



Residents' Association Forum

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

7:00pm-9:00pm

Committee Room No. 2, City Hall

MINUTES

PRESENT

Councillor Harper, Chair

Councillor Puchmayr

Mayor Wright

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

Councillor McIntosh

Matt Lorenzi, Brow of the Hill Residents' Association

Elmer Rudolph, West End Residents' Association

David Laurie Moore, Queensborough Residents' Association

STAFF

Blair Fryer, Manager of Communications and Economic Development

Stephanie Lam, Council and Committee Clerk

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

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of May 14, 2014

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes be approved.

CARRIED.

All members of the forum voted in favour

3.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No items.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Intelligent City Update

Blair Fryer, Manager of Economic Development, provided a PowerPoint presentation (attached) regarding the City's Intelligent City project. Throughout the presentation, the following comments were noted:

- The Intelligent City Advisory Committee's membership is comprised of local experts and City Staff;
- The City has 17KM of fibre, noting that the fibre conduit is often added to the City's electrical utility infrastructure each time ground work is conducted through the roads;
- The City hopes to lay fibre to all homes and businesses in New Westminster;
- Glass fibre allows a high volume of data to transfer through the infrastructure for those residing and working in the City;
- The fibre creates opportunity for an electronic industry in the City, and it was suggested that Financial Institutions could see New Westminster as a potential headquarters due to the access in technology;
- It was noted that the City would like to work towards achieving the Intelligent City Forum Award;
- When developments apply to build projects, it is suggested that the building be constructed with the relative fibre infrastructure;
- It was noted that over time, the City hopes that fibre network will be available to residents similar to a utility;
- Translink requires a fibre network to operate their skytrain systems. It was noted that Translink needs to negotiate the use of fibre as many span over residents' rights of ways;
- A consultant has been retained to draft a budget regarding the City's fibre network;
- It was suggested that the City could consider implementing an electronic library with the increased digital access;

Discussion ensued regarding the resistance among individuals to change to embrace new technologies. It was reported that the City is undergoing an organizational digital transformation, noting that staff is pushing to become paperless.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the PowerPoint presentation from the Manager of Communications and Economic Development be received.

CARRIED.

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

4.2 Whitecaps Proposal Update

Members of Council present reported the following with respect to the Whitecaps Proposal (the Proposal):

- The City has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to discuss the possible leasing of Queen's Park Stadium to the Whitecaps organization;
- It was reported that the league of soccer is designated as USL;
- It was reported that timing of the proposal was not ideal as it was brought forward to the City in late June;
- Council is considering the proposal in order to explore the positive and negative impacts to New Westminster;
- Significant upgrades and changes would need to be applied to Queen's Park Stadium in order to accommodate the Proposal;
- It was noted that a budget for general upgrades to the stadium had been discussed under the Queen's Park Master Plan process;
- Game Days would be hosted at Queen's Park Stadium, and practices would continue to be held at UBC;
- Open houses have been held throughout the summer in order to obtain public feedback regarding the Proposal. It was reported that members of the public have also been expressing support and concerns during Open Delegations at Council meetings.

Discussion ensued and members of the Forum expressed both comments in support and in opposition for the Proposal. Potential benefits regarding soccer programming opportunities, increased economic benefits, and community pride were discussed, while others spoke to issues such as exacerbated traffic and parking issues, road safety, and the impacts of relocating existing programming at Queen's Park stadium.

Discussion continued, and the following points were noted:

- The start date of March 2015 was established by the league, and they have been firm in not wanting to move the team mid-season (eg: starting in Swangard and relocated to New Westminster);
- The Proponent of the Project has been an advocate for New Westminster, and has presented the opportunity as an way for enhancing the City's economic and community benefits;
- It was noted that Council will make their decisions in the coming weeks as the deadline for consideration is September 15, 2014.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the oral report be received for information.

CARRIED.

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

4.3 General Updates

In response to the City's call for agenda items, the following updates were provided:

Blog Templates for Websites

Members of the Forum requested if the City could provide a template or website layout for Residents' Associations to use on their websites.

Discussion ensued and the following comments were noted:

- A template could provide a uniform look amongst all Residents' Association (RA) websites;
- Not all RAs have the technological resources to create and maintain content on their websites;
- Some existing RAs prefer the customization and uniqueness of their current websites;
- It was suggested that if a template were made, that it would be optional, not mandatory, for RAs to use.

The RA requested that this matter be discussed further at the next meeting. In preparation for the next meeting, it was suggested that members of the Forum visit each RAs existing website to assist in general discussion.

Fraser Surrey Docks Direct Coal Transfer Facility

An update will be provided at the next RA Forum.

Railway Crossing Updates

Penny McIvor, Quayside Community Board, reported that residents have noticed a decline in noise and whistle blowing along the waterfront. Councillor Puchmayr, Co-Chair of the Railway Community Advisory Panel, reported that the City continues to work towards implementing Whistle Cessation at New Westminster rail crossings, adding that the relative work and construction in the West End is almost complete.

Concerns were expressed regarding the potential noise nuisance caused by the implementation of railway crossing bells, suggesting that residence may wish to

hear a 30 second whistle as opposed to a 15 minute bell. It was clarified that a variance can be obtained which would stop the ringing bells once the train enters the plain.

It was noted that members of the Railway Community Advisory Panel will continue to work together in addressing solutions for ongoing railway issues.

Residents' Association sponsored all candidates meetings and use of Civic Facilities

Staff advised that the City will not be hosting any candidates meetings; however, civic facilities can be rented by organizations to host their events. It was clarified that while the City has no affiliations with candidate meeting events, the host of such events can provide the notice of meetings to the elections office for posting to the website.

It was reported that Queen's Park Resident's Association will be hosting an all candidates meeting on November 9, 2014.

Demolition of the Front Street Parkade

It was reported that Council will be receiving a report at the next Council meeting. The public will have access to the Committee of the Whole and Regular agenda and reports through the website on Friday.

Dog Parks in New Westminster

It was reported that the Parks, Culture, and Recreation department will be providing a report to Council in the near future with respect to the subject of dog parks.

5.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

5.1 Residents' Associations Update (member reports)

Due to time constraints, no updates were provided at the meeting.

5.2 Recruitment for 2015 Committees/Boards/Commissions/Panels

Stephanie Lam, Council and Committee Clerk, announced that the City's recruitment process for 2015 has commenced. It was noted that application forms can be found on the City's website and submitted through email, post, hand delivery, or fax.

For further information, members may contact the Legislative Services Department.

6.0 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Staff will look into making preparations for the following updates for the next RA Forum:

- Blog Templates for Websites
- Update regarding Fraser Surrey Docks Coal Transfer Facility
- Update regarding Trans Mountain Pipeline

7.0 NEXT MEETING

Proposed next meeting:

7:00pm, Wednesday, October 29, 2014 – Committee Room No. 2, City Hall

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Councillor B. Harper
Chair

Stephanie Lam
Council & Committee Clerk