

**MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
MEETING HELD TUESDAY, 2005-SEPT-06
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 Brigid Reynolds Graham Savage
Regrets:	Councillor Dawn Tyndall Mike Geselbracht	Geraldine Manson
Guest:	Christina Thomas, RDN	

1. Call to Order:

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

2. Adoption of Minutes 2005-Jul-05:

MOVED by R. Brown, SECONDED by G. Adrienne, that the minutes of 2005-Jul-05 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

R. Lawrance read an e-mail from P. Thorkelsson, Manager, Building Inspection for the City, clarifying a comment in the minutes of 2005-Jul-05 made by D. Bell.

MOVED by G. Adrienne, SECONDED by B. Reynolds, that the e-mail from P. Thorkelsson be appended to the minutes of 2005-Jul-05.

CARRIED

3. Approval of Agenda and Introduction of Late Items:

Late Item: Steep Slope Guidelines – R. Lawrance.

MOVED by B. Reynolds, SECONDED by P. Law, that the agenda be approved as presented with the addition of the above late item.

CARRIED

4. Budget:

R. Lawrance noted that there is currently \$3888.67 remaining in ACE's 2005 budget.

5. Delegations:

No delegations.

6. Correspondence/Handouts/Notices of Upcoming Events:

R. Lawrance will e-mail information to the Committee on the Building Our Communities: Solutions for Sustainability Conference, October 23-25, Regina, Sask.

7. Unfinished/Ongoing Business:**a) Wood Burning Appliances**

- Burn It Smart Education Program – Committee Approval

R. Lawrance distributed a draft Communication Plan to the Committee and noted that:

- Two workshops will be conducted by Zigi Gadomski with the City providing the space.
- Looking into a wood stove exchange program that would reduce the cost of stoves and inserts. Propose that the RDN be partnered on this effort. Also propose partnerships with the City Fire Department and local suppliers and distributors of wood burning appliances.
- Communication plan – what level of involvement does ACE wish to have?

Comments from Committee members:

- Stores are now selling back yard burners that are not very efficient. This may cause new problems.
- Feel the plan is a very good one but may take longer than 6 months to complete – perhaps a two year program.
- Would be interesting to know the sales statistics for the sale of wood burning appliances versus natural gas.
- Could partner with the province on an air quality monitoring program in the future.

MOVED by G. Adrienne, SECONDED by B. Reynolds, that ACE approve the Burn It Smart Communication plan subject to an amendment to the time line and should include investigation of an air quality monitoring program which would provide base indicators

CARRIED

- Complaint Procedures – Progress Report

R. Lawrance gave a brief overview and also noted that:

- There is no bylaw that prohibits burning garbage inside a home.
- Council already turned down the suggestion of such a bylaw and directed ACE to work on the public education component first.
- Still in discussion with the Fire Department on how a complaint procedure would work.
- Will need to have educational package prepared before calls are accepted by the Fire Department.

Comments from Committee members:

- It would be difficult to enforce such a bylaw because it is hard to tell which house the smell of smoke is coming from. Could be even more difficult to prove that garbage was being burned.
- Education of the public can work well when neighbours pass the information onto other neighbours.

b) Environmental Awards Program Review – Approval to Proceed

G. Adrienne distributed copies of the sub-committee's report and gave a brief overview. She also noted that there is not a set budget yet but will try to have one ready for the next meeting.

Comments from Committee members:

- Agree that the awards need to reach out to other groups to get more new ideas.
- Perhaps have one award per category to make them more meaningful but we may not get nominees in all categories.
- Need to start organizing and promoting the awards earlier in the year.
- Need to involve as many sectors as possible.
- Are we looking for environmental heroes or environmentalists?
- Maybe work on one category each year or we will get bogged down.
- Has been used as an award of encouragement instead of excellence.
- Interested in what tourists think of our environment.
- Could introduce the new element without getting rid of the old one.

G. Adrienne concluded that the sub-committee needs to:

- Set up the time line and budget
- Look into hiring a consultant.
- Have one more member of ACE.

c) ACE Annual Fall Forum – Green Buildings

Home Show participation:

B. Reynolds gave a report from the sub-committee and noted that:

- Have been in contact with the home show organizers and they have agreed to ACE doing presentations.
- The Home Show runs from Oct. 14 – 16.
- Working on ACE presentation – people from Energuide and CMHC have expressed interest in doing presentations as well. There would be no additional cost to ACE if they participate.
- There will be a cost for advertising

Fall Forum:

B. Reynolds reported that:

- The outline of cost for speaker Michel Labrie is in the letter distributed to the Committee.
- Cost of the speaker for the Forum would be \$750 plus expenses.
- Jack Anderson has also expressed interest.
- Displays can be set up by interested groups.

R. Lawrance noted that:

- The staff session cost with M. Labrie will be covered by the Community Planning Dept.
- The Forum could start at 5:00 with displays open to the public. Speaker sessions would start at 7:00.
- P. Thorkelsson could be invited to speak at the forum on building codes and green buildings.

Comments from the Committee:

- Ask M. Labrie for an estimate of expenses.
- Really want to get development community out to participate in the forum.
- Could speakers also talk about single family green building?
- ACE could use the RDN's mailing list that was used for the sustainability workshop.
- Asked C. Thomas to attend the forum.

MOVED by P. Law, SECONDED by R. Bolin, that ACE approve in principle the plans for the green building forum; spend up to \$1000 for M. Labrie to speak at the forum and up to \$600 on advertising.

CARRIED

C. Thomas advised that:

- RDN is doing a green building project and will be getting a report from M. Labrie.
- Will be putting together Terms of Reference for future green building.
- A green building tour was held on Saltspring. Is there interest in doing one in Nanaimo?
- Interested in getting ideas from ACE and feed back from the public.

8. New Business:

- Report – Green Buildings Tour and Policy Development Update

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

- Asking Council to support a special session on policies and approaches of different municipalities.
- Come up with a short list of what could be done in Nanaimo.
- Results of session will be presented to ACE and Council to help establish green building policy.
- Was suggested by senior staff that the forum be moved to November 10 so that it is held before the municipal elections.

MOVED by B. Reynolds, SECONDED by R. Brown, that ACE adopt the report as presented.

CARRIED

9. Late Item:

R. Lawrance noted that the Steep Slope Development Permit Area Guidelines and Zoning Bylaw was adopted by Council on 2005-Aug-29.

10. Next Meeting:

- Next ACE meeting is scheduled for 2005-Oct-04

11. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.