



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT
MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 20, 2008
7:00 p.m.
Wurtele Room, Municipal Hall

PRESENT: Tara Hastings – Chair
Edwin Hubert – Vice Chair
Councillor Jane Sterk
Mark Salter
Eileen Palmer
Lorraine Nygaard-Ishizaki (Arrived 8:30 p.m.)

STAFF: Gilbert Côté – Director of Engineering and Public Works (Staff Liaison)
Deborah Liske – Recording Secretary

REGRETS: Mayor Chris Clement
Alison Gaul

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tara Hastings called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Sterk, seconded by Edwin Hubert that the agenda of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of October 16, 2008 be approved as presented.
The motion **CARRIED**.

4. MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Sterk, seconded by Eileen Palmer, that the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of September 18, 2008 be approved as presented.
The motion **CARRIED**.

5. OLD BUSINESS

(1) Gorge Vale Golf Club Forest Vegetation Management Plan

Chair Hastings reviewed the presentation by Gray Rothnie from the Gorge Vale Golf Club. The committee discussed and determined that the report be forwarded to Andy Katschor, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation. The committee discussed the need for the Club to be aware of and work to protect and encourage the growth of native plant species at risk; the need to protect and preserve the pristine natural areas such as the large Gary Oak ecosystem and further suggested that the Club work with Gary Oak Ecosystems Recovery Group to work towards restoration of the Gary Oak ecosystem on the golf course land. The committee also discussed the benefits of the municipality entering into a partnership with the golf course to grow trees for the golf course lands.

6. REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

(1) Urban Landscape

No report.

(2) Pesticide Reduction

It was noted that the Alberta Provincial Government will be banning combined herbicide-fertilizer products in January 2010.

(3) Gorge Discovery Centre

No report.

(4) Driving Reduction

The Director of Engineering and Public Works noted that the bylaw allowing for the use of low-speed electric powered vehicles was adopted by Council on November 23rd. It was also reported that the upgrade to Craigflower Road from Dominion Road to Garthland Road will be moving forward in 2009 and the Admirals and Colville Road intersection upgrade will also be proceeding in 2009.

(5) Sustainability

The Director of Engineering and Public Works thanked the committee for their input for the sidewalk plan and also reported that the E & N Rail Trail is still proceeding.

The committee discussed the benefits of the beautification of Esquimalt Road which included reducing the road to two lanes with middle turn lanes. The committee also discussed the need to develop improved transit options.

The committee discussed the increased usage of residential neighbourhoods for parking of non-resident vehicles in areas around CFB Esquimalt. The Director of Engineering and Public Work noted that he will discuss this item with a representative from CFB Esquimalt.

Edwin Hubert reviewed the Cowichan Valley Regional District Environment Commission's website (<http://www.12things.ca/12things/index.php>) about sustainability. A survey was a large component of the website.

The committee discussed avenues that the committee could take to move Esquimalt forward with initiatives to increase their sustainability / be carbon neutral by 2012. The committee discussed increasing community engagement. It was suggested that each committee member invite two people, coordinate a facilitator and gather to discuss moving forward with the next goal of the committee. It was suggested that the committee recommend that the Township create and implement sustainable alternatives. It was noted that the CRD will be hiring a Climate Action Program Coordinator who could be utilized to assist the committee. The committee also discussed the carbon neutral initiatives of the District of Saanich and noted that they would like to explore other local governments' carbon neutral initiatives.

(6) Climate Change

No report.

(7) Solid Waste

The Director of Engineering and Public Works reported that the Pacific Mobile (recycling) Depots, formally located in the Tudor House parking lot will relocate to the rear parking lot of the Archie

Browning Sports Centre starting January 10, 2009.

Mark Salter provided the committee with information on a protein digester that will accept all types of food waste including pet waste. The digester works very similar to a regular composter but because of its design, is able to accept a larger variety of materials than a regular composter.

Lorraine Nygaard-Ishizaki arrived at 8:30 p.m.

The committee discussed the concept of incorporating the digester in local parks for dog droppings.

(8) Promoting Successes of Committee

No report.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS / REPORTS

Councillor Sterk provided the committee with a brief overview of the proceeding for the upcoming inaugural address.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Edwin Hubert, Vice Chair

This 19th day of March, 2009