

**MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
ORIENTATION MEETING HELD TUESDAY, 2006-MAR-07
IN THE TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX, 238 FRANKLYN STREET**

Present: Ron Brown
Steve Earle
Charles Thirkill

Christina Thomas
Chris Zamora

Staff
Rob Lawrance
Fran Grant (Recording Secretary)

Regrets: Councillor Bill Holdom
Scott Northrup

Pete Law

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair R. Brown at 4:24 p.m.

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

MOVED by C. Thomas, SECONDED by C. Zamora, that the minutes of 2005-Dec-06 and 2006-Feb-14 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. Budget:

R. Lawrance gave a brief update on the current budget as follows:

Allocation for 2006	\$4300.00
Expenditures	11.75
Total remaining	4288.25

He also noted that:

- The budget covers the calendar year.
- Additional funding can be requested for special projects.

4. Delegations:

a) City of Nanaimo Development Review Process

Kevin Brydges, Environmental Coordinator, gave an overview of his role at the City and with the Advisory Committee on Environment.

5. Correspondence, Handouts, Notices:

a) Nanaimo Field Naturalists "Green Vision Nanaimo"

R. Lawrance distributed copies of a letter from the Nanaimo Field Naturalist (NFN) asking the Committee to work with the NFN and other interested environmental groups

to produce a "green statement" of environmental goals and objectives for the City's Official Community Plan review.

Comments from the Committee:

- Have to be careful that the Committee is not seen to align itself with a specific group.
- Feel the NFN is a diverse group of people interested in many aspects of the environment.
- Would be interesting to hear what the different groups are doing in Nanaimo.

It was agreed that R. Lawrance will arrange a meeting between himself, a senior staff member, B. Holdom and B. Merilees of the NFN and report back to ACE at the next meeting.

6. Ongoing Business

a) Appointment of ACE member to the Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee (PNAC)

R. Lawrance noted that:

- The position of ACE's representative on PNAC is currently vacant.
- Asked if a member of ACE would be interested in filling the position.
- It is possible for ACE to appoint someone who is not a member of ACE to fill the position.
- He had spoken to G. Adrienne, who was ACE's representative on PNAC for the last two terms and she is willing to continue on in that capacity. She would report back to ACE on any environmental issues that come up at PNAC meetings.

MOVED by C. Thomas, SECONDED by S. Earle, that G. Adrienne be appointed to PNAC as ACE's representative.

CARRIED

7. New Business:

a) ACE Work Plan for 2006

R. Lawrance gave a brief overview on each of the work plan items. He made the following additional comments:

- The report to request that the City ask the provincial government to include the City of Nanaimo in the Water Conservation Regulation was raised by P. Thorkelsson, Manager, Building Inspections.
- Will bring to the next meeting a draft of the revised Environmental Awards that ACE was working on last year.
- The Parks Dept. has suggested that ACE could provide input on nature interpretive signage. Could ask K. MacDonald, City Parks Planner, to speak to ACE about this idea.

The following work plan items were discussed in more detail:

Green Buildings

R. Lawrance noted that:

- Focus is currently on public buildings to be used as an educational tool. There may be some interest from private developers.

Comments from the Committee:

- RDN is working on establishing a technical body with representatives from the City the RDN and member municipalities to develop a plan of action that all can support.
- Look at all benefits of green buildings, not just the initial cost but also look at the cost over the life of the building.
- Educate the public so they will demand green buildings.
- Investigate the idea of B.C. Hydro doing an incentive program for buildings that use solar panels. Ontario has this type of program.

Partners for Climate Protection

R. Lawrance noted that:

- A consultant has been hired to gather data on the City's green house gas production from city owned buildings and vehicles.
- The formal report will be brought back to ACE for adoption.
- Could have the consultant speak to ACE when the report is completed.

Comments from the Committee:

- Transportation accounts for more than 50% of green house gases so MaIU is trying to set up a bus pass system (UPass) for students.
- Could the City or RDN look into setting up park and ride lots?
- Would like to see wording for this issue in the work plan to concentrate on transportation issues.

8. Late Items:

a) ACE Membership

R. Lawrance advised that:

- A. McNaughton will no longer be the representative for the Snuneymuxw First Nation. A new representative will be appointed some time in March.
- There are still two vacancies on the Committee – one for the youth/student representative and the second environment community representative. Names of any potential candidates can be given to R. Lawrance.

R. Lawrance introduced and welcomed the two new members of ACE:

- Steve Earle – representing the education sector
- Charles Thirkill – representing the environment community

9. Next Committee Meeting:

The next regularly scheduled meeting of ACE will be held on 2006-Apr-04, in the Franklyn Street Training Room, at 4:15 p.m..

10. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.