



Residents' Association Forum

7:00pm-9:00pm – Wednesday, May 14, 2014
Committee Room No. 2 – City Hall

MINUTES

PRESENT

Councillor Harper, Chair
Councillor McIntosh
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
Christopher Bell, Moody Park Resident's Association
Tom Lockhart, Glenbrooke Resident's Association
Diane Butler, Downtown Residents' Association
Mike Bohn, Connaught Heights Residents' Association
Gavin McLeod, West End Residents' Association (on behalf of E. Rudolph)

ABSENT

Mayor Wright
Councillor Puchmayr
Matt Lorenzi, Brow of the Hill Residents' Association
Elmer Rudolph, West End Residents' Association
David Laurie Moore, Queensborough Residents' Association

STAFF

Jennifer Wilson, Assistant Director of Parks, Culture, and Recreation
Bev Grieve, Director of Development Services
Diane Perry, Manager of Community Development
Stephanie Lam, Council and Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

The agenda was amended by:

- Adding new item 4.3 – proposed amendment to the Residents' Association Guidelines (Alternates)
- Adding new item 4.4 – Off Leash Dog Parks

4.3 Proposed Amendment to the Residents' Association Guidelines (Alternates)

Stephanie Lam, Council and Committee Clerk, spoke to the subject of designates and alternates attending Residents' Association Forum meetings. Discussion ensued and the following comments were noted:

- Designates/Alternates should be determined by the President of the RA;
- Designates/Alternates should attend RA Forum meetings when the President is unavailable;
- The Designate/Alternate should be responsible for updating the President with respect to the outcomes of Forum discussions prior to the next meeting
- Names of Presidents and Alternates should be provided to the City following the Annual General Meeting to ensure the contact/distribution lists are up-to-date.

For reference purposes, the existing guidelines are noted as follows:

Forum with Council – A three person panel of Councillors will meet three times per year with the President and/or designates of the City's Residents' Associations. Associations are encouraged to provide regular written updates of the association activities to Council for their information.

Discussion continued, and members of the Forum suggested that the text "and/or designates" be amended to reference one alternate or designate.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the following proposed amendment be brought forward to Council for approval:

***Forum with Council** – A three person panel of Councillors will meet three times per year with the President or alternate of the City's Residents' Associations. Associations are encouraged to provide regular written updates of the association activities to Council for their information.*

CARRIED.

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

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of February 19, 2014

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the February 19, 2014 Residents' Association Forum minutes be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Parks, Culture and Recreation Update – Parks, Culture, and Recreation

Residents' Association Access to Civic Facilities (Report considered at the April 7, 2014 Committee of the Whole/Regular Council meeting)

Jennifer Wilson, Assistant Director of Parks, Culture, and Recreation, and Diane Perry, Manager of Community Development, summarized the Council report dated April 7, 2014 regarding Residents' Association Access to Civic Facilities.

To book a civic facility, Ms. Wilson suggested that RA's contact the facility or administrative office within three months of the required date. It was noted that there could be more availability of venue space during the weeknights; however, if the desired venue is not available to book, staff will check for availability for alternate spaces.

Discussion ensued, and the following information was noted in response to questions and comments of the Forum:

- Due to programming offered at the various civic facilities each season, the City cannot accommodate booking rooms one year in advance;
- The Anvil Centre may be a meeting space option once the facility opens in the fall;
- The Shops at New West have expressed interest in working with the community and has provided a community room to groups and organizations requiring a meeting space;
- Churches will often provide meeting space for a nominal fee;
- It was noted that schools should no longer be recommended as a meeting space, noting that the fees to rent and staff the building are costly for a small organization;
- It was noted that the estimated cost for renting a civic multi-purpose room on a weeknight is approximately \$16 per hour. Staff added that a minimum booking of four hours is generally applied for weekend use;
- Attendance at an RA meeting can range from 20-80 people depending on the agenda;
- It was suggested that the Queen's Park Board Room located by the Rose Garden be considered as a venue for future RA meetings.

Members of the Forum expressed concerns with respect to the City requiring advanced payment for use of the facilities. Staff advised that advanced payments

has been a long-standing City Policy, acknowledging that it may not have been consistently enforced in the past.

Discussion continued and it was noted that providing civic space for free could potentially result in a loss of revenue as paid bookings could be turned down if already reserved by a community group free of charge. Moving forward, the Forum suggested that the bylaw for charging Residents' Associations a booking fee be revisited. Staff invited members of the RA to contact the City for details with respect to booking facility space for their future meetings.

Anvil Centre and Wait for me Daddy Memorial Update

Ms. Wilson announced that staff are working towards hosting an Anvil Centre opening event in September 2014. It was noted that the City hopes to host various activities and entertainment that will showcase the versatility of the facility, noting that the Anvil Centre is home to music studios, theatres, a new media gallery, the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame, and much more.

As the planning moves forward, it was noted that community arts and cultural groups have been consulted, and staff are looking at options for partnering at the Anvil Centre.

With respect to the "Wait for me Daddy War Memorial Project", it was announced that the unveiling event will take place on October 4, 2014.

4.2 Development Services Update – Director of Development Services

Bev Grieve, Director of Development Services, announced that the Planning Institute of British Columbia has awarded the City of New Westminster for their Secure Market Housing policy.

Laneway Housing

Ms. Grieve advised that the City is in the research phase with respect to the subject of laneway housing. As part of the process, staff has been investigation how other municipalities have addressed this subject, and how it has been received in their communities. It was noted that public consultation will likely commence in the Fall, and Ms. Grieve spoke to the importance of receiving input from the various residents' associations.

Discussion ensued and it was suggested that the proposed policy be specific to heritage homes and certain neighbourhoods. It was also suggested that permitting laneway housing could encourage owners to demolish their existing homes in order to maximize their property with a laneway house; as a result, property values could increase significantly.

Discussion continued, and it was suggested that unless there is a site condition that would prohibit the ability for laneway housing, that all neighbourhoods be included in the policy. It was also noted that if laneway or coach housing were permitted, that adequate parking be made available for the dwelling.

In response to comments from the Forum, Ms. Grieve noted the following:

- There has been no decisions made with respect which neighbourhoods the proposed policy would be applied;
- A laneway house would have a liveable detached dwelling on one lot;
- Laneway houses cannot be sold individually as that is considered a subdivision;
- Heritage Revitalization Agreements projects provide owners with incentives, such as property subdivision, to preserve the heritage a home;
- A corner lot without a lane may also qualify for laneway or coach housing if there is external access to the dwelling.

Larco Project

Ms. Grieve summarized the on-table submission dated May 14, 2014 titled "Proposed Waterfront Vision Concept Plan – 660 Quayside Drive" and noted the following with respect to the project:

- The City and Larco has been working through a collaborative process with respect to developing a project on the site;
- The number of persons per unit has not yet been established; however, it is estimated that it could be 1.5 persons per unit;
- Further details regarding the square footage of the suites will be available when the project's rezoning application is considered by Council;
- Whistle cessation was considered during the site planning phase of the project;
- The project proposes to provide approximately 80 publically accessible parking stalls;
- It was noted that a zoning amendment is required for the development of the towers;
- It was reported that the City's Senior Social Planner has been conducting a neighbourhood study which focusses on housing options for families;
- It was noted that the massing of the building provides the City with options to negotiate for open space (eg: parks and green space).

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

- The use of truck routes has created significant traffic congestion throughout the City. It was noted that potential residents of the proposed development may be disappointed to learn of the ongoing traffic issues in the area;

- It was suggested that the proposed project include a school for the potential children residing in the development;
- Concerns were expressed with respect to the safety of crosswalks, noting that the high volume and speed of vehicles could pose a danger to children living and playing in the area;
- Concerns were expressed for the lack of family dwellings available for young families in the City. It was suggested that large residential towers could reduce the feeling of “family oriented” neighbourhoods, which could be a loss for the city;
- It was suggested that the project consider the mooring of boats along the river;

Heritage and Demolition Update

Ms. Grieve summarized the details noted in the two on-table submissions titled “Queen’s Park Neighbourhood Heritage Study – Where are we in the process?” and “Queen’s Park Neighbourhood Heritage Study – Working Group” and provided the following comments in response to questions of the Forum:

- The establishment of a working group derived from community concerns regarding the loss of heritage in the neighbourhoods. It was noted that the increase of new housing, which didn’t fit within the existing character of the neighbourhoods, was also considered;
- The Lower Mainland is grappling with a loss of heritage in various neighbourhoods;
- Homes that are 50+ in age could be eligible for heritage status;
- It was noted that there is Provincial legislation in place which prohibits the City from stopping the demolition of houses;
- The list of buildings and homes that are scheduled to be demolished are available on the City’s website. It was noted that the Community Heritage Commission will also receive the demolition list for information at their meetings.

Discussion ensued, and the following comments were noted:

- It was suggested that one of the focusses of the Working Group could be to lobby for a change in Provincial Legislation;
- The City once considered designating a heritage district, which would have given the City control with respect to demolitions in that area. It was reported that the community feedback received was opposed to the idea and the proposal was rejected.

Official Community Plan Update

Ms. Grieve provided an On Table pamphlet titled “Official Community Plan Update” and summarized details of the project and spoke to the community consultation process.

4.4. Off Leash Dog Parks

In response to the Forum’s questions and comments regarding the status of off-leash dog parks in the City, Diane Perry, Manager of Community Development, noted the following:

- When there has been non-compliance of bylaws with respect to off-leash dogs, City staff has taken the approach of issuing a warning, first, as well as providing information with respect to what is permissible. If there is a second occurrence, a citation may be issued;
- With respect to Moody Park, it was noted that the work relative to the spray pool will not be delayed;
- The City will be conducting an assessment of each dog park in order to determine what is needed (waste receptacles, water, etc.) and the level of maintenance required.

5.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

5.1 Residents’ Associations Update (member reports)

Jason Lesage, Massey Victory Heights, announced that the neighbourhood garage sale will be taking place. Discussion ensued regarding the presence of corporate vendors at community garage sales, noting that at times, vendors will place their booth along the city boulevard. Concerns were expressed with respect to traffic hazards, as well as health and safety issues that may arise from the distribution of food without a health permit.

Penny McIvor, Quayside Community Board, announced that the Quayside Boardwalk Sale will be taking place on Saturday, August 16, 2014.

Gavin McLeod, West End Residents’ Association, reported that Chief of Police David Jones will attend the upcoming RA meeting. It was noted that concerns regarding traffic related issues, such as rat running, will be discussed.

Diane Butler, Downtown Residents’ Association, reported that the “Godzilla” movie event is taking place at the Landmark Theatres. Ms. Butler also reported that the annual community BBQ will be taking place in the neighbourhood, as opposed to the Park, due to various construction and parking issues taking place in proximity.

Catherine Cartwright, McBride Sapperton Residents' Association, announced that Sapperton Days will be taking place on June 8, 2014. It was noted that the event will commence with a pancake breakfast hosted at Knox Presbyterian Church, and that details regarding the events will be published in the local paper.

Tom Lockhart, Glenbrooke North Residents' Association, reported that traffic continues to be an issue and concern amongst residents. Staff suggested that issues related to traffic can be forwarded to the Neighbourhood Traffic Advisory Committee through their relative liaison. Mr. Lockhart also announced that the Glenbrooke North garage sale will be taking place on June 14, 2014.

6.0 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

It was noted that suggestions for the upcoming agenda will be emailed to staff.

7.0 NEXT MEETING

Proposed next meeting:

7:00pm, Wednesday, September 10, 2014 – Committee Room No. 2, City Hall

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Certified Correct,

COUNCILLOR B. HARPER
CHAIR

STEPHANIE LAM
COUNCIL & COMMITTEE CLERK