May 31, 2006 and the admission is \$25.

b) Living Life Sustainably

S. Earle advised that a Living Life Sustainably conference is being held on Saturday, May 13 at Malaspina University-College. He also noted that:

- The conference will feature a number of different workshop topics and speakers.
- Admission is by donation and registration can be done at the door.
- Circulated a letter from Sophie Rainford, Workshop Coordinator requesting \$500 in funding from ACE to sponsor part of the event.
- As a sponsor, the City will be recognized with their name and logo displayed.

MOVED by S. Earle, SECONDED by R. Brown, that ACE provide \$500 in funding to the Living Life Sustainably workshop.

CARRIED

5. Ongoing Business

a) ACE Environmental Award Review

R. Lawrance noted that:

- A common awards event with other committees of Council will be held in the fall.
- Looking for more linkage with education and business community groups to broaden the scope of awards.
- Need names of potential sponsors from ACE members. Need a letter of commitment from sponsors.
- Sponsorship money will go to an environmental cause or group of the award recipient's choice.
- Awards may not be given out in every category if a supportable nomination is not received.

Comments from the Committee:

- Think that sponsors may want to know which group their sponsorship money is going to.
- Could take the sponsorship money, pool it and then divide amongst award winners.
- Need a system that allows for sponsors to receive tax receipts.
- Could give money to winner and they could do what they want with it.
- Businesses will want some type of recognition for their donation.

6. New Business:

a) Water Conservation Plumbing Regulation

R. Lawrance gave a brief review of the Report to Council and noted that:

- Building Inspection Manager and Water Supply Manager are supportive of the request.
- Regional District of Nanaimo applies these regulations.
- Building Dept. has confidence in the new low-flow toilets.
- Regulations would be on all new construction – both residential and commercial.
- Regulations also cover shower and faucets.

Comments from the Committee:

- Most other cities on the list have water supply problems but Nanaimo doesn't.
- Need to anticipate water supply for the future and start conservation measures now.
- Need to put in context before sending to Council. How much water do the old style toilets use vs low flush? Take information on study from GVRD website.
- Concerned about the performance of the new low-flow toilets.

- Malaspina University-College uses waterless urinals and they work well.

R. Lawrance will revise the report and bring it back to ACE at the June meeting.

b) Commuter Challenge 2006

R. Lawrance circulated information and posters for the 2006 Challenge and asked ACE members to pass along the information to any company or agency who may be interested in participating.

7. Late Items:

a) Eco Village Presentation

M. Geselbracht asked if he could give a presentation to ACE at their June meeting on the Eco Village project.

The Committee agreed to this suggestion. M. Geselbracht will send an outline of his presentation to R. Lawrance to forward to ACE members.

b) City of Nanaimo Green Building Strategy

R. Lawrance distributed copies of the Report to Council on a proposed Green Building Strategy for Nanaimo. He gave an overview of the recommendations.

Comments from the Committee:

- Think the report is very good but perhaps too tentative in the language.
- Say that the requirements would be to meet LEED Silver standard or higher.
- Incorporate pay back analysis of environmental features.
- Look at geothermal aspects. [R. Lawrance noted this will be covered in a future report.]

MOVED by P. Law, SECONDED by S. Earle, that the Committee accept the report with the addition of information on life cycle cost savings.

CARRIED

c) Honourarium for J. Gye

R. Lawrance ask the Committee to approve an honourarium for J. Gye to cover expenses incurred in making the Urban Forest presentation to staff and ACE.

The Committee agreed that an honourarium was appropriate and suggested an amount of \$100.

d) Eco Village Presentation

M. Geselbracht asked if he could give a presentation to ACE at their June meeting on the Eco Village project.

The Committee agreed. R. Lawrance will include the presentation in the June agenda.

8. Next Committee Meeting:

The next regularly scheduled meeting of ACE will be held on 2006-June-06, in the Franklyn Street Training Room, at 4:15 p.m..

9. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

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