



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 25, 2009
7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, Municipal Hall

PRESENT: Edwin Hubert – Chair
Mark Salter – Vice-Chair (Arrived 7:16 p.m.)
Councillor Randall Garrison
Councillor Lynda Hundleby
Eileen Palmer
Larry Dill (departed at 9:15 p.m.)
Beth Sobieszczyk (Arrived 7:09 p.m.)

STAFF: Marlene Lagoa – Manager of Communications and Sustainability (Staff Liaison)
Deborah Liske – Recording Secretary

REGRETS: Terry Eckstein

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hubert called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. LATE ITEMS

The following late item was introduced:

1. Add to Agenda item **8. COMMUNICATIONS** (3) 2009 Energy & Climate Action Awards Invitation

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Hundleby, seconded by Larry Dill, that the agenda of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of June 25, 2009 be approved with the inclusion of the late agenda item.

The motion **CARRIED**.

4. MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Garrison, seconded by Eileen Palmer, that the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of May 28, 2009 be approved as amended.

The motion **CARRIED**.

5. OLD BUSINESS

(1) From the May 28, 2009 Environmental Advisory Committee meeting

(a) Work Plan

a. Sub-committees and How They Relate to the 2009 – 2011 Strategic Plan

Committee members continued discussion on the scope and depth of the sub-committees and how members wanted to proceed with the development and focus of the work plan.

Beth Sobieszczyk arrived at 7:09 p.m. and Mark Salter arrived at 7:16 p.m.

b. Work Plan Finalization

Moved by Eileen Palmer, seconded by Mark Salter that the Environmental Advisory Committee adopt the Environmental Advisory Committee 2009 Work Plan and present to Council.
The motion **CARRIED**.

(b) Presentation to Municipality to Highlight Pesticide Free Initiatives

The committee discussed recognizing the municipality for its initiatives to implement alternatives to utilizing pesticides within local municipal parks and green spaces. It was determined that a certificate be awarded to the Parks Department at the July 6th meeting of Council. Eileen Palmer will draft the certificate; Vice Chair Salter will attend the meeting to make the presentation.

(c) Anti-Idling Awareness

The Manager of Communications and Sustainability reported that she is currently working on a green fleet strategy for the municipality. The Manager of Communications and Sustainability also reported that she will be working with the Capital Regional District as they continue to implement their anti-idling bylaw and educational program. It was requested that committee members provide any ideas for anti-idling initiatives to the Manager of Communications and Sustainability.

(d) Composting

The Manager of Communications and Sustainability reported that it is an objective of the municipality to provide composters to residents at cost by 2010 and is currently in contact with the Compost Education Centre to discuss concepts to develop this initiative. The centre has expressed a willingness to work with municipality to make this initiative a success.

Committee members discussed concepts for implementation of this initiative. Suggestions included:

- Development of an environmental team (two students) to go out in to the community to educate individuals on composting, turf management and pesticide awareness. It was further suggested that grant funding be applied to cover the cost of wages for the students.
- Composters offered at a discount with informational handouts.
- Host a composting workshop.
- Include initiatives in 2010 budget.

The Manager of Communications and Sustainability will research options for conducting a composting workshop and composter distribution and report back to the committee.

(e) Update on Gorge Discovery Centre

Chair Hubert reported that the Gorge Discovery Centre will be making a presentation to Council in August on their progress to date.

(f) Provincial Government Community Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for Esquimalt – 2007

The Manager of Communications and Sustainability reviewed the 2007 Provincial Government Community Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for Esquimalt. It was noted that the inventory provides average numbers for consumption by type and average totals for energy usage and emissions. It was further noted that future inventories will be revamped to include additional items. It was also noted that this inventory provides a base line from which local governments can work to develop their goals for reduction.

Committee members discussed the inventory and requested clarification on the amount listed for solid waste; is the amount listed the municipalities tipping total or does it include other amounts. The Manager of Communications and Sustainability will clarify and report back to the committee.

It was noted that data for other communities in British Columbia is available at: www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/climate/ceei/reports.htm .

The Manager of Communications and Sustainability noted that the official community plan must include targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2010.

Committee members discussed the idea of a community car-share program that would allow for the utilization of a municipal vehicle by car share members after regular business hours.

6. NEW BUSINESS

(1) Buccaneer Days Report

Chair Hubert reported that the committee booth on Saturday at Buccaneer Days was successful with pesticide reduction information available; a bug display and representation from the Gorge Discovery Centre.

(2) Pesticide Use Reduction Bylaw – Education / Enforcement

Vice Chair Salter reported that the Gorge Discovery Centre is providing individuals with the opportunity to register for the pledge for a pesticide-free lawn and receive their garden sign. This assists the municipality in educating residents and others and is a resource that should be utilized. It was suggested that the Gorge Discovery Centre be an official agent of the municipality to assist with pesticide education. Chair Hubert will contact Nikki Wright of the Gorge Discovery Centre to discuss this idea.

Committee members discussed education and enforcement of the bylaw and it was suggested that municipal bylaw enforcement receive additional instruction on how to effectively enforce the bylaw as well as education on the alternatives to pesticide use.

Committee members enquired about the plan for the implementation of the bylaw and how enforcement and education will be handled by bylaw enforcement.

(3) World Climate Action Day

Vice Chair Salter reported that October 24th is International Day of Climate Action. This large scale initiative will coincide with the worldwide climate action strategy and allow Esquimalt to present itself on the world stage. Councillor Hundleby suggested that the day be officially proclaimed by Council.

Moved by Vice Chair Salter, seconded by Larry Dill, that the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that Council officially proclaim October 24th, 2009 as World Climate Action Day. The motion **CARRIED**.

7. REPORT FROM STAFF LIAISON

No report.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

- (1) Letter from the Recycling Council of British Columbia, dated November 3, 2009, Re: Plastic Bags

Committee members discussed plastic bag use. Larry Dill will draft a resolution to present to Council. The draft resolution will be circulated at the next committee meeting for feedback prior to being presented to Council.

Moved by Councillor Hundleby, seconded by Eileen Palme, that communications item 1 be received.

The motion **CARRIED**.

- (2) Letter from the Polaris Institute and Toxic Free Canada, received June 3, 2009, Re: Encouraging the Consumption of Tap Water Over Bottle Water

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

- (3) 2009 Energy & Climate Action Awards Invitation (**Late Item**)

Moved by Councillor Hundleby, seconded by Eileen Palmer, that communications item 3 be received.

The motion **CARRIED**.

Larry Dill departed the meeting at 9:15 pm

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS / REPORTS

Councillor Garrison reported that the Capital Regional District Climate Action Committee will start to meet in September. Councillor Garrison noted that he will be suggesting to Council that a community energy planning process be developed to assist in developing targets for the greenhouse gas reduction requirements for the OCP.

Beth Sobieszczyk reported that the Recreation Centre pocket market needs to be coordinated with other public markets and focus on a particular consumer. It was also noted that the pocket market would be happy to come back to Esquimalt if an alternative location can be found.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Edwin Hubert, Chair

This 24th day of September, 2009