

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

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<b>Present:</b>	Gail Adrienne Jackie Churchill Ron Bolin <u>Staff</u> Rob Lawrance Fran Grant (Recording Secretary)	Allan Hawryzki Brigid Reynolds Ron Brown  Richard Harding, Parks Manager Gerry Genovese, City Arborist
<b>Guest:</b>	Mike Geselbracht	Harriet Rueggeberg, Lanarc Consulting
<b>Regrets:</b>	Councillor Dawn Tyndall Pete Law	Councillor Bill Holdom

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair B. Reynolds at 4:10 p.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes 2004-Dec-07 and 2005-Jan-11:**

MOVED by R. Brown, SECONDED by R. Bolin, that the minutes of 2004-Dec-07 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

MOVED by R. Brown, SECONDED by R. Bolin, that the minutes of 2005-Jan-11 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

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

Late items:

- Letter of resignation from Tony MacGregor (R. Lawrance)
- Nature of Nanaimo (R. Lawrance)
- E-mail from Norm Abbey re: gas power plant ( G. Adrienne)
- Agendas and minutes on City web site (R. Bolin)

**4. Budget:**

R. Lawrance advised that

- the Committee's budget for 2005 will be \$4300.
- \$100 was approved at the last meeting for an Environmental Awards advertisement in the Leisure Guide.
- there may be an outstanding amount due from the 2004 budget for postage used for the pesticide survey mail out
- a copy of the budget was circulated.

**5. Delegations:**

- a) Richard Harding, Manager of Parks – Re: Urban Forest Plan for Nanaimo

R. Harding distributed copies of the draft recommendations from the Parks Master Plan referring to the development of an Urban Forest Master Plan and gave a presentation.

R. Harding gave the following answer to questions from PNAC:

- Have just submitted a grant application for this project.
- G. Genovese will be the main staff person on this project.
- ACE has been identified as a stakeholder.
- Asking for a letter of support from ACE for the grant application.
- The application had to be done quickly to meet the deadline.
- The grant program is through the federal Tree Canada Foundation.
- The Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission (PRCC) has approved sending a letter of support.
- This project will go forward even if the grant application is not successful.
- Will take one year to complete the project.
- The Terms of Reference may be changed once the stakeholders group starts to work on the project.
- A lot of the investigative work has already been done.
- A workshop is being planned and ACE will be advised of the date and location.
- Council has not endorsed the project to date but they will be receiving the minutes from the PRCC and can endorse this project at that time.

MOVED by R. Brown, SECONDED by R. Bolin, that ACE send a strong letter of support for the Green Streets Canada funding application for the Urban Forest Master Plan.

CARRIED

R. Lawrance will e-mail a draft of the letter to ACE for their approval before sending it.

The Chair thanked R. Harding for his presentation.

b) Harriet Rueggeberg, Lanarc Consultants:

H. Rueggeberg gave a presentation on the proposed Catstream Detention Pond Project. She noted that:

- This project is being done for the City of Nanaimo.
- Background notes were distributed to the Committee (attached hereto as Appendix A).
- Looking for feedback from the public and environmental groups such as ACE.

R. Rueggeberg gave the following answers to questions from the Committee:

- Parks, Recreation and Culture Department is currently conducting a study on the Virginia Rail and their habitat. This project could possibly be used to enhance their habitat. The study is being done by Joe Materi
- One person is co-ordinating the three projects, ball fields, ice arenas and this detention project. However, the two departments (Engineering and PRC) are working together to coordinate their efforts.
- One of the reasons for doing this detention pond project at this time (rather than in 2006), when it was originally scheduled is so that the City is working on the property only once.
- The berms cannot really be designed to retain more water in the Catstream if the study shows that is what is needed. To do that, they would have to be made a fair bit bigger, and that's not desirable environmentally. Retaining and releasing water during summer/low flow periods may be possible.

- Lanarc does have the ball field design information.
- Will be looking at existing drainage patterns and not what may happen once the ball fields and arenas are built. However, the detention requirements, and therefore the design, are based on projected land uses or 'build out' in the watershed.
- Do not feel it is necessary to wait until the ball fields have been constructed as it is not felt that they will have much impact on a 200 year flood event.
- If anything, this project could have a positive impact on habitat, particularly for Virginia Rail, by increasing the total area that is subject to shallow inundation.
- Any siltation build up behind the berms or in the creek may need to be flushed from time to time.
- If it is shown to be desirable, the berms may be able to be designed to retain and release water flow into the Catstream at low flow times.
- The ball fields could potentially encroach on the Virginia Rail feeding habitat.
- An open house is being planned and ACE will be advised of the date and location. Will propose to Engineering and PRC staff that information on ball fields and arenas also be available at the open house.
- Gravel parking lots (for ball field development) are not necessarily "pervious". Hope the City will require good engineering design for pervious surfaces in parking lots.

The Chair thanked H. Rueggeberg for her presentation.

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

##### **a) Letter of Resignation from T. MacGregor**

R. Lawrance advised the Committee that T. MacGregor had submitted his letter of resignation from ACE as a representative of the environment community.

As the term of this Committee expires in Nov. 2005, the Committee decided to ask M. Geselbracht if he would be willing to fill this position. He accepted.

MOVED by G. Adrienne, SECONDED by R. Bolin, that M. Geselbracht be appointed as the environment community representative on ACE.

CARRIED

R. Lawrance will send an information report to Council regarding this change.

#### **7. Unfinished/Ongoing Business:**

##### **a) First Nations Representation on ACE**

R. Lawrance noted that a draft report regarding a First Nations representative on ACE was circulated with the January agenda.

MOVED by R. Bolin, SECONDED by G. Adrienne, that the report requesting a First Nations representative on ACE be forwarded to Council.

CARRIED

#### **8. New Business:**

##### **a) 2005 Annual Workplan Report**

After some discussion, the Committee agreed to remove items from the report that ACE is not responsible for and put under a single heading for review and comment.

R. Lawrance will make the requested changes to the report and forward it to the Committee members via e-mail for their review so that it can be forwarded to the next Council meeting.

b) Internal Wood Burning Stoves and Fireplaces Report

The Committee agreed to defer this issue to the March meeting due to time constraints.

c) ACE Environmental Awards Program – 2005 Timetable

R. Lawrance distributed copies of the Awards time table to the Committee and indicated that the program will be discussed in greater detail at the March meeting.

d) Green or Sustainable Energy Show

R. Bolin advised that

- There is an event being put on at Malaspina University-College in June. People he had spoken to were interested in the idea of having a green or sustainable building component added to the show.
- Spoke to representatives of the Nanaimo Home Show and they are interested in putting on such a display at the MalU event.
- Will have more information available for the March meeting.

**9. Late Items:**

• Nature of Nanaimo

R. Lawrance circulated a draft copy of the Nature of Nanaimo advertisement for the Leisure Guide.

The Committee endorsed in principle placing the ad. R. Lawrance will confirm with Chair D. Tyndall.

• E-mail from Norm Abbey re: gas power plant

G. Adrienne distributed copies of an e-mail she received from N. Abbey which says that Council should seek ACE's advice on the proposed gas power plant.

This led to a discussion concerning ACE's mandate for receiving delegations. The following comments were made:

- Is it ACE's role to be pro-active on issues or wait for direction from Council?
- To what extent can the public come to ACE with their issues?
- ACE has the right to accept or reject delegations.

The Committee decided they would like to discuss the issue of delegations in more detail at the next meeting.

• Agendas and minutes on City web site

R. Bolin noted that the minutes of Council committee's were not readily available on the City's web site.

R. Lawrance will check into this.

**10. Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

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