

**MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
MEETING HELD TUESDAY, 2004-NOVEMBER-02
IN THE TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX, 238 FRANKLYN STREET.**

Present: Gail Adrienne
Ron Bolin
Ron Brown
Allan Hawryzki

Councillor Bill Holdom
Councillor Dawn Tyndall
Brigid Reynolds

Staff
Rob Lawrance
Fran Grant (Recording Secretary)

Kevin Brydges

Guest: Mike Geselbracht

Regrets: Pete Law
Jackie Churchill

1. Call to Order and Introductions:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dawn Tyndall at 4:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes 2004-Oct-05:

MOVED by R. Brown, SECONDED by R. Bolin, that the minutes of 2004-Oct-05 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. Approval of Agenda and Introduction of Late Items:

The Committee approved the Agenda as presented.

There were no late items.

4. Budget Update:

R. Lawrance gave a brief update of the Committee's budget as follows:

Current amount	\$2,980.15
Committed:	
Pesticide survey	\$1,500.00
360° Imagery for Habitat Atlas	\$ 975.00
Forum (Guy Dauncey)	\$ 500.00
Remaining	\$ 5.15

He noted that there are not enough funds remaining to do any extra advertising for the Environmental Forum.

5. Delegations:

No delegations.

6. Correspondence/Handouts/Notices of Upcoming Events:

a) Letter from Friends of the Catstream

R. Lawrance distributed copies of the letter and attachments from R. Rickwood to the Committee. He also noted that ACE had decided that any requests to make presentations to the Committee must first be approved by the Committee.

K. Brydges noted that:

- This is a site specific issue which is not in ACE's mandate unless directed by Council.
- The ball park will have a 30m buffer from the marsh which is double what is normally required.
- A study was done on the best location for the ball park.
- The proposed ice arena is across the street from the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre, which is not close to the wetland.
- 43 acres of the 67 acre site has been set aside as protected area.
- One of the main concerns is for the Virginia Rail which uses the marsh for its wintering ground.

Staff gave the following answers to questions from the Committee, and general comments:

- The protected area will be identified as park on City maps.
- In Council's view, the discussion regarding the ball fields is over.
- Do not feel there will be an issue of human interference in the marsh in the winter when Virginia Rail are present.
- The parking lot is proposed to be gravel so runoff into the marsh will not be of major concern although it will still be taken into account during the design stage of the project.
- Pesticides and fertilizer use will be minimal if they are used at all.
- The watering system is designed to deliver an amount of water that will be absorbed and does not produce any runoff.
- In the past, ACE has approved the plan as it now stands.
- The City has done a hydrological study of the area to ensure that the fields are built in such a way that flooding should not be an issue.
- K. Brydges will check into whether the Virginia Rail is on the endangered species list.

General comments from the Committee:

- The Committee has dealt with the issues raised in Mr. Rickwood's letter in the past.
- This is a site specific issue and not covered under ACE's mandate unless directed by Council.
- It was suggested that a letter be written to Mr. Rickwood outlining ACE's previous decision on this issue.
- The presence of the Virginia Rail in Nanaimo was noted in a study done in 1973/74.

MOVED by B. Reynolds, SECONDED by R. Bolin, that a letter be sent to Mr. Rickwood outlining ACE's position on the planned ball field.

CARRIED

MOVED by G. Adrienne, SECONDED by R. Brown, that the letter also decline Mr. Rickwood's request to make a presentation to ACE at the December meeting

CARRIED

D. Tyndall will write the letter to Mr. Rickwood.

b) Email from Rory Rickwood

R. Lawrance read out the e-mail from R. Rickwood to ACE asking that:

1. the marsh near the proposed ball fields be designated an ecological park,
2. the City protect ESAs using the City of Richmond's criteria, and
3. the City use Environment Canada's guidelines for conducting environmental/hydrological impact studies.

In response to the e-mail, K. Brydges noted that:

- The City is currently working on protecting upland ESAs.
- Wetlands and watercourses are already protected.
- 50+ wetlands are now identified on environment maps and protected by Bylaws.
- Criteria has been established to identify ESAs.

c) Presentation from Parks, Recreation and Culture on Urban Forestry / Tree Management Bylaw:

R. Lawrance advised that T. Hickey, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture Department or R. Harding, Manager of Parks will be making a presentation to ACE at the December meeting.

7. Unfinished/Ongoing Business:

a) Fall Community Forum: Report from Sub-Committee

Members of the Forum Sub-Committee outlined the Forum program:

- G. Adrienne will facilitate the meeting.
- D. Tyndall agreed to do the initial welcome.
- G. Dauncey will be giving his presentation at 7:00
- A draft agenda was circulated.
- The presentation will be followed by round table discussions.
- ACE members will be asked to facilitate at each table for the discussion.
- R. Lawrance has been contacted by a number of groups that would like to put up displays.

Publicity:

- Sent out e-mails to all interested groups, organizations and individuals.
- Contacted the TV stations, Shaw Cable and news papers.
- D. Tyndall will send out a press release and also contact the radio station to see if they would be willing to interview G. Dauncey.

b) Pesticides Survey – Update

R. Lawrance advised that:

- Sub-committee has met with John Anderson, PhD, Chair, Criminology Department Malaspina University-College to work on the draft survey which should be finalized in early January.
- A test survey will be conducted with students before going out to the public.
- Final report will be ready by March and a presentation made to ACE.
- Survey is going to 1100 homes and hope to receive a 33% response.

- Follow-up phone calls will be made to non-respondents.
- R. Lawrance will look into a bulk mailing rate for the surveys.

c) Nanaimo Estuary Coalition – Presentation to PEDSC

R. Lawrance noted that:

- The report was received by the Planning, Environment and Development Standing Committee (PEDSC) at their last meeting.
- PEDSC asked that the meeting with the Coalition be held after the Nov. 20 referendum and invited ACE members to attend. The meeting will be held on Dec. 02 at 3:30 p.m.

8. New Business:

a) Wood Burning Appliances: Burn It Smart Workshop – Nov. 30th:

R. Lawrance noted that:

- Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection is holding the Burn It Smart Workshop on Nov. 30 and has asked if the City would be interested in being a co-sponsor.
- Meeting space has been booked at the Beban Social Centre for the Workshop.
- No monies are necessary for ACE to partner; booking the room is seen as fulfilling the co-sponsorship obligation.

Comments from the Committee:

- How do we get the people who really need to learn how to burn correctly to attend the workshop?

MOVED by R. Bolin, SECONDED by A. Hawryzki, that ACE sponsor the Burn It Smart Workshop with WLAP.

CARRIED

b) Wood Burning Appliances: Report to Council.

R. Lawrance indicated that:

- A report has been sent to PEDSC and Council and has been approved.
- The report suggested that when existing wood burning appliances are replaced, the new appliances should meet CSA standards.
- Perhaps add to ACE workplan for 2005 on what further steps can be taken.
- Hold a policy workshop? Incentives for people who up-grade their wood burning appliances?

9. Late Item:

a) Harewood Plains ESA

R. Lawrance advised that Council had approved the Report on the Harewood Plains.

10. Next Meeting:

- Next sub-committee meetings

Pesticide Survey:

R. Lawrance advised that he will send the new draft survey to the Sub-committee members for their review and comments.

- Next ACE meeting is schedule for 2004-Dec-07. The year end dinner will be held following this meeting.

11. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

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