

**MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT  
ORIENTATION MEETING HELD TUESDAY, 2006-FEB-14  
IN THE TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX, 238 FRANKLYN STREET**

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**Present:** Ron Brown  
Councillor Bill Holdom  
Andrew McNaughton

Christina Thomas  
Chris Zamora

Staff  
Rob Lawrance  
Fran Grant (Recording Secretary)

**Regrets:** Steve Earle  
Scott Northrup

Pete Law

**1. Welcome and Introductions:**

R. Lawrance welcomed new Committee members to ACE and introductions were made around the table.

**2. History of the Advisory Committee on Environment:**

R. Lawrance and B. Holdom gave a brief overview of the history of ACE.

R. Lawrance noted that:

- There are still two positions vacant on the Committee: one representative of the environment community and a student representative.
- Would be helpful if the environment community representative had some expertise in green building design.
- The Committee needs to appoint a new representative to the Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee. An e-mail will be sent out to members not in attendance. Anyone interested please let Rob know.

**3. The Role and Background of City Staff on Committee:**

R. Lawrance gave a brief overview of the role and background of City staff on ACE.

**4. Current City Environmental Bylaws:**

R. Lawrance gave an overview of each of the following items:

- a) Tree Bylaw
- b) Watercourse Bylaw (DPA 23)
- c) Steep Slope Development Permit Area / Guidelines (DPA 25)
- d) Environmentally Sensitive Areas Development Permit Area (DPA 24)

**5. Review of ACE Committee Structure:**

R. Lawrance gave an overview of each of the following items:

- a) Terms of Reference

- b) Communication Protocol
- c) Conference / Workshop Participant Report
- d) Work Plan / Work Plan Review

R. Lawrance made the following additional comments on the work plan:

- New work plan will have to be short because of the Committee's late start this year.
- Will need to complete the new work plan at the March meeting. Any ideas can be sent to R. Lawrance.
- Some of the items left over from last year will need to be finished, e.g. updating the Environmental Awards program.
- The green buildings policy still needs work.
- Had an inquiry from the Nanaimo Field Naturalists about what role the environment community can play in the OCP review. Could invite them to come and talk to ACE.

Comments and work plan ideas from the Committee:

- Have the Chamber of Commerce do a presentation to ACE as a way of building a connection. Building bridges between business and environment could be the focus. R. Brown will look into this.
- If people are looking for more information on green buildings, the Regional District of Nanaimo has all their program information available on their web site.
- Provide input into any nature interpretation signage within the parks system.
- Look at the state of the marine environment. Many people visit or come to live in Nanaimo because of the marine environment.
- Provide educational opportunities for the public on marine ecosystems.

## **6. Questions:**

R. Lawrance gave the following answer to questions from the Committee:

- The ESA's Development Permits protect environmentally sensitive areas, which contain rare plants. It does not specifically protect other wildlife.
- Update to the Tree Protection Bylaw could include identification and protection of eagle nest trees.

## **7. First Committee Meeting:**

2006-Mar-07, Franklyn Street Training Room, 4:15 p.m..

## **8. Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

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