

MINUTES
SAANICH ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Committee Room No. 2
May 27, 2008 at 5:05 pm

Present: Councillor Sanders; H. Drage; M. Haig-Brown; R. Hesselgrave; D. Murdock; K. Torney; K. Whitcroft

Staff: R. Fuoco, Director of Planning; M. Boysen, Climate Action Coordinator; A. Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services; and M. Brothers, Committee Clerk.

Regrets: L. Berkes; P. West

MINUTES

MOTION: Moved by D. Murdock and seconded by M. Haig-Brown: "That the minutes of the Saanich Environmental Advisory Committee meeting on April 22, 2008 be adopted as circulated".

CARRIED

STRATEGIC PROGRESS REPORT 2007 - SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

The Director of Planning circulated copies of the Sustainable Environment Theme for the 2007 Strategic Progress Report and noted:

- This report summarizes the work done in 2007; in the fall, staff will be putting together the work plan for 2009.
- The same target indicators have been used for several years.
- Currently, there isn't a baseline measurement for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, but the province is likely to introduce a method of measuring municipal government emissions similar to that used in California.
- At this point, there has primarily been discussion, not implementation, of the Urban Forest Strategy, due to staffing difficulties.
- The report may be updated to include information on the pesticide use bylaw, which staff were recently instructed by Council to prepare.
- Work is being finished on the grant Saanich received to raise awareness of green building practices, especially in regards to energy efficiency.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Director of Planning noted:

- The price to offset each tonne of GHG emissions from municipal operations was set in consultation with an appropriate specialist, and is meant to be updated yearly.
- City Green will be providing Community Energy Management services to Saanich, using funds from BC Hydro; work will be coordinated with Capital Regional District (CRD) staff to eliminate duplication of efforts.

ENVIRONMENT WEEK 2008

The Manager for Environmental Services noted:

- The organizers for Bike to Work Week didn't like the idea of a booth on alternatives to pesticides set up along their route; they would prefer to keep the event focused on biking.
- Environmental Services staff can set up the booth at Saanich Commonwealth Place on Wednesday June 4, 2008 and take it down at the end of the week.
- Committee members could attend the booth in shifts on Friday June 6, 2008 to answer questions from the public.

The following members volunteered to attend the booth: M. Haig-Brown, 9 am to 11 am; K. Whitcroft, 11 am to 1 pm; K. Tourney, 1 pm to 3 pm; and H. Drage 3 pm to 5 pm.

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

- Staff are determining if it will be possible to set up the booth at the Hall during the last week of tax season.
- A briefing note will be circulated to those Committee members volunteering at the booth; fact sheets on each major pest will be available and should answer most questions.

- Committee members will be provided with name tags prepared by the committee clerk.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS 2008

The Manager of Environmental Services read out a list of the winners and honourable mentions for each category of the Environmental Awards 2008, and noted that one winner had been selected from the 2007 nomination list.

The Chair noted:

- The award process still require some clarification, specifically how to make nominators aware that the Youth/School Category is not for teachers but for the youth themselves.
- Committee members should be thinking of potential nominees throughout the year..
- The Committee needs to schedule a time in the future to discuss some of the questions raised during the selection process, including ways to advertise.

SUSTAINABLE ACTIONS FOR MEETINGS FACT SHEET

The Manager of Environmental Services noted:

- The Manager of Legislative Services has advised that instead of forwarding the Sustainable Actions for Meetings Fact Sheet to Council, it would be more appropriate to send it to the Administrator and the Director of Planning.
- The bullets on the fact sheet could be changed into check boxes for the user to check off when certain criteria are met.
- A comment could be added to the fact sheet requesting the user to send it back to the Committee and comment on whether it was useful; any fact sheets that are returned could be reviewed to see what improvements are recommended.

Committee discussion noted:

- The fact sheet would fit in well with an environmental management system, rather than being referred to Council.
- Feedback is needed to track whether the fact sheet is being used by staff, which does not need to be in the form of an indicator but more for discussion purposes

MOTION: Moved by K. Whitcroft and Seconded by D. Murdock, "That the motion relating to the Sustainable Actions for Meetings Factsheet approved at the April 22, 2008 meeting be rescinded."

CARRIED

MOTION: Moved by K. Whitcroft and Seconded by D. Murdock, "That the Sustainable Actions for Meetings Factsheet be sent to the Administrator for implementation and the Director of Planning for consideration in the Environmental Management System; and that the Committee receive an update on the use of the factsheet at their meeting in September 2008".

CARRIED

PESTICIDE FREE PLEDGE MOTION

The Manager of Environmental Services noted:

- The Committee's motion on the Pesticide Free Pledge was endorsed by Council.
- Parks staff will be reporting back to Council on the implications of going pesticide free on all municipal lands and Environmental Services will also be working on drafting the pesticide use bylaw.

BATTERY RECYCLING – RESOLUTION TO UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES (UBCM)

The Manager of Environmental Services noted that Council approved the Committee's recommendation that a letter be sent to the Capital Regional District's Roundtable on the Environment asking them to consider a regional battery recycling program.

The Chair noted:

- Consideration could be given to sending a resolution to UBCM encouraging a provincial battery recycling program.
- Some stores that advertise battery recycling have misinformed staff and confusing drop off boxes; this supports the findings in the 2007 report on battery recycling by Environmental Services which indicated that there is considerable confusion on what batteries different vendors did and did not accept for recycling.
- If recycling options are not convenient for the public, their used batteries are likely to be disposed of in the waste stream.
- A resolution on battery recycling should include mention of the importance of convenient recycling options and public education.

Committee discussion noted:

- Though keeping compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs out of the waste stream is also a concern, due to their mercury content, the resolution to UBCM should only include batteries in order to maintain focus.
- Ideally, BC Hydro would be providing education on recycling CFL bulbs while encouraging their use.
- As there may already be research indicating the best way to implement a universally available and convenient system for recycling batteries, it isn't necessary to be too prescriptive in the resolution to UBCM about how this goal is accomplished.

The Chair noted information regarding the toxicity of the materials in batteries, the low percentage of batteries currently being recycled and the amount of batteries in landfills projected for 2010, which should be used in the "whereas" clauses for the UBCM resolution.

MOTION: Moved by M. Haig-Brown and Seconded by R. Hesselgrave, "That the Environmental Advisory Committee recommend Council send a resolution to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities for consideration in September, encouraging the provincial government to implement a system for recycling batteries that is universally accessible and convenient for the public."

CARRIED

WHERE DOES RECYCLING GO IN THE CRD

The Manager of Environmental Services noted that when the Committee's recommendation on sending a letter to the CRD regarding battery recycling went to Council, concerns were raised as to why batteries were being singled out and what was happening to the rest of the recycled material handled by the CRD.

It was the consensus of the Committee that a presentation be made on the destination of recyclables collected by the CRD at the September meeting.

Committee discussion noted that on Tuesday, June 10, 2008 at 7 pm, in the Michelle Pujol room at the University of Victoria, a forum is being held on waste reduction in the Capital Region, called "Beyond the Blue Box"; it will include discussion on compost, soft plastics and building materials.

JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

It was the consensus of the Committee that the next meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee on Climate Change be held on Tuesday, June 17, 2008 at 5:00 pm in Committee Room 2.

TOP THREE ISSUES

The Chair noted that in order to give the Committee focus in the fall, members should consider the top three issues they would like to see addressed.

The top three issues identified by the majority of members included urban forestry/tree bylaw, watershed rehabilitation, and creating a stormwater utility; also commonly mentioned were recycling and climate change.

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

- H. Drage has been invited to the Urban Forestry Stewardship Initiative (UFSI) forum on June 10, 2008.
- The UFSI mapping and database project has been completed, and is available for presentation.

JUNE MEETING LOCATION

K. Whitcroft invited the Committee to his home at 1044 Inverness Road for the June meeting. Arrangements have been made to accommodate the presenters of the Bowker Creek Urban Watershed Renewal Initiative – Master Drainage Plan.

STATUS OF ITEMS UNDER CURRENT CONSIDERATION

The Chair noted that the Status list will be circulated to the Committee when changes are made.

Committee discussion noted:

- Extensive progress has been made by the Todd Creek Watershed Working group including forming a rehabilitation plan, working with Saanich staff to write a grant request to fund a feasibility study and acquiring the support of the seven land owners directly impacted.
- Quarrying at Hartland has been caught up in the sewage disposal issue at this time.
- A proposal is being put together to request Saanich make 9 hectares of Haro Woods in to a park; currently the petition has 1,000 signatures.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next Environmental Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, **June 24, 2008** at **5:00 p.m.**, in the residence of K. Whitcroft at 1044 Inverness Road.

CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary