

MINUTES
SAANICH ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Committee Room No. 2
March 25, 2008 at 5:00 pm

Present: Councillor Sanders; L. Berkes; H. Drage; M. Haig-Brown; R. Hesselgrave; K. Torney; P. West; K. Whitcroft

Staff: A. Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services; and M. Brothers, Committee Clerk.

Regrets: D. Murdock

MINUTES

MOTION: Moved by R. Hesselgrave and seconded by M. Haig-Brown: "That the minutes of the Saanich Environmental Advisory Committee meeting on February 26, 2008 be adopted as circulated".

CARRIED

ENVIRONMENT WEEK AND AWARDS 2008

Committee discussion noted:

- The table of options for Environment Week prepared by Environmental Services was excellent.
- Lakes and streams could be incorporated into the Marine Shoreline Protection theme.
- There are other stormwater models available in addition to the Gorge Waterway model.
- Paul Harder, Lehna Malmkvist and Patrick Lucey would all be interesting speakers on stormwater management.

In response to Committee discussion, the Manager of Environmental Services noted:

- The Sustainable Saanich Lecture Series will not be as intensive this year, and there is not currently a rain garden workshop planned.

P. West entered the meeting at 5:20 pm

- Though the Environmental Services budget has already been allocated, it would likely be possible to provide some funding for an Environment Week event; however an alternative not requiring funding should be selected as a backup in the event that funds will not be available.
- If there is interest in participating in Bike to Work Week, the space near the Butterfly Garden at the Municipal Hall should be reserved as soon as possible; this spot would be a very high profile location for a display.
- In order to attract cyclists to a display, a giveaway could be provided, such as rain gauges; water bottles might be less interesting as many groups use these as giveaways during Bike to Work Week.
- Potentially a few displays could be set up including alternatives to pesticides, composting etc.
- Bike to Work Week is held from June 2 to 6.
- Environmental Services staff can assist in setting up and taking down the alternatives to pesticides display, but will not be available to attend the booth during the day.

Committee discussion noted:

- H. Drage and M. Haig-Brown are available during the day for all of Bike to Work Week; K. Torney is available only on Thursdays and Fridays during the day.

It was the consensus of the Committee, that in celebration of Environment Week, the display from Environmental Services be set up by the Galloping Goose in order to take advantage of the traffic produced by Bike to Work Week.

The Chair noted that hard copies of the Environment Awards nomination forms and brochure should be provided for members to distribute. The Secretary will circulate the electronic version

of these forms by email which can then be forwarded on to others as necessary.

TREE BYLAW AND URBAN FORESTRY

A draft of a memo to the Parks Manager was circulated detailing concerns expressed by the Committee at the February 26, 2008 meeting in regards to the Tree Preservation Bylaw and Saanich's urban forestry management in general.

Committee discussion noted the memo needs clarification that a grid system or other method of selective forestry should be used when allowing three trees per acre to be removed per year, in order to prevent land from being cleared inappropriately.

MOTION: Moved by K. Whitcroft and seconded by H. Drage, "That the memo to the Parks Manager on the Tree Bylaw and Urban Forestry be forwarded to the next meeting for further consideration":

CARRIED

SUSTAINABLE ACTIONS FOR MEETINGS FACT SHEET

The Chair noted:

- The updated version of the draft Sustainable Actions for Meetings Fact Sheet was unavailable for circulation at this meeting; the updates focused on staff and committee meetings and special events, not on meetings such as conferences which require considerable travel.
- A preamble could be added indicating the purpose of the document.

Committee discussion noted:

- Having labels indicating what can be disposed in various recycling containers would be useful for municipal facilities.
- The fact sheet should indicate that electronic presentations should be used in place of paper handouts where possible.

EARTH HOUR

The Chair noted:

- In the past, BC Hydro has had problems following through after introducing promising programs.
- It has been very challenging to get the message out regarding Earth Hour unless a specific event is being held.

Committee discussion noted that some employers such as Washington Marine are circulating information on Earth Hour.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Chair circulated an email received from a Mr. Carlson requesting assistance in addressing the litter found on major roads next to the Royal Oak and Broadmead shopping centres, specifically through establishing a "task force" and taking advantage of Pitch-In Week.

The Manager of Environmental Services noted that there have been public complaints regarding the litter in these areas in past, perhaps due to the fast food restaurants located nearby.

The Chair noted:

- Participating in Pitch In Week costs \$1,000 which seems expensive.
- The Committee could forward the information to the appropriate community association.

Committee discussion noted:

- The public needs to be reminded of the importance of not littering.
- Encouraging the use of a program similar to “adopt a highway” might be another route for a community association to take.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the email received from Mr. Carlson be directed to the appropriate community association along with information on Pitch In Week, and the “adopt a highway” program if possible.

BOWKER CREEK URBAN WATERSHED RENEWAL INITIATIVE – MASTER DRAINAGE PLAN

The Chair noted that a request was made by the Bowker Creek Urban Watershed Renewal Initiative to present their master drainage plan, but that the Committee had previously expressed interest in receiving circulated material instead of a presentation.

The Manager of Environmental Service noted that the presentation on the Master Drainage Plan had provided an excellent framework for understanding the printed materials, and that if time is a concern, a presentation of a particular length could be requested.

It was the consensus of the Committee that a brief presentation from the Bowker Creek Urban Watershed Renewal Initiative on the Master Drainage Plan would be of interest.

The Chair noted that the June meeting might be the best time for the presentation as both the Environment Awards and Environment Week will be over by that point; the executive summary will be circulated for information prior to the presentation.

CHAIR’S REMARKS

The Chair noted:

- Advertisements are being circulated for a private pick up compost program.
- At the moment, addressing climate change is a significant topic in many municipal publications.

STATUS LIST

The Chair circulated copies of the revised format for the status list.

Committee discussion noted:

- Other organizations have an action/decision list which serves a similar function.
- Items which have been completed could be archived on another list.
- Motions from the Committee included on the status list should be highlighted.
- Instead of circulating a hard copy of the list, an alternative would be a password protected website which would include an interactive version of the status list, or other documents important to the Committee such as minutes; this might reduce the amount of paper needed and would allow the status list to be updated by members.
- That the status list could be in excel which would enable sorting alphabetically, chronologically and by status.

In response to Committee discussion, the Manager of Environmental Services noted that Saanich already hosts a password protected website for native plant salvage, so the technology is available if the Committee is interested.

MOTION: Moved by R. Hesselgrave and seconded by M. Haig-Brown, "That the status list be reformatted based on the draft circulated by the Chair".

CARRIED

PESTICIDE USE

P. West provided an update on pesticide reduction activities at the Capital Regional District (CRD) and noted:

- A major communication piece will be forthcoming soon.
- There is a pesticide free pledge available on the CRD website.

CRD WASTEWATER TREATMENT PROJECT

P. West noted:

- The project is now determining where treatment facilities should be located using GPS overlay technology.
- Locations in east Saanich and north Oak Bay are being considered as potential candidates for facilities.

ROUNDTABLE ON THE ENVIRONMENT & JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

P. West noted that a major reorganization of the CRD Roundtable on the Environment is underway and that the main committee will address climate change issues.

The Chair noted that there has been no response to requests for an additional meeting of the Saanich Joint Advisory Committee on Climate Change.

The Manager of Environmental Service noted that the hiring process is underway for the Manager of Special Projects, who will be providing staff support to the Saanich Joint Advisory Committee on Climate Change.

COMMITTEE REMARKS

Committee discussion noted:

- The Bowker Creek Community-Tea Celebration will be held on Saturday March 29.
- The University of Victoria will be holding a forum on small scale farming challenges in Saanich, which may be of interest to members of the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next Environmental Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, **April 22, 2008** at **5:00 p.m.** in **Committee Room 2.**

CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary