

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION FORUM

**Wednesday, October 30, 2013
Committee Room No. 2**

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Councillor Harper, Chair
Councillor McIntosh, Council Representative
Elmer Rudolph, West End Residents' Association
Andrew Baker, Moody Park Residents' Association
David Brett, Queen's Park Residents' Association
Clarissa Sprancis, Glenbrooke North Residents' Association
Jason Lesage, Massey Victory Heights Residents' Association
Gavin McLeod, West End Residents' Association (non-voting)
Babar Khalid for Catherine Cartwright, McBride-Sapperton Residents' Association (non-voting)
Miles Thorogood for Jocelyn Smith, Downtown Residents' Association (non-voting)

ABSENT:

Mayor Wright, Council Representative
Councillor Puchmayr, Council Representative
Catherine Cartwright, McBride-Sapperton Residents' Association
Matt Lorenzi, Brow of the Hill Residents' Association
Penny McIvor, Quayside Community Board
Karl Brysh, Connaught Heights Residents' Association
Dean Wells, Queensborough Residents' Association

STAFF:

Jerry Behl, Transportation Engineer
Keith Coueffin, Manager of Licensing and Integrated Services
Susan Jung, Communications Coordinator
Stephanie Lam, Committee Clerk

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

The following item was added to the agenda:

- Adding new item 5.3 – Request for Increased Traffic Enforcement (First St. and Royal Ave.)
- Adding new item 5.4 – Meeting Facilities for Residents' Association Meetings

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of June 26, 2013

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the June 26, 2013 minutes be amended as follows:

- Noting “Glenbrook” as “Glenbrooke”
- The following text be added under item 6.1:
 - *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.*

AND THAT the minutes be adopted, as amended.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

No items.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Informational Brochure – S. Jung, Communications

Susan Jung, Communications Coordinator, reported that the draft of the Informational Brochure has been forwarded to all Residents’ Associations for confirmation of information, and noted the following:

- 1000 brochures will be printed;
- A PDF of the brochure will be made available on the Residents’ Association page on the City’s website;
- The City will include Facebook Pages and Twitter links to the Residents’ Association’s page located on the City’s website;
- The Brochure will be made available at Civic Facilities.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 2014 Annual Call for Volunteers – S. Lam, Legislative Services

Stephanie Lam, Committee Clerk, advised that the City's 2014 Annual Call for recruitment has commenced, and noted the following:

- The Neighbourhood Traffic Advisory Committee calls for one representative of each Residents' Association;
- Each RA, if possible, is requested to forward two nominees for the position;
- Members may apply online or by submitting their hard copy to Legislative Services;
- Questions regarding recruitment can be forwarded to the Legislative Services Department at 604 527 4523.

5.2 Pattullo Bridge Update and Master Transportation Plan Update – Engineering Services

Jerry Behl, Transportation Engineer, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Pattullo Bridge Update and the Master Transportation Plan Update (attached).

Throughout the presentation, comments were noted and staff provided the following information in response to the Forum's questions:

Master Transportation Plan:

- With respect to bus shelters, it was suggested that the shelters include a cover to protect from the natural elements;
- It was suggested that number of bike lanes be increased in the City.
- There are permanent traffic counters located across the City to monitor traffic (It was noted that a traffic Counter is located at Sixth Avenue and McBride, as well as at Royal Avenue and McBride). Additional counters could be installed in areas with high traffic volumes, such as near the Pattullo Bridge.

Pattullo Bridge:

- TransLink conducted a Public Consultation process which was not presented in a clear or collaborative manner;
- Council has communicated that they have taken the position of "no added road capacity", or "no new net increase of vehicle volume". Staff are working to ensure this message is accurately conveyed to TransLink and the public;

- Members of the Forum questioned of the City has taken a preferred option for the Pattullo Bridge project. Staff reported that the Surrey-Coquitlam option could provide a suitable connection to the Highway 1;
- TransLink must review their budget to ensure that there is adequate funding to address the maintenance required for the existing Pattullo Bridge;
- It was noted that any option for the Pattullo Bridge project will be costly, adding that affordability of the project is key to ensure the correct option is selected;
- The City of Surrey has indicated that their preferred option, to date, has been for increased lanes on the crossing (eg: proposed six-lane bridge);
- It was noted that truck volume has increased 63% since tolls were implemented on the Port Mann Bridge;
- It was suggested that staff consider implementing options (eg: one-way streets, road diverters, traffic calming, etc.) to mitigate “rat-running” vehicles.

Discussion continued, and members of the Forum questioned of the Braid Street Bailey Bridge could be eliminated if a Surrey-Coquitlam option moves forward. Staff advised that the Braid Street connection must remain as it provides access and support to the industrial area. Staff also noted that the existing railroad tracks restrict the access/exit to the Braid Street Industrial area.

Mr. Behl advised that Council, and the City, must be comfortable with the proposed options prior to entering into public consultation. It was noted that the City has requested TransLink to delay the consultation process.

Members of the Forum advised that the City’s neighbourhoods (eg: Sapperton and Queen’s Park), have been drastically affected by the increase in truck traffic, adding that the livability of the residents has also decreased. Members of Council reported that they have taken a strong stand with respect to “no added road capacity”, noting that ten recommendations were brought forward to the October 7, 2013 Regular Council meeting expressing Council’s concerns.

5.3 Request for Increased Traffic Enforcement at First St. and Royal Ave. (On Table)

David Brett, Queen’s Park, conveyed concerns regarding the lack of traffic enforcement within the restricted left hand turning hours eastbound off of First Street onto Royal Avenue. It was noted that upon observation, many travelers continue to turn left despite the restricted left-hand turning hours as there are no consequences for disobeying the sign.

Members of Council present advised that in addition to the City’s Traffic Enforcement Division, that the New Westminster Police Department may also enforce the rules of traffic and issue tickets.

Members of the Forum agreed that the lack of traffic enforcement provides negative effects on neighbourhood livability. It was suggested that a recommendation be brought forward to Council requesting that the Police Department increase traffic enforcement during the designated hours with respect to the intersection at First Street and Royal Avenue.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council request the Police Department to increase traffic enforcement with respect to left hand turns eastbound off of First Street onto Royal Avenue, during the restricted hours posted on the traffic sign.

CARRIED.

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

5.4 Meeting Facilities for Residents' Association Meetings (On Table)

Members of the Forum advised that recent RA meetings have been hosted at Century House, noting that the location and the amenities have worked well for the neighbourhood. Members reported that the cost for renting the facility is approximately \$40, and it was requested that the Parks and Recreation Department investigate options for providing meeting space, such as Century House, to the RAs at no cost.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council request the Parks, Culture, and Recreation Department to investigate options for facilitating Residents' Association meetings at no cost (eg: Century House).

CARRIED.

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

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Councillor McIntosh, Chair of the Family Court Committee, advised that Family Day will be held on Monday, February 10, 2014 at the Fraser River Discovery Centre and the River Market. It was suggested that the RAs work together to host an activity. Members of the Forum suggested that if the brochure were prepared by the time the Event was hosted, that it be made available at the City's information table.

Elmer Rudolph, President of the West End Residents' Association, questioned the length of time members of the public may speak during Council Open Delegations. Staff advised that each member of the public may provide a five minute delegation. Those wishing to speak must arrive early to complete an Open Delegation Form, which is available in the Council Chamber prior to 7:00pm.

Councillor Harper, Chair of the Residents' Association Forum, requested that "Items for Upcoming Agendas" be included on future agendas. The Forum was requested to bring forward ideas for the February meeting, and the following suggestions were noted:

- Heritage and Demolition update
- Cityscape and OCP update
- Anvil Centre Update
- Update on the Downtown Fire
- Overpass to Westminster Pier Park
- Pedestrian Crossing from Quayside to Queensborough

7.0 NEXT MEETING

7:00pm, Wednesday, February 26, 2014 – Committee Room No. 2

Members of the Forum advised that February 26, 2014 may not work due to scheduling conflicts. It was also noted that the Quayside Community Board often hosts their meeting on the last day of the month, which poses a regular conflict with the RA Forum. It was suggested that the meeting be held on Wednesday, February 19, 2014.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Councillor Harper
Chair

Stephanie Lam
Committee Secretary