

## **NWEP Minutes**

**September 25, 2008**

**Meeting called to order @ 7:00pm**

**Introduction – 12 people in attendance**

**Review of T-E-A committees**

**Transportation**

NW Station

- A crosswalk has been installed
- it's not as nice as the diagrams, but functional and helping solve the pedestrian safety issue

**Agriculture**

Bokashi Method Compositing

- a natural microbe you add to vegetables which pickles the vegetables to prevent flies and odour when composting
- Beth will investigate further and report back

**Energy**

Renewable energy

- Marshall has been speaking to people about tidal and it has been implemented in similar situations in Europe

Waste to Energy

- Interesting technology with possibilities, however there are many questions remaining such as how to encourage reducing waste rather than simply throwing it in an incinerator
- Resource recovery should be the focus, rather than continuing to mine for new materials

**Outreach Activities**

Past Events

- we've attended a number of events over the summer and connected with many residents
- they come to us for information about how to recycle various items and such, not necessarily to join NWEP
- we tried an interesting event, a blind taste test of bottled water verse filtered tap water, and the majority of people picked filtered tap water

Events:

- Sapperton Day
- FraserFest
- Quayside Community Board Festival and Sidewalk Sale
- Queensborough Urban Farmers Market
- Douglas College student orientation

Events coming up:

September 28 – Rhythms of the River (Quayside Market)

October 4 – NW Family Day (Royal City Centre)

Other ideas:

Float in Santa Claus Parade (alternative energy vehicle?)

### **Forming a Society**

- Ken and Tristan were working on the issue however Ken was accepted to Dalhousie and can no longer assist and Tristan is too busy with his new fatherhood
- We'll put this on the back burner until late fall as that we have too many other issues to deal with at the moment
- However Martin, Gavin, Marion, Andrew and Matthew have agreed to assist with this issue

### **Ecco Economic Density & Heritage Revitalization Agreements**

Martin made a presentation about an idea he's been developing

Current zoning doesn't allow flexibility with respect to property lines and easements when protecting items such as trees

Current bylaws don't allow easements for geothermal piping shared between houses

Create "environmental initiative agreements," similar to heritage revitalization agreements which put renewable energy and similar initiatives in to bylaws

Forming a committee to explore ideas for green zoning

### **Gateway Project**

What is NWEF's position on Gateway?

- basis for urgency is a protest in Surrey this weekend
- Perhaps since the project is so large, should we be taking position on individual components instead?
- PM2, truck route through New Westminster, etc
- Is a freeway along the NW water front good for New Westminster?
- Experience with Gateway meetings is there is no willingness to accept feedback from public
- Do we want more cars and trucks on our roads?
- Is that even financially logical given the rising cost of fossil fuel?
- The name Gateway, more trade for the sake of more trade, is that a philosophy to live by?

### **Election Activities**

- Do we want to get involved with the civic or federal election?
- Do we want to have an all candidates meeting for the civic election?
- What would be the objective?
- Could we just have a survey for candidates instead?
- Gavin will lead a sub-committee to organize an event
- Members put together a simple vote attitudes survey about environmental issues and elections and are looking for feedback
- A member has committed to putting together a candidate questionnaire for the civic election
- Should we have a questionnaire for school board candidates too? Zero-waste lunches?

### **Coming Issue**

- We'll go back to this after the election

### **Action Items**

- Voters Attitudes Survey – feedback to Andrew by the weekend
- Gavin will look in to an all candidates meeting
- Continuing to look at forming a society, after the election
- Building code greening, after the election (Marshall & Martin)

**Adjourned at 8:56pm**