

**MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
MEETING HELD TUESDAY, 2005-OCT-04
IN THE TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX, 238 FRANKLYN STREET**

Present:	Gail Adrienne Allan Hawryzki Ron Bolin Ron Brown <u>Staff</u> Rob Lawrance Fran Grant (Recording Secretary)	Councillor Bill Holdom Pete Law Christina Thomas Kevin Brydges
Regrets:	Councillor Dawn Tyndall Mike Geselbracht	Geraldine Manson
Guest:	Shelley Serebrin	

1. Call to Order:

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

2. Adoption of Minutes 2005-Sept-06:

Page 2, item 7 a) first bullet should read 'one' workshop.

MOVED by R. Brown, SECONDED by A. Hawryzki, that the minutes of 2005-Sept-06 be adopted as revised.

CARRIED

3. Approval of Agenda and Introduction of Late Items:

Late Items:

- Harewood Plains Restoration – R. Lawrance
- Beacon Hill Park Tour – R. Brown

MOVED by R. Bolin, SECONDED by P. Law, that the agenda be approved as presented with the addition of the above late items.

CARRIED

4. Budget:

Current Budget remaining:	\$3,822.77
Committed:	Up to \$1,000 for forum presenters Up to \$1,000 for forum advertising

R. Lawrance noted that the amount set aside for the forum advertising should be \$600 which would leave \$2222.77 in uncommitted funds. Some of this will be used for other expenses related to the forum.

MOVED by A. Hawryzki, SECONDED by R. Brown, to receive the budget as presented.

CARRIED

5. Delegations/Guest:

R. Lawrance introduced Shelley Serebrin, a new resident of Nanaimo with a special interest in environmental issues who is attending today's ACE meeting as a guest.

6. Correspondence/Handouts/Notices of Upcoming Events:

F. Grant distributed OCP updated packages to Committee members.

R. Lawrance noted that the information on the Sustainability Conference in Saskatchewan was e-mailed out to Committee members.

S. Serebrin noted that there is a conference on composting being held in Lake Louise. She will send the web site information to R. Lawrance.

R. Bolin advised that Mid Island Co-op is having a Renewable Energy Trade Show scheduled for March 2006.

7. Unfinished/Ongoing Business:

a) Nanaimo Home Show:

Copies of the schedule and list of speakers were distributed and R. Bolin gave a brief update. He added that:

- ACE has been allotted 3-4 hours of presentation time.
- Speakers will be focusing on topics related to residential buildings.
- Advertisement for ACE's November forum will be displayed at the Home Show.
- Any other members of ACE who are interested in helping out would be welcome. (A. Hawryzki said he will attend.)

Comments from the Committee:

- Concerned about whether we should be sponsoring a program that has the speakers selling their own products?
- Will this be objective information or just information about their particular product?
- Could it include a promotion of home organic composting? (R. Lawrance suggested this could be a topic for a future forum.)

R. Bolin advised that:

- The speakers were picked upon recommendations from outside groups.
- We are co-sponsoring along with B.C. Sustainable Energy Association (BCSEA) and Energy Sustainability Vancouver Island (ESVI). Will ask them if they are willing to take the lead.

MOVED by R. Brown, SECONDED by A. Hawryzki, that BCSEA and ESVI be asked to sponsor the speakers at the home show and that ACE will help with advertising.

CARRIED

b) ACE Annual Fall Forum – Green Buildings

R. Lawrance gave a brief update on plans for the Forum and noted that:

- Will have speakers confirmed soon.
- Will include a presenter with information on energy saving home renovations.

Comments from the Committee:

- People from out of town may be interested in attending if they have enough notice with early advertising.
- What about asking the Co-op to have a display about the enviro cottage they are building?
- The RDN is also working on green building policies and has been looking at what other local governments are doing in this area. Have some ideas for speakers at the forum.

c) Environmental Awards Program Review – Update and funding request

G. Adrienne distributed copies of the sub-committee report and noted that:

- Have spoken to two consultants (Impact Group and Capewell Design) asking for ideas on how to improve the awards and a budget for their work.
- Impact responded with a four stage process. Stage 1 budget is \$3000 and Stage 2 is for \$1400 - \$2500. Stage 2 is more of what we are looking for.
- Want to get a definitive package ready and bring it back to the Committee next month.
- Will be meeting with other Committees of Council who have awards programs and discussing ways to work together e.g. having a mutual awards presentation event.
- The whole consultation process should be done for less than \$5000 and could be spread out over several years. Could also look for other sources of funding or share with other committees.
- Awards participation has been dropping over the last few years. Want to give it more meaning.
- Looking at two levels of awards with the higher level being much harder to achieve and something to strive for.
- Want to generate more interest from the development and business community.
- If we do not think there is enough value in hiring a consultant, we won't.

Comments from the Committee:

- A. Hawryzki distributed information on the Victoria's Eco Star Awards program.
- Not sure that we need a consultant when we could do the work ourselves.
- The awards come from Council and not just from ACE.
- If we make the awards more sought after, it could benefit the City as a whole.
- Would we get enough value from a consultant?
- Meet with schools regarding awards.
- RDN is working on an award for sustainability.
- Like the idea of a special event to recognize the recipients.
- Devote energy to establishing the criteria and then finding those that meet it.
- Focus on content
- City staff in the field may be able to point out worthy projects.
- Get schools to compete against each other.
- Need to be more comprehensive than just focusing on school kids.
- Could ask Council for their input.

The Sub-committee will take the Committees suggestions and bring a new draft to November's meeting.

8. Late Items:

a) Harewood Plains Restoration Project:

R. Lawrance gave an update on the Harewood Plains Restoration Project and noted that:

- The new Development Permit Area 24 in the OCP has been adopted to protect this type of Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA).
- Harewood Plains has been identified as a key area for protection by both governmental and non-governmental groups.
- A consultant was hired to study the area and do a rare species inventory.
- Working with Parks, Recreation and Culture Department to have this site put on the City's park acquisition list.
- Committee has been formed from a variety of stakeholders as well as private companies who are land owners.
- Funding was received from Environment Canada to do a restoration plan and NALT's work.
- Looking for funding for invasive species removal work.
- B.C. Transmission Company and Island Timberlands are working with the City on the restoration plan and with members of the public in removing invasive species.

G. Adrienne added that:

- NALT is doing a stewardship education program. They are holding a public meeting and will be inviting residents from the surrounding neighbourhood as well as residents of Joan Point.
- The general public are now starting to become aware of the site.
- Will be going to at least four different schools to make presentation on Garry Oak ecosystems.
- NALT is working with an individual who owns a property within Harewood Plains to try and permanently protect some of the ESAs.

K. Brydges noted that:

- There have been some questions from the development community about what can be done with this site. They may be getting the message that this site may not be good to develop in part because of the new ESA DPA.

b) Beacon Hill Tour:

R. Brown noted that

- Recently attended a conference in Victoria and took a guided tour of Beacon Hill park:
- Garry Oak ecosystem is only 5% of what it used to be in the 1940's.
- City is doing some invasive species removal work in the park.
- Suggest that Gerry Genovese, City of Nanaimo's arborist, be asked to talk to ACE about the course on Urban Forest Management that he took.

R. Lawrance will ask G. Genovese if he would like to talk to ACE at their November meeting.

9. Next Meeting:

The next ACE meeting is scheduled for 2005-Nov-01.

10. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.