

**MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT  
MEETING HELD TUESDAY, 2005-MARCH-01  
IN THE TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX, 238 FRANKLYN STREET.**

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**Present:** Gail Adrienne  
Councillor Dawn Tyndall  
Ron Bolin  
Staff  
Rob Lawrance  
Fran Grant (Recording Secretary)

Allan Hawryzki  
Pete Law  
Mike Geselbracht  
  
Kevin Brydges  
Graham Savage

**Guest:** John Anderson, Malaspina University-College

**Regrets:** Brigid Reynolds  
Ron Brown

Councillor Bill Holdom  
Jackie Churchill

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair D. Tyndall at 4:10 p.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes 2005-Feb-01:**

MOVED by A. Hawryzki, SECONDED by R. Bolin, that the minutes of 2005-Feb-01 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

**3. Approval of Agenda and Introduction of Late Items:**

Late item:

- Food security (M. Geselbracht)

MOVED by R. Bolin, SECONDED by A. Hawryzki, that the Agenda be approved with the addition of one late item.

CARRIED

**4. Budget:**

R. Lawrance gave a brief outline of the current Committee budget and noted that:

- \$4300 is available to ACE for 2005
- \$83.39 has been spent on hospitality
- Some money may be needed to cover the higher than expected postage cost for mailing the pesticide survey.
- The expected carry over from 2004 on the cost of doing the survey was covered by the Community Planning Division.
- Circulated a copy of the budget outline for 2005.
- Committee requested confirmation of any earlier financial commitments from last year that will apply this year.

**5. Delegations:**

- a) John Anderson, Malaspina University-College – Cosmetic Pesticide Survey Report

J. Anderson gave an overview of the draft Cosmetic Pesticide Survey Report and also noted that:

- The report is set up to be readable with as little jargon as possible.
- Did not ask for any demographic information (location, age, income) because we did not feel it would be useful.
- The response rate was 33% but would have liked it to be closer to 60%.
- That said, the survey response is good for a municipal survey.
- 1100 surveys were sent out in order to get a good return sample size.
- 49% of respondents gave additional comments.
- Some respondents put a lot of effort into their comments.
- Do not know if this is an accurate reflection of all of the residents of Nanaimo or just those that took the time to respond.
- The deadline date may have had some impact on the lower response, as well as the topic and the number of other surveys being done.

Comments from the Committee:

- Some strong statements on which pesticides we can do without.
- Send e-mail to Committee members not present at this meeting to get their feedback on the report as well as the clarity and format.
- Need more time to go over the report.
- Responses show a lot of concern about pesticide use and people would like to see some form of control.
- ACE could look at getting some of the answers to questions raised by respondents.
- Some of the answers are contained in the Pesticide Report done for ACE in 1999.
- Does the City have the authority to ban pesticide sales? K. Brydges answered that this is a provincial responsibility.
- Many comments about the need for public education.

The Committee decided to table the discussion until the next meeting.

**Action Item:** Pesticide Sub-committee will meet and bring their recommendations back to the whole Committee at the April meeting. R. Lawrance will set up the Sub-committee meeting.

The Chair thanked J. Anderson for his presentation.

Addition comments from the Committee:

- Disappointed that no geographic information was gathered as that would have shown if the response to the survey was representative of all areas of Nanaimo.
- Reason for doing this survey was to move forward with the pesticide report. We had to find out what the community thinks on this issue.
- Need something to take back to the community perhaps through public presentations.
- Pesticide sub-committee did look at other municipal pesticide surveys.
- Look at what actions were taken by other municipalities who did surveys. R. Lawrance noted that this information may be contained in the survey of municipalities done in Oct. 2003.

## **6. Correspondence/Handouts/Notices of Upcoming Events:**

- a) Letter of Resignation from Jackie Churchill

R. Lawrance read the letter of resignation from Jackie Churchill. He also noted that:

- The student and environmental group positions are now vacant.
- Asked the Committee to think about whether they would like to fill these positions before the Committee is dissolved after the November 2005 municipal election.

Comment from the Committee:

- Best time to fill the student position would be in September when students know their schedule and would be able to commit for a full year.

b) Earth Day Canada

R. Lawrance circulated information and noted that the Nanaimo Recycling Exchange is organizing this event and are looking for partners to help.

**7. Unfinished/Ongoing Business:**

a) Environmental Awards Program

R. Lawrance distributed copies of the brochure for review and comment and asked for any ideas on promoting the Awards Program. He also noted that:

- Brochures will be available in City buildings including NAC, Bowen and Beban recreation centres.

b) First Nations Representative – Letter of Invitation

R. Lawrance distributed copies of the letter to the First Nations and gave a brief update.

The Committee agreed with the content of the letter and that it should be sent as is.

**8. New Business:**

a) Appointments to Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee (PNAC)

R. Lawrance noted that:

- The two positions available for ACE representatives on PNAC are up for renewal.
- G. Adrienne is the current representative and agreed to continue for another term.

MOVED by D. Tyndall, SECONDED by P. Law, that G. Adrienne stay on as ACE's representative on PNAC.

CARRIED

b) Internal Wood Burning Stoves and Fireplaces Report:

R. Lawrance noted that:

- A bylaw would be of no use if there is not additional staff to enforce it.
- Incentive programs have been used in some cities.

Councillor D. Tyndall noted that she has had many calls on this issue.

Comments from the Committee:

- Do not feel that recommendation #3 will be accepted by Council.
- The problem with an education program is that it only reaches the converted and not those causing the air quality problems.
- Fines for bylaw infractions should be made to cover the extra staffing costs.

- Council will not go for a bylaw banning wood burning appliances as some low-income people use wood burning to heat their homes.
- Is it one persons right to pollute the air of others?
- Have fines for nuisance and volume of pollutants.
- Trying to determine the level of pollutants from a residence would be onerous.
- Deliver a letter and information to the homes of those causing problems.
- Like the idea of education tied in with an incentive program.
- There are very informative brochures available from Environment Canada that could be used in any public education program.
- Air quality monitoring data would be very useful information.
- Prefer the pro-active approach.
- Target an information campaign at the beginning of the burning season in September or October.

MOVED by R. Bolin, SECONDED by G. Adrienne with a friendly amendment by D. Tyndall, that ACE supports a revised recommendation 2 which would read: "Provide educational information from the "Burn It Smart" program to the public and report back on the feasibility of a wood burning appliance exchange program along with air quality monitoring."

CARRIED

A. Hawryzki advised that the Capital Regional District of Victoria has a air quality monitoring program and will see about getting information from them.

#### **9. Late Items:**

M. Geselbracht noted that:

- There is a group doing research on food security and perhaps they could be invited to do a presentation for ACE.
- This issue is of interest to ACE because the production and transportation of food effects the environment (e.g. 1/3 of vehicle emissions come from vehicles used to transport food products.)

M. Geselbracht agreed to bring more information on this issue to the next ACE meeting.

#### **10. Next Meeting: Next Meeting:**

- Next ACE meeting is scheduled for 2005-Apr-05

#### **11. Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.