



Corporation of the City of  
**NEW WESTMINSTER**

**Residents' Association Forum**

**7:15pm – Wednesday, February 19, 2014**  
**Committee Room No. 2 – City Hall**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Harper, Chair  
Councillor McIntosh  
Councillor Puchmayr  
Elmer Rudolph, West End Residents' Association  
Catherine Cartwright, McBride-Sapperton Residents' Association  
Dave Brett, Queen's Park Residents' Association  
Jason Lesage, Massey-Victory Heights Residents' Association  
Penny McIvor, Quayside Community Board  
Andrew Baker, Moody Park Resident's Association  
Tom Lockhart, Glenbrooke Resident's Association

**ABSENT**

Mayor Wright  
Matt Lorenzi, Brow of the Hill Residents' Association  
Jocelyn Smith, Downtown Residents' Association  
Kris Taylor, Connaught Heights Residents' Association  
Dean Wells, Queensborough Residents' Association

**STAFF**

Jim Lowrie, Director of Engineering Services  
Eugene Wat, Manager of Infrastructure Planning  
Stephanie Lam, Council and Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 7:21pm.

**1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

The agenda was amended by:

- Removing item 4.2;
- Adding new item 4.4 – New Westminster Truck Routes Open House;
- Adding new item 5.2 – Railway Report;
- Adding new item 5.3 – Family Day Update.

## 2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

### 2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of October 30, 2013

Stephanie Lam, Council and Committee Clerk, advised that a copy of the PowerPoint presentation provided by the City's Transportation Engineer has been forwarded for information, and will be attached to the minutes for the record.

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the October 30, 2013 minutes be amended as follows:*

- Page 2, under adoption of the minutes, that the amendment to item 6.1 of the June 26, 2013 note:
  - *Discussion continued, and **a member of the Forum** expressed support of the proposed facility, noting that the Facility would support the economy through job increases, and by not providing the economic opportunity to other organizations. Further, it was noted that the health and environment concerns expressed may be exaggerated.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

## 3.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 3.1 Informational Brochure - Distribution

Stephanie Lam, Council and Committee Clerk, announced that the Residents' Association Brochures have been finalized, and distributed one packages of 50 to the members. Ms. Lam advised that she would contact those absent from the meeting and make arrangements for the brochures to be forwarded to the respective groups.

With respect to distribution, the following comments were noted:

- The Directors of Library Services and Parks, Culture, and Recreation have been contacted with respect to making the brochures available at the public facilities;
- The brochures will be made available at the Public Library, including the Queensborough Branch;
- A copy of the brochure has been made available online for the public to access;
- Brochures were made available on the City's Information Table at the Family Day Event held on February 10, 2014.
- Staff will publish additional copies on an as-needed basis, noting that Communications is the main point of contact when submitting an order.

Discussion ensued and members of the Forum provided the following comments:

- The boundary for the Quayside Community Board requires clarification, and it was requested that the map on the informational brochure be amended at the next re-print;
- It was noted that the Glenbrooke North boundaries is not consistently reflected on Residents' Association maps.

Staff advised that an update regarding the boundaries will be provided the next Residents' Association Forum meeting.

## **4.0 NEW BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Committee Orientation Update – Stephanie Lam, Council and Committee Clerk**

- **Revised Rules of Conduct**

Ms. Lam provided a reminder with respect to the Rules of Conduct, and spoke to the following amendment:

- Following adoption, minutes will be posted to the City's website under "Committees". It was noted that Council formalized the direction to staff in the Fall of 2013.

- **Revised Social Media Policy**

Ms. Lam advised that an amendment was made to the Policy in October 2013. Questions regarding the Policy can be forwarded to the Human Resources Department.

- **Freedom of Information Permission Form**

Ms. Lam advised that the Freedom of Information Form must be completed annually. Ms. Lam requested signed copies of the form be submitted as soon as possible.

### **4.2 Development Services Update – Bev Grieve, Director of Development Services**

- **Laneway Housing**
- **Larco Project**
- **Heritage and Demolition Update**
- **Official Community Plan Update**

Item 4.2 was deferred to the next RA Forum meeting.

### **4.3 Pattullo Bridge Update – Jim Lowrie, Director of Engineering Services**

Jim Lowrie, Director of Engineering Services, provided an oral update regarding the Pattullo Bridge and noted the following:

- The TransLink Board is a Provincial legislative requirement, noting that members are appointed by the Ministry, and that the Board is endorsed by the Mayor's Council;
- It was suggested that information conveyed on TransLink's website regarding the Pattullo Bridge project could be incorrect.

### **4.4 New Westminster Truck Route Open House (On Table)**

Jim Lowrie, Director of Engineering Services, and Eugene Wat, Manager of Infrastructure Planning, distributed a presentation (attached) regarding the proposed amendments to the New Westminster Truck Routes.

Discussion ensued throughout the presentation, and staff provided the following information in response to questions and comments of the Forum:

- Trucks commuting from the south side of the Fraser River are travelling through New Westminster enroute to their destinations;
- Traffic counts were conducted utilizing a computer simulated based model, and it was reported that there has been an increase of approximately 60% in traffic since the implementation of tolls on the Port Mann Bridge;
- The increase of truck traffic has contributed to the depreciation of Royal Avenue;
- TransLink holds the final authority with respect to making decisions regarding the Pattullo Bridge project, adding that the proposed increase in lanes will exacerbate the existing traffic issues in the City;
- There has been an approximate 1-2% decrease in traffic on Royal Avenue since the opening of the South Fraser Perimeter Road;
- TransLink has no written policy with respect to the banning of vehicles on crossings; however, Provincial legislation notes that all decisions regarding TransLink infrastructure requires approval from the TransLink Board. As a result, TransLink is in the process of developing a policy as they consider the City of New Westminster's proposal to close truck routes;
- Statistics and analysis revealed that traffic on McBride has increased approximately 10%, while traffic on Royal Avenue has increased approximately 40%. The timeline reveals that the increases became notable when Port Mann tolling was implemented;
- It was noted that Council has requested information and data with respect to the origin and destination of travelling trucks and vehicles; however, the modelling to conduct that type of analysis is not available;

Discussion continued, and members of the Forum provided the following comments:

- The increase of truck movement in New Westminster has negatively impacted the livability, noting that the noise and rumbings from the vehicles are felt by nearby residents;
- It was noted that the excess truck traffic along Royal Avenue may not be a result of Port Mann Bridge tolling;
- It was noted that the statistics regarding the increase of traffic on Royal Avenue and McBride Boulevard should be brought forward to TransLink as a supporting argument for the removal of truck routes as well as the Pattullo Bridge project;
- It was noted that truck dispatchers are responsible for the routes taken by the drivers, and suggested that the trucking companies be requested to provide data regarding origin, destination, and routes.

Members of Council present at the Forum advised that the Mayor's Council will be considering the truck route matters and making a recommendation to the TransLink Board.

With respect to communications, it was suggested that since the extension of United Boulevard and the North Fraser Perimeter, that that Lower Mainland has become aware of the increasing traffic issues.

Moving forward, it was noted that a staff will be providing an update to Council on March 3, 2014. It was noted that the proposal to remove the truck routes would be consistent with the Official Community Plan. With respect to a communication and request strategy, a member of the Forum suggested that the City bring forward their requests to TransLink in phases. Discussion continued and a member of the Forum suggested that it may be best to present the City's request in one package.

## **5.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

### **5.1. Reports to Council from the Residents' Association Forum (for receipt)**

The following reports were considered by Council on January 20, 2014 and received by the Forum:

- a) Request for Increased Traffic Enforcement (First St. and Royal Ave.)**
- b) Meeting Facilities for Residents' Association Meetings**

## 5.2. Railway Report (On Table)

Councillor Puchmayr, Chair of the Railway Community Advisory Panel, provided an update regarding the City's Railways and noted the following:

- A memorandum of understanding has been signed with Southern Rail with respect to whistle cessation and it was noted that engineering staff will soon commence the planning phase;
- RCAP is discussing options for consolidating some of the rail crossings in Queensborough as well as the crossing in Sapperton;
- With respect to the Sapperton crossing, it was suggested that whistle cessation should be able to be implemented as the crossing is gated;
- It was reported that whistle cessation for the Begbie Street crossing has been approved by all four rail users;

It was noted that once the engineering report is complete and the required bodies have signed the agreements, work can commence on implementing whistle cessation.

With respect to the Quayside crossing, it was reported that the four railway companies are working together to develop consistent protocols for picking-up and dropping-off cargo at this location.

Discussion ensued and the following information was provided in response to questions and comments:

- It is federal law that the whistles must be used when using a crossing (including late evening hours), adding that "short" whistles are actually a violation of existing protocol;
- It was acknowledged that enhanced pedestrian safety systems are required at the crossings, particularly for the crossings with no gates, lights, or queuing;
- The City will draft an anti-whistle bylaw to address the parameters of whistle cessation. Once the bylaw is adopted, the City will assume liability of the crossing, adding that the railway crossings will be included in the City's insurance policy;
- A HASMAT response team will be trained in the City to address chemical and truck accidents.

### 5.3 Family Day (On Table)

Councillor McIntosh, Chair of the Family Court Committee, provided an update regarding the Family Day event held on Monday, February 10, 2014 at the River Market and Fraser River Discovery Centre. The following information was reported:

- Over 4000 people were in attendance;
- The Anvil Centre will be added as a venue for the 2015 event;
- Various activities were hosted at the River Market and the Fraser River Discovery Centre;
- It was noted that the Provincial Government provided funding to assist in supporting the events.

### 5.4 Residents' Associations Member Reports

**McBride-Sapperton Residents' Association** reported that traffic concerns continue to be an issue in Sapperton. It was noted that the RA has also expressed concerns regarding the Official Community Plan with respect to how the OCP will impact Sapperton.

**Glenbrooke North Residents' Association** reported that the traffic along East Eighth Street continue to be an issue for residents commuting in the area.

**West End Residents' Association** reported that the West End is experiencing increases in traffic, noting that there has been congestion along Tenth Avenue between Eighth and Twelfth Street over the weekends.

**Queen's Park Residents' Association** reported that the RA held their Annual General Meeting, noting that the most of the officers and directors will be returning for another term.

**Massey Victory Heights Residents' Association** reported that the RA held their Annual General Meeting. It was noted that the proposed intersection at the crosswalk of Eighth Street has been discussed, and the RA commended City staff for their efforts in communicating the proposal to the RA. It was noted that the majority of the RA members at the meeting were not in support of the crossing; however, appreciated the engagement process. The RA advised that they are interested in additional information regarding laneway housing.

**Quayside Community Board (QCB)** reported that the Annual General Meeting was held and all officers will serve another term. The QCB has noticed a decrease in train noise, and thanked those working on whistle cessation.

**Moody Park Residents' Association** advised that the RA is preparing for their Annual General Meeting. Topics of interest and discussion amongst the RA have been the increase in traffic, housing demolitions, as well as laneway housing.

Following member reports, the RA requested that staff investigate the policy on sending proxies as representatives to Committee meetings, including the RA forum. It was noted that attendance may increase if RAs were permitted to send proxies.

#### **6.0 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

It was requested that item 4.2 be rescheduled, and that an update be provided regarding attendance and proxies for Committee meetings.

#### **7.0 NEXT MEETING**

**7:00pm, Wednesday, May 21, 2014 – Committee Room No. 2, City Hall**

It was noted that May 21, 2014 is the City's May Day event. Staff advised that they would poll the Forum with an alternate date (likely May 14, 2014).

#### **8.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, the meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Certified Correct,

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**COUNCILLOR HARPER  
CHAIR**

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**STEPHANIE LAM  
COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CLERK**