



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 27, 2011
7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, Municipal Hall

PRESENT: Michael Hill, Chair
Mark Salter, Vice Chair
Councillor Don Linge
Donald Kramer
Carole Witter
Blair Irwin
Larry Dill

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

REGRETS: Councillor Alison Gaul
Annie Do
Chris Zegger-Murphy

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hill called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Linge, seconded by Larry Dill that the agenda of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of October 27, 2011 be approved as presented.
The motion **CARRIED**.

4. MINUTES

(1) Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting, September 22, 2011

Moved by Donald Kramer, seconded by Vice Chair Salter that the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of September 22, 2011 be approved as presented.
The motion **CARRIED**.

5. NEW BUSINESS

(1) Remaining 2011 Committee Budget Funds

Committee members discussed how to allocate the remaining funds in their 2011 budget. Suggestions included:

- Purchase of a bicycle and trailer to be utilized for municipal business / events by staff and committee members
- Mobile environmental information kiosk for community events for promotion
- Promotional modular display unit and materials
- Additional water refilling station somewhere in the municipality
- 2012 Royal Roads University student projects administration fees
- Implementation of the shopping bag strategy / education / open houses / promotional material

Moved by Vice Chair Salter, seconded by Donald Kramer that the following resolution be forwarded to Council:

WHEREAS The Environmental Advisory Committee has a balance of approximately \$1,800 remaining in its 2011 Committee budget with no further expected expenses for the 2011 fiscal year, and

WHEREAS A shopping bag reduction program has been introduced and the development of a green event strategy has been initiated in 2011;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Environmental Advisory Committee respectfully requests Council to approve a carry forward of the remaining \$1,800 from the 2011 committee budget for utilization in 2012 to assist in the successful implementation of the shopping bag reduction program and the development of a green event strategy.
The motion **CARRIED**.

(2) Memorandum from Marlene Lagoa, dated October 20, 2011, Re: Referral from Council – Feeding of Wildlife

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison provided the committee with background on the memorandum noting Council was requesting further input on developing education and signage around feeding wildlife. Committee members discussed the need for increased education and awareness of issues pertaining to wildlife. It was suggested municipal staff research how other municipalities are dealing with similar issues.

The discussion raised questions about the focus on only two of the potentially problematic species (e.g., not raccoons, gulls, crows, feral cats) as well as the challenges of defining the situation for enforcement. For example, would 'feeding' apply only to presenting food to the animal directly or would it also include putting food out into the environment, possibly for other non-target species, where it may then be eaten by the target species. The question of whether the bylaw applied only to grey squirrels and not red squirrels was also raised.

Moved by Carole Witter, seconded by Blair Irwin that the following resolution be forwarded to Council:

WHEREAS The Environmental Advisory Committee supports the introduction of bylaws to prohibit the feeding of squirrels and deer where an education and awareness program is included as an integral component of an overall strategy to reduce the feeding of squirrels and deer and the issues created by such feeding, and

WHEREAS The Environmental Advisory Committee lacks the resources to prepare an education and sign program related to this bylaw;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Environmental Advisory Committee would accept a role in reviewing any proposed education and awareness program.
The motion **CARRIED**.

6. WORK PLAN ITEMS

(1) Centennial Celebrations Project – Centennial Trees

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison reported she discussed the concept of a centennial tree project with the Director of Parks and Recreation and the Director recommended the committee focus on encouraging citizens to plant trees on private property to increase the urban forest.

Committee members discussed the initiative noting the following:

- Create a registry to keep track of where trees are planted; this would become part of the legacy

- Utilize one of the centennial sponsors – Browns the Florist as a source for trees
- Utilize municipal buying power to purchase trees and develop educational materials

Councillor Linge requested the committee receive feedback from the Parks and Recreation Department on whether they support the initiative and to determine what role, if any, Browns the Florist can play in the initiative. Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison will follow-up and report back at the next meeting.

7. REPORT FROM STAFF LIAISON

(1) CRD Student Climate Challenge – Ready, Set, Solve

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison noted the CRD Student Climate Challenge – Ready, Set, Solve, is an extra-curricular project for prizes. The student team will develop a plan; branding (signage wording, brochure); policy, conduct background research and produce a final report. The students have six more weeks to work on the project with the final report due on December 2nd. The project objectives include developing a plan that outlines current conditions, processes for change and future conditions and ways to influence participation.

(2) 2012 Royal Roads University Student Projects Update

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison reported she will know at the November 23rd meeting if the committee's 2012 projects were successful in being selected. Ms. Lagoa noted the 2012 project application fees have been paid for from the 2011 committee budget. Ms. Lagoa further noted the 2011 reports were received by Council and the report recommendations will be considered during the 2012 municipal strategic planning sessions. Ms. Lagoa will be making a presentation to the Esquimalt Chamber of Commerce on November 8th and meeting with the Esquimalt Residents Association to review and provide information on the status of the plastic bag free initiative. Ms. Lagoa noted she discussed the lack of an opportunity to provide feedback on the projects with the Royal Roads University instructor. The instructor noted this was the first time a request for the opportunity to provide feedback has been received.

Ms. Lagoa reported she received communication from the BC Sustainable Energy Association about the Climate Action Showdown School program for grades 4 – 7. This is the first year the association can deliver the program in French and the association is in need of assistance in finding contacts at local schools that can assist in championing and introducing the program into the schools. If committee members have any contacts that would be interested in championing the program, please provide them to Ms. Lagoa. Vice Chair Salter and Blair Irwin indicated they could provide information about the program to the Principle of L'Ecole Victor-Brodeur school. The association was successful in obtaining a local grant from the municipality to assist with delivering the program. Ms. Lagoa will email additional information to committee members.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

(1) Letter from Russ Smith, dated October 3, 2011, Re: Kitchen Scraps Diversion Program for Businesses

Committee members reviewed the letter.

(2) Email from Sharalynn Lyons, dated October 10, 2011, Re: Rockheights Middle School Green Space Program

Marlene Lagoa, Staff Liaison reviewed the email noting the Finance Department has provided Ms. Lyons with a local grant application. A completed application has not been returned to date.

Vice Chair Salter will contact Ms. Lyons to collect additional information and report back to the committee.

9. **COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements.

10. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be November 24, 2011.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Michael Hill, Chair

This 24th day of November, 2011