



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 25, 2010
7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, Municipal Hall

PRESENT: Mark Salter, Chair
Larry Dill, Vice-Chair
Councillor Randall Garrison
Councillor Alison Gaul
Blair Irwin
Dianne Kleinman
Beth Sobieszczyk

STAFF: Marlene Lagoa – Sustainability Coordinator (Staff Liaison)
Deborah Liske – Recording Secretary

REGRETS: Chris Zegger-Murphy
Terry Eckstein

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Salter called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. LATE ITEMS

The following late item was introduced:

1. Add to Agenda item **5. OLD BUSINESS** (5) Community Gardens Task Force Update

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Vice-Chair Dill, seconded by Councillor Garrison, that the agenda of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of February 25, 2010 be approved with the inclusion of the late agenda item.

The motion **CARRIED**.

4. MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Gaul, seconded by Councillor Garrison, that the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of January 28, 2010 be approved as presented.

The motion **CARRIED**.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- (1) Zero Waste
 - (a) Reduction of Waste at Buccaneer Days

Chair Salter suggested the committee work on determining ways to decrease the amount of waste created at Buccaneer Days. Chair Salter further suggested the committee work towards implementing a program / initiatives for 2011 and 2012.

Councillor Gaul noted waste has been reduced through recycling but composting is not highly utilized. It was suggested the committee consider the pick-up and disposal of compostable food waste from booths at the event. Councillor Gaul also noted the Buccaneer Days Committee welcomes attendance at their meetings.

Chair Salter stressed the committee will need to start planning now to implement a program for 2011 / 2012.

A committee member enquired whether the Buccaneer Days committee has funds available to hire a company to supply bins and pick-up compostable food waste for the entire event. Chair Salter noted he will be contacting the Co-Chair of the Buccaneer Days committee to discuss the concept.

ACTION ITEM

Chair Salter to contact Buccaneer Days co-chair to discuss waste reduction.

Committee members discussed hosting a booth at Buccaneer Days to highlight compost education. Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison suggested the Compost Education Centre be contacted as soon as possible as their availability can be somewhat limited.

Councillor Gaul noted the committee would need to contact the Buccaneer Days committee to request and confirm table availability.

Moved by Councillor Garrison, seconded by Beth Sobieszczyk that the Environmental Advisory Committee host an educational booth at Buccaneer Days to highlight compost education. The motion **CARRIED**.

(2) 2009 Year End Final Report

Chair Salter reported he has commenced work on the year end final report.

ACTION ITEM

Chair Salter to email draft report to committee members for review prior to next meeting.

(3) Cosmetic Pesticide Bylaw Enforcement / Education

(a) Follow-up Report from Staff Liaison on Bylaw Education and Enforcement

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison reported the Parks Department has received numerous enquiries from other municipalities and landscapers about the bylaw and implementation. Ms. Lagoa further noted the Development Services Department reported they have not received any complaints regarding pesticide use.

Chair Salter would like the committee to consider increasing public outreach to ensure all residents are complying with the bylaw and suggested the hiring of seasonal environmental outreach workers to be out in the community providing education on the bylaw and how to garden without pesticides.

Councillor Garrison noted environmental outreach workers would be a good idea and suggested the committee include a seasonal student work base for education in the committees work plan. It was further noted this concept can be tied in to other environmental initiative the municipality is working on. It was further suggested the committee start working on this initiative now in order for it's inclusion in next year's municipal budget.

Committee members discussed the need to develop a framework for the initiative and educational institutions that may be of assistance with this type of outreach program.

Committee members discussed ideas for increasing public awareness and education on pesticide use and the bylaw. Suggestions included providing public service announcements and advertising alternatives to pesticides; showcasing the accomplishments of the municipality on being pesticide free; suggested the Parks Manager be interviewed to tell the story; PSA's, newsletter, Discover Esquimalt, website, etc.

Chair Salter will meet with Ritchie Morrison, Communication Coordinator, to discuss ways to get

the message out to the community. Chair Salter will report back to the committee at the next meeting.

ACTION ITEM

Chair Salter to meet with Communications Coordinator.

(4) 2010 Work Plan Discussion

Committee members reviewed the 2009 work plan and agreed to continue to work on initiatives from the previous year. Committee members also agreed to add the following:

- Under Solid Waste – add Composting
- Add Community Greenhouse Gas Reduction Participation
- Add Environmental Outreach Workers – Framework Development

Moved by Larry Dill, seconded by Dianne Kleinman that the Environmental Advisory Committee adopt the following as their 2010 work plan:

- **Urban Landscape**
 - Urban Forest
 - Community Garden / Markets
- **Pesticide Reduction**
 - Education
 - Bylaw Awareness / Compliance
- **Marina & Shoreline**
 - Green Boating
 - Marinas
- **Solid Waste**
 - Waste Reduction
 - Composting
- **Community Greenhouse Gas Reduction Participation**
- **Environmental Outreach Workers**
 - Framework Development

The motion **CARRIED**.

(5) Community Gardens Task Force Update (**Late Item**)

Chair Salter reported the task force has met for a second time and discussed potential sites for a community garden. The task force will meet weekly and is working on developing short, mid and long term goals. Eight members of the public have communicated an interest in participating on the task force; appointment of two public members will be determined by mid-March. The task force will focus on the development of allotment gardens and is working on an announcement to name potential sites by April 17th. It was noted there are a number of logistics to work through, but is hoping to announce community consultation by mid-April. The task force would also like to draft a community garden policy to be adopted by Council.

Beth Sobieszczyk suggested LifeCycles bring their travelling garden to display at the composting sale. Ms. Sobieszczyk will contact LifeCycles to enquire if they are interested in participating and report back to the committee.

ACTION ITEM

Ms. Sobieszczyk to contact LifeCycles.

6. NEW BUSINESS

(1) Community Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target Update

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison reviewed a recent presentation made to Council on setting community greenhouse gas reduction targets. Community emissions are those occurring by the

residents and businesses in the community which the municipality cannot directly control, but may be able to influence through planning and program activities. The provincial greenhouse gas inventory is being updated to include new data and will be distributed shortly. The municipality can set targets and develop a vision from which greenhouse gas reduction can be accomplished. Council prefers a science based target for greenhouse gas reduction. Council will receive a staff report at the March 8th Committee of the Whole meeting recommending an amendment to the OCP bylaw to include greenhouse gas reduction targets. It is proposed an open house would take place in April during earth week; with a public hearing and adoption of the amendment taking place in May.

Councillor Garrison noted the importance of having an open house during earth week and suggested the open house take place in a larger facility such as the Recreation Centre to increase attendance. It was further suggested committee members participate in the open house and utilize the media to assist in promoting the open house. Councillor Garrison further noted upon setting targets, a plan will need to be developed in order to accomplish the targets. The first step in developing the plan will be to determine what the municipality can do to reduce building(s), transportation and solid waste emissions.

Committee members discussed ideas for the open house and suggested visual displays, a power point demonstration and an informal survey where individuals can indicate where they can make cuts to reduce their emissions. Ms. Lagoa will enquire about room availability at the Recreation Centre during earth week in April and report back to the committee.

ACTION ITEM

Ms. Lagoa to enquire about Recreation Centre room availability.

Councillor Garrison noted an open house provides the opportunity to educate citizens on greenhouse gas reduction. Councillor Gaul noted the open house will also provide for the opportunity to let citizens know they will be given the opportunity to provide input and be consulted on reduction targets. Education will be needed for people to determine how they can reduce their emissions.

Ms. Lagoa reported that DND is starting strategic planning on reducing emissions and have twelve people currently working on their inventory. Ms. Lagoa will be meeting with DND on a monthly basis to discuss both municipal and Department of National Defence goals.

7. REPORT FROM STAFF LIAISON

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison, reported on the following:

Composting

This initiative is moving along. Council approved the recommendation to host two workshops and a bin sale during Earth week. Anyone interested in hosting an informational table for outreach, no selling of product, can contact Ms. Lagoa.

Bottled Water

Council has requested a report from the Director of Parks and Recreation requesting potential impact, further information and direction. Ms. Lagoa will report back to the committee once Council has received the report.

Plastic Bags

A response has been received from the Esquimalt Chamber of Commerce stating they believe a ban on plastic bags is not necessary and would prefer to see educational programs and incentives on a regional scale rather than a ban at the municipal level that could lead to costly and negative enforcement. The Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers and the Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors have contacted Ms. Lagoa, noting they have a voluntary agreement in place with their members to reduce the distribution of plastic bags in British Columbia by 50% by 2013. Ms. Lagoa also noted receipt of a report compiled by the Canadian Council of Grocery

Distributors, Retail Council of Canada, Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers and the Canadian Association of Chain Drug Stores. The report outlines the activities and progress made in 2008 to reduce the number of plastic bags distributed in British Columbia by grocers, retailers and pharmacies. Ms. Lagoa will forward a copy of the report to committee members.

Councillor Gaul requested a copy of the report also be forwarded to Council.

ACTION ITEM

Ms. Lagoa to forward report to Council and committee members.

Chair Salter suggested initiating a program to recycle plastic bags; retailers collect the bags and the municipality facilitates the coordination of removal to a recycler.

Ms. Lagoa noted retailers are anxious about a complete ban and do not want to deter people from shopping in Esquimalt. Retailers also expressed their upset at not being consulted prior to the resolution being presented to Council.

Councillor Gaul noted the Esquimalt Chamber of Commerce is willing to post an information bulletin on their web site and provide educational material to its members.

Joint Parks and Recreation Meeting

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee have not yet met. A meeting can be coordinated once the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee has the opportunity to meet and discuss their work plan.

Councillor Gaul noted the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee is currently working on re-evaluating the vision of their committee.

Outfall

Awaiting response from the municipal engineering department regarding the request for an outfall map and follow-up with DND on their investigation in to the outfall.

Co-Chair Dill noted he has been in contact with a DND civilian contactor and the name of a contact at DND has been provided to him. This contact information has been provided to Ms. Lagoa to provide to the Township of Esquimalt Director of Engineering and Public Works. Co-Chair Dill also noted it has not rained for a significant amount of time and a substantial amount of water continues to come out of the outfall.

Blair Irwin reported he received good information from the Capital Regional District. A phone number to report concerns is listed on each outfall. The phone number is directed to PEP (Provincial Emergency Program) and the operator will request the outfall number and what the concern is. Mr. Irwin could not report on protocol after the concern is reported. It is the responsibility of the municipality to determine the source of contaminants coming out of outfalls. The protocol for identification needs to be improved and the CRD noted they are in the process of improving this process. It was also noted a request can be made to the CRD to notify the municipality whenever instances occur.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Mark Salter, Chair

This 25th day of March, 2010