

**MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
MEETING HELD THURSDAY, 2004-FEB-10
IN THE TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX, 238 FRANKLYN STREET.**

Present:	Gail Adrienne Ron Brown Jackie Churchill Allan Hawryzki <u>Staff</u> Rob Lawrance Andrew Tucker Fran Grant (Recording Secretary)	Pete Law Susana Michaelis Brigid Reynolds Graham Savage Kevin Brydges
Regrets:	Councillor Bill Holdom Councillor Dawn Tyndall	Ron Bolin

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by acting Chair S. Michaelis at 4:10 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes 2003-Dec-02:

MOVED by P. Law, SECONDED by R. Brown, that the minutes of 2004-Jan.-08 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

3. Approval of Agenda and Introduction of Late Items:

Addition of late items:

- Island Discovery Nature and Culture Interpretation Training Program (R. Lawrance)
- State of the Environment Report - Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (P. Law)
- RDN Open House (B. Reynolds)
- Announcement (S. Michaelis)

MOVED by B. Reynolds, SECONDED by G. Adrienne, that the agenda be accepted as presented with the addition of the above late items.

CARRIED

4. Budget Update:

New Budget for 2004	\$4557.64
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R. Lawrance noted that \$3426.75 was left in ACE's budget for 2003. This amount goes back into General Revenue and is not carried over to the new year.

5. Delegations:

R. Lawrance introduced A. Tucker, the new Manager of the City's Community Planning Department.

6. Correspondence/Handouts/Notices of Upcoming Events:

- a) R. Lawrance distributed copies of the Frequently asked questions about Climate Change handout.
- b) R. Lawrance advised that Island Discovery Training will be holding a workshop on March 6 & 7 (Module 1) and March 27 & 28 (Module 2).
- c) State of the Environment Report (WLAP)

P. Law noted that:

- Dr. Linda Gilkeson is now in charge of the State of the Environment Report and that there are a number of changes that will be made to the report process.
- Each edition of the report will focus on a specific issue e.g., the marine environment, coastal eco-systems, etc. Specific issues will be revisited every four or five years.
- Looking for ways to have the report more widely distributed to individuals and groups.

MOVED by G. Adrienne, SECONDED by B. Reynolds, that ACE invite Dr. Linda Gullison to make a presentation to the Committee on the State of the Environment Report.

CARRIED

Comments from the Committee:

- It could be useful to compare the health of Nanaimo's environment with that of other areas of B.C.
- Hope that the new direction of the Report will not lead to it being discontinued.
- Would it be possible to invite interested City staff to the presentation as well, or have a separate presentation for them?

- d) RDN Open House:

B. Reynolds noted that:

- There will be an Open House drop in on Thursday, Feb. 12 on the proposed management plan for the Nanaimo River Regional Park.
- The event will be held in the South Wellington Hall on Borden Road.
- Input is being sought from the community on the short-term and long-term management issues for the park.

- e) Other Events:

S. Michaelis noted the following two events:

- A notice was circulated on the upcoming Wildwood Eco-Forest fund raising event being held at Bowen Park.
- The "Seedy Sunday" event will be held on March 7 at Bowen or Beban Park. Will have more information at the next ACE meeting.

7. Unfinished/Ongoing Business:

- a) Thank you to Sharon Erickson

A thank you card for Sharon Erickson was circulated for Committee members to sign. Flowers will be sent to Sharon along with the card.

- b) Pesticide Questionnaire – Results And Recommendations

G. Adrienne gave the following report on behalf of the Pesticide Sub-committee:

Recommendations:

- a) That the Pesticides Subcommittee of ACE move forward to investigate ways to implement an educational campaign about alternatives to pesticide use - possibly with an initial focus on lawn care
- b) That the subcommittee carry out, as part of the research into designing an educational campaign, a random phone survey, professionally designed and conducted, to collect information on:
 - i) the current awareness level of Nanaimo residents about pesticides, alternatives to pesticides, and where alternative products may be purchased;
 - ii) current practices of Nanaimo residents with regard to use of pesticides;
 - iii) the interest level of Nanaimo residents in making changes in their current use of pesticides
- c) That the Pesticides Subcommittee begin by working with the Environmental Planner to investigate sources of funding for a survey, and information about suitable local agencies/services that could design and conduct such a survey

The motions that followed were

- 1) that ACE endorse these recommendations and
- 2) that ACE contribute some funding towards the cost of a survey - amount to be determined later.

MOVED by G. Adrienne, SECONDED by R. Brown, that ACE endorse the Pesticide Subcommittee recommendations and financially contribute towards the phone survey with the amount to be determined later.

CARRIED

Comments from the Committee:

- Survey would be helpful in determining how much the public knows and what information is missing.
- Would it be appropriate to ask Council for funding? R. Lawrance will look into this.
- R. Lawrance will ask Vancouver if a copy of their phone survey is available.

c) Earth Day Participation

G. Adrienne indicated that:

- The big Earth Day event will be held in June during Environment Week.
- The event may be called an Environmental Bazaar.
- The Nanaimo Recycling exchange is holding a small event in June for non-government groups

ACE agreed to wait until more specific information is available before making a decision on supporting the event.

8. New Business:

a) Review of Draft ACE Workplan

R. Lawrance distributed revised copies to Committee members and went over the workplan. Changes will be made and presented to the Chair for signature.

The Committee asked if they are able to become more actively involved in the ESA program. R. Lawrance noted that he is currently working on a community awareness brochure which he will bring to ACE at a later date.

b) ACE Environmental Awards – Review of Timeline

R. Lawrance went over the timeline and gave a brief overview of suggestions for the awards that ACE has made at previous meetings.

The Committee made the following comments:

- Will adding more categories create confusion?
- Pioneer Award was suggested for those who have done a lot of environmental work in the past.
- A Naturescape category could be for residential stewardship.
- Make it clear in the brochure and advertisements that groups that have won before are eligible for new projects.
- Include projects that have been done on private property as well as for the community at large.
- R. Brown will find out the deadline for having information on the Awards published in the Chamber of Commerce Newsletter.
- Have past winners appear on the local TV news show with a representative from ACE (G. Adrienne will look into this).

c) Nature of Nanaimo Program:

R. Lawrance gave a brief overview of the program that he organized in 2003. He added that:

- There were approximately 310 participants.
- Looking for some direction and help from ACE members.

ACE members agreed that they would like to see this program continue and they will discuss it further at the next meeting.

d) Environmental Information Monitoring:

R. Lawrance indicated that:

- The City's Information Technology Dept. has some funding available for this project.
- Would like to have a site that is more usable for the public
- Looking for input from ACE.

9. Next Meeting:

- Next sub-committee meetings:
 - The Pesticide Sub-committee will meet on Wed., Feb. 18 at 3:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.
- Next ACE meeting is schedule for 2004-Mar-02.

10. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.