

NWEP Meeting

Feb 18, 2009

Meeting called to order @ 7:10pm

Introduction – 18 people in attendance

Review of minutes

- No issues found, minutes accepted

Society Formation discussion (Tristan leading discussion)

- Review of "Mission Statement" for the society which will be filed with the province

Final edit after discussion:

- 1) To work with residents, businesses and government agencies, to achieve environmental, social and economic sustainability in New Westminster.
- 2) To achieve this through identification of issues, education, public advocacy, the promotion of best practices and the implementation of effective projects.

- A lively discussion about constitution amendments ensued

- A motion was put forward to empower Tristan to take the feedback he's received and format the final constitution and begin filing the society papers

- It was decided to hold a meeting within the next week to hash out the final details of the constitution

- An email will be sent out to solicit nominations for the board of the society

In the Community

Pesticide Awareness

- the city held a pesticide by-law consultation meeting with good attendance to seek feedback on the proposed cosmetic pesticide ban

- There will be a Parent Education Night on Feb 24th which NWEP has been invited with the Cancer Society to present information on cosmetic pesticides and their dangers

Anti-Idling By-law

- Brigitte has been working with Jennifer from the city about the outreach campaign

- They re defining what the campaign will involve

- Brigitte will be seeking volunteers for these initiatives when they are formalized

- They will involve education and idling counts

Environment Advisory Committee meeting

- The by-monthly city committee meeting recently occurred

- Peter gave a report on some of the topics discussed

Kruger Gasification Plant

- The EAC was asked to review a proposal by Kruger to replace their natural gas furnace with a gasification plant for wood waste

Opportunities for Community Involvement

- We signed up over a dozen members at Volunteer Fest
- We have been invited to Show and Shine this year to distribute anti-idling information
- Green Drinks is ongoing monthly at the Heritage Grill on the first Wednesday of every month
- There has been growing discussion about food security in the city with multiple groups coming together to establish community gardens

Community Gardens

- NW has some existing composting programs
- Council seems supportive of the idea, there has yet to be any solid action
- There are about four different groups advocating for community gardens in the city, Gavin and Jeremy will help facilitate these groups to begin communicating to get the ball rolling

Earth Hour

- Brigitte has brought up Earth Hour this year
- She's looking for help promoting it in the city and ideas for events at this year's Earth Hour
- March 28, 2009, 8:30pm this year
- The Orange Room has expressed an interest in the past about participating in an Earth Hour event
- Making a delegation to council about the event to help get the word out
- The City has said they are looking at participating this year

Enviro Expo

- The idea is a sub-event has something like Hyack where we could promote environmental technologies for individual home owners – a local level of the "Green Living Show."
- It seems too large for the City level and a fair amount of resources we don't have the ability to make happen at this point
- The idea has been shelved for the year

Raffle/Fundraising

- The idea was some kind of 50-50 style raffle for some energy efficient product like a solar water heater
- However half the city is multi-unit dwellings
- What happens if not enough tickets are sold?
- What are the legalities of such a fundraising effort?
- This is probably something to look at in the future but the timing isn't right at this point

Website

- Nothing to report

Newsletter

- Matt Lorenzi has expressed interest in establishing a newsletter
- What would be in this newsletter?
- If people would be interested in participating please contact Matt Lorenzi

Ideas from Previous Meetings

Waste and recycling

- Could the NW Recycling Depot be expanded to become a resource recovery centre instead?
- A lot of reusable items are seen going through the NW recycling depot
- There is no Styrofoam recycling, the fellow running the recycling depot figures he could fill a large bin with it every few days
- Jane Armstrong was asked if she could do some research and create a policy position on recycling and waste management

NWSS High School

- A city staff member said they're quite positive the province has mandated all new schools must be LEED Gold or better
- We must go to a school board meeting to find out more information directly from the school board

Action Items

- Tristan will organize a society meeting next week
- Jane is going to gather information about garbage reduction and recycling reclaiming
- Peter is going to investigate further about the Kruger proposal
- Tristan will send out an email calling for nomination for directors of the new NWEPS society
- Jeremy, Gavin, Ginny and David will be working on organizing food security meetings and advocating for community gardens
- Matt Lorenzi will be looking in to starting a newsletter

Meeting Adjourned – 9:10pm