



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 24, 2009
7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, Municipal Hall

PRESENT: Edwin Hubert – Chair
Mark Salter – Vice-Chair
Councillor Randall Garrison
Councillor Lynda Hundleby
Eileen Palmer
Larry Dill
Beth Sobieszczyk (Arrived 8:15 p.m.)
Terry Eckstein
Dianne Kleinman

STAFF: Marlene Lagoa – Sustainability Coordinator (Staff Liaison)

REGRETS: Deborah Liske – Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hubert called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. LATE ITEMS

The following late items were introduced:

Add to Agenda item **6. NEW BUSINESS** (10) Strange Outfall at West Bay; and (11) 2009 Budget Discussion

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Mark Salter, seconded by Dianne Kleinman, that the agenda of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of September 24, 2009 be approved with the inclusion of the late agenda items.
The motion **CARRIED**.

4. MINUTES

Moved by Larry Dill, seconded by Councillor Hundleby, that the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of June 25, 2009 be approved as provided.
The motion **CARRIED**.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(1) Welcome to new members Terry Eckstein & Dianne Kleinman

Chair Hubert welcomed the two new members. The committee members then went

around the table giving introductions.

(2) Thank you to Eileen Palmer

Chair Hubert, on behalf of the committee, thanked resigning member Eileen Palmer for her hard work on the committee. The position will remain vacant until 2010.

6. NEW BUSINESS

(1) Presentation to Municipality to Highlight Pesticide Free Initiative Report

Vice-Chair Salter reported that awards recognizing the Public Works and Parks department for their pesticide-free initiatives were presented to Council. The timing of the award was to coincide with Esquimalt's Pesticide Use Reduction Bylaw coming into full force and effect.

(2) Gorge Discovery Centre

Two items were distributed to attendees at the meeting: (i) Letter from the World Fisheries Trust dated September 15, 2009, Re: Update on activities of interpretative centre in the Esquimalt Gorge Park and approval of name; and (ii) a one-page summary of the Gorge Waterway Education Centre's 10 Year Management Plan.

(a) Presentation to Council

Chair Hubert stated that the World Fisheries Trust made a presentation to Council on Monday, September 21, 2009 on their work with the Gorge Waterway Discovery Centre. Chair Hubert then gave the committee members a summary of the presentation, some highlights included:

- They are in the initial planning phases of designing a renovated "green" building. Frank D'Ambroisa a local architect is donating his time to designing the renovations.
- They are working on the Gorge Waterway Centre name
- They are working on how they will present a list of grants they have received to date .
- The cost to the Trust of running a 3 hour session for school groups is \$150.
- There was a discussion that the Discovery Centre is already working on items that the committee is (i.e. pesticide reduction).

(b) Infrastructure Grant to Renovate Discovery Centre at Gorge Park

The Sustainability Coordinator shared the following update that was provided by the Manager of Parks Services:

- The Township, World Fisheries Trust and the Architectural Firm of D'Ambrosio have been working together to come up with a renovation design that will increase the useable space, create a energy efficient building and showcase environmentally sustainable design that ordinary home owners can use on their dwellings.
- The grant requires that the design be completed by 2011. It will be completed sooner as they want to apply for other grants with the design in place.

(3) Plastic Shopping Bag Resolution (Draft)

Larry Dill presented a first draft of a resolution banning plastic shopping bags in the municipality to Council. The committee discussed the concerns and implications surrounding the resolution and agreed there would need to be an outreach and educational component to the ban.

Moved by Larry Dill, seconded by Dianne Kleinman, that the plastic shopping bag resolution, attached to and forming part of these minutes as Schedule A, be amended to have the date of effectiveness removed and the addition of... “And be it further resolved that Council work with businesses and the greater community to develop a plan to implement the ban at the earliest opportunity,” and recommend that Council adopt the amended resolution.

The motion **CARRIED**.

(4) Ban on sales of plastic water bottles in Municipal facilities

Beth Sobieszcyk arrived at 8:15 p.m.

The committee discussed the implications of a plastic water bottle ban and how to implement such a ban. Ideas included an educational campaign on bottled water, promotion of tap water, and the municipality leading by example by not selling bottled water.

Moved by Larry Dill, seconded by Terry Eckstein, that the Environmental Advisory Committee recommend that Council adopt the FCM resolution, attached and forming part of these minutes as Schedule B, dated March 7, 2009 on bottled water.

The motion **CARRIED**.

(5) Species at Risk closures at Macaulay Point

Councillor Garrison stated that the municipality will have to close off half of Macaulay Point Park to dogs. Councillor Garrison went on to explain that the municipality leases the park from DND and they recently discovered two species at risk and must comply or risk having the park land unavailable to the public. The Parks Department will be having an open house to receive public input and provide information on the proposed changes in the Macaulay Point Natural Areas Management Plan. The open house will be sometime in October.

(6) Bicycle Lane Updates

The Sustainability Coordinator announced that Gilbert Côté left the municipality in mid-August and the position is currently vacant. The Sustainability Coordinator reported that Public Works has design plans for the bike lanes on Esquimalt Road and are currently waiting for the job to be priced by a line painting contractor. Public Works anticipates having prices together by October 1st and the project could commence as early as mid-October. The bicycle lanes through the Admirals and Colville intersection will be completed by mid to end of November.

Councillor Hundleby added that the bike lanes for the first phase of Craigflower Road will

be completed by November or the end of the year. Councillor Garrison stated that the City of Victoria will be working on the bike lanes along Esquimalt Road in Vic West by October 14th. Councillor Garrison said the municipality currently has no plans or budget for bike lanes on Admirals Road. Dianne Kleinman asked about the type of paint that was being used and whether it was environmentally safe, this question was deferred to the next meeting.

(7) Composting Program Options Report

The Sustainability Coordinator brought the report forward to provide some background for the committee to discuss composting program ideas. The Sustainability Coordinator answered members' questions and committee members discussed various composting program options. The committee members highlighted the advantages of delivering a workshop format, partnering with the Compost Education Centre, and planning the project for 2010. Composting will be back on the agenda for next month.

(8) Zero Waste

The Proclamation of Zero Waste Wednesday should go to Council on the meeting closest to the event (October 19, 2009). The committee discussed the possibility of zero waste posters on the side of the Township's solid waste collection vehicles and of having school kids design it. Zero Waste will be back on the agenda for next month.

(9) Food Security

Vice-Chair Salter shared that Environment Canada has a funding initiative for environmental education programs involving the hiring of students. Further discussion on the item was deferred to the next meeting.

(10) Strange Outfall at West Bay

The item was deferred to the next meeting.

(11) 2009 Budget Discussions

The item was deferred to the next meeting.

7. REPORT FROM STAFF LIAISON

(1) Solar Hot Water

The item was deferred to the next meeting.

(2) Ethical Sustainable Procurement and Disposal Policy

The item was deferred to the next meeting.

(3) Energy Audit

The item was deferred to the next meeting.

(4) Website

The item was deferred to the next meeting.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

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

Moved by Chair Hubert, seconded by Councillor Hundleby, that communications item 1 be received.

The motion **CARRIED**.

- (2) Letter from the Community Energy Association, received June 24, 2009, Re: 2009 Energy & Climate Action Awards Invitation

Moved by Chair Hubert, seconded by Councillor Garrison, that communications item 2 be received.

The motion **CARRIED**.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS / REPORTS

Councillor Garrison shared that the Craigflower Road project (Phase 1) was under budget so the municipality was adding two new islands with irrigation.

Councillor Garrison stated that the developer at 1190 Rhoda Lane, who clear cut trees on July 1 and Labour Day, has been fined \$19,500 and must replant and maintain new large trees that are within 15 meters of the Gorge.

Councillor Garrison shared that a Green List for Developments, which Development Services has been working on, will hopefully be coming to the Environmental Advisory Committee in October.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Edwin Hubert, Chair

This 26th day of November, 2009

SCHEDULE A

Plastic shopping bag resolution (DRAFT)

Whereas plastic shopping bags are composed of polyethylene, which requires fossil fuel to manufacture;

Whereas a majority of these are used only once, and end up as litter or in the solid waste stream;

Whereas such plastic shopping bags (even the so-called biodegradable ones) break down exceptionally slowly in the solid waste stream (estimates range from 20 to over 500 years) and burning them causes the release of toxic chemicals;

Whereas plastic bags and their smaller breakdown products comprise a major proportion of pollution in the world's oceans;

Whereas the ingestion of these bags is responsible for countless deaths of marine animals each year (annual estimates as high as 1 million seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals and sea turtles, who mistake them for jellyfish); and

Whereas, more environmentally friendly alternatives are readily available, therefore

Let it be resolved that the Township of Esquimalt ban the use of plastic shopping bags in all retail outlets in the municipality effective.....

SCHEDULE B

FCM RESOLUTION – NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – March 7, 2009

ENV09.1.02 BOTTLED WATER

WHEREAS bottled water consumes significant amounts of non-renewable fossil fuels to extract, package and transport water creating unnecessary air quality and climate change impacts;

WHEREAS it takes about three litres of water to manufacture a one litre plastic bottle of water;

WHEREAS bottled water companies use municipal water and groundwater sources when a growing percentage of Canadian municipalities have faced water shortages in recent years;

WHEREAS although bottled water creates a container that can be recycled, between 40% and 80% of empty bottles end up as litter and/or are placed directly into the garbage and take up unnecessary space in landfills;

WHEREAS tap water is safe, healthy, highly regulated and accessible to residents, employers, employees and visitors to Canadian municipalities and substantially more sustainable than bottled water; and

WHEREAS some municipalities have enacted by-laws to restrict the sale and purchase of water bottles within their own operations;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities urge all municipalities to phase out the sale and purchase of bottled water at their own facilities where appropriate and where potable water is available; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that municipalities be urged to develop awareness campaigns about the positive benefits and quality of municipal water supplies.