

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

Present: Ron Brown
Steve Earle
Councillor Bill Holdom
Pete Law
Staff
Rob Lawrance
Fran Grant (Recording Secretary)

Scott Northrup
Christina Thomas
Chris Zamora

Regrets: Charles Thirkill

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair B. Holdom at 4:15 p.m.

2. Adoption of Minutes from 2005-Dec-06 and 2006-Feb-14:

MOVED by S. Earle, SECONDED by R. Brown, that the minutes of 2006-Mar-07 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. Delegations:

No delegations.

4. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices:

a) NALT Earth Day Event

R. Lawrance circulated an Earth Day information poster and noted that ACE members are invited to attend.

Comment from the Committee:

- It was suggested that NALT send an special invitation to City Council, senior staff and the RDN Board.

b) Request to make presentation to Committee

R. Lawrance advised that Elke Wind, a biologist who specializes in amphibians, has asked to make a presentation to ACE about the importance of wet lands and ponds.

Comments from the Committee:

- Could tie in with Ministry of Environment's Best Management Practices for Amphibians and she could talk to that.
- Ask Parks Dept. manager to attend the presentation.
- She may have some suggestions for new policies.

ACE agreed that this would be an appropriate presentation for the Committee. R. Lawrance will contact E. Wind.

5. Ongoing Business

a) Appointment of G. Adrienne to the Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee

R. Lawrance advised the Committee that G. Adrienne has agreed to remain on PNAC as ACE's representative.

b) Endorse ACE Work Plan and Report

R. Lawrance gave a brief update on each item and also noted that:

- Two new items have been added under 'Other' category.
- Nature of Nanaimo event funding for honourariums for volunteers and co-ordinator is needed. Does ACE want to make a special request to Council for this or use their own budget? Would be approximately \$2000 to \$3000.

Comments from the Committee on various work plan items:

Presentations:

- Have a representative from the Planning Dept. speak on issues such as the Steep Slope Development Permit Area Guidelines and Zoning Bylaw in more detail.
- On local economic development and how business can work to benefit the environment.
- Would like to hear more on the Parks Dept.'s Urban Tree Strategy.
 - R. Lawrance suggested inviting Jeremy Gye, arborist for the Capital Regional District to hear how they have implemented their strategy.
 - The Committee agreed and suggested inviting Parks Dept. staff to hear the presentation.
- Overview of the goals of the OCP so we can better understand its contents and how it is used.

Other issues of interest to the Committee were identified:

- Concerned about the lack of sediment control at construction sites. Best management practices are missing from a lot of building sites.
- Need to liaise with contractors from an education stand point. Perhaps through the Nanaimo Home Buildings Assoc.
- Concerned about runoff from exposed aggregate.

K. Brydges advised that:

- The City has an Erosion Control brochure that is attached to every development permit.
- Information on exposed aggregate from DFO is also given out.
- Working with the Building Dept. on how to correct building practices.
- Prior to a building permit being issued, erosion measures must be in place but they are allowed to put in the foundation before the permit is issued. This work is the cause of most of the run-off problems.
- There are some erosion control bylaw measures under the Steep Slope Development Permit Area Guidelines but they affect only specific properties covered under the Guidelines.
- Could start with seminars for contractors to change their practices.

Comments from the Committee:

- ACE could co-ordinate presentations to contractors

- Take presentation to the Home Builders meeting and give them solutions.

The Committee asked to have the following issues added to the work plan:

- Presentation and discussion on an urban tree program.
- Transportation – ways to promote transit use and carpooling to cut greenhouse gases.

MOVED by R. Brown, SECONDED by S. Earle, that the ACE Work Plan be accepted as revised.

CARRIED

c) Information Report on Partners for Climate Protection

R. Lawrance gave a brief overview of the report and noted that:

- The consultant or R. Lawrance will give the inventory update to ACE.
- Broader public information meetings will be held in the fall.
- ACE will review the community program.
- City greenhouse gas reduction plan will be ready in June and the public program in the fall of 2006.

d) Nanaimo Field Naturalists – OCP / Environment Community

R. Lawrance noted that:

- He and A. Tucker met with B. Merilees of the Nanaimo Field Naturalists.
- A. Tucker agreed to consider B. Merilees' suggestion to hold a forum on environmental issues as part of the OCP review process in the fall for interested environmental organizations.

6. New Business:

a) Review Environmental Achievement Awards

- Review work to date
- Endorse continuing with work

R. Lawrance circulated a draft of the revamped 'Green Nanaimo Awards' program and also noted that:

- Would like ACE members to look for sponsors for the various awards.

Comments from the Committee:

- Like the idea of sponsors and think that businesses will be interested. Good exposure for them.
- Takes the environmental awards program to a higher level.
- Like the idea of an awards dinner for the various city programs.

7. Next Committee Meeting:

The next regularly scheduled meeting of ACE will be held on 2006-May-09, in the Franklyn Street Training Room, at 4:15 p.m..

8. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.