



City of New Westminster
McBride-Sapperton Residents' Association
Public Meeting Minutes

Location: Knox Presbyterian Church

Date of Meeting: Thursday, 15 May 2003, 7:00PM

1. Introduction and Welcome.

Neil Powell welcomed everyone to the MSRA General Meeting. Mayor Wayne Wright and Councillor Casey Cook were in attendance.

2. Presentation by City of New Westminster Police Department.

Deputy Chief Constable Mike Judd and Constable Bruce Ballingall made a presentation which highlighted the following items:

- **Crime Trends.** Mike Judd noted that there are 106 officers and 47 civilians working on the City's police force. There are 53,000 citizens and as we are a hub city, 350,000 people pass through the city each day. Marijuana grow operations, auto theft and theft of automobile tires are on the rise. In 2002, there were two homicides. He noted some local property crime issues and the fact there is a dedicated four member drug squad. The recent crackdown in the Vancouver downtown east side and Whalley may increase crime in our area and this is being monitored closely.
- **Violence.** Last year there was a slight increase and the statistics appear to be falling off in 2003. There was a 5% increase from 2001 to 2002. The impact of the new Skytrain stations is being monitored.
- **Cost reductions.** New Westminster is working with other area such as Delta to share services.
- **Community Policing Committee initiative.** Next meeting is 14 Jun 2003.
- **Citizen Police Academy:** This was launched a few weeks ago and is an education tool for citizens to further understand policing issues. Neil and Elizabeth Powell are attending this academy.

Bruce Ballingall noted that in his opinion, there was not enough Block Watch in Sapperton.

Traffic on Rousseau St. was raised by an audience member. Bruce Ballingall advised anyone with traffic concerns to contact himself or Sgt. Doug Deacon,

and they will investigate. There are four dedicated traffic enforcement officers.

Crosswalk courtesy and cars running the red light at Fader St. and Braid St. were also raised. If there is a continuing problem, citizens should contact Bruce Ballingall or Doug Deacon.

3. Presentation by Jennyfer Newman of Evergreen.

Evergreen is a national non-profit group that works with municipalities to bring communities and nature together.

Evergreen has started what they call the Urban Oasis in New Westminster project to restore native plant habitat and increase biodiversity, build community through local stewardship and the celebration of special places, and increase public awareness of local ecosystem needs and unique, locally distinctive community identities. One of the areas of interest is Hume Park and examples might include birdhouses, native plant salvage, interpretive signage on the greenway, etc.

On June 21st, there is BEST's 3rd Annual Central Valley Greenway Ride to Hume Park.

4. Presentation by City of New Westminster Planning Department.

Jim Hurst made a presentation on behalf of the City's Planning Department. He indicated that they are reviewing parts of the Official Community Plan that was adopted six years ago. Things like the Skytrain have been built after the plan was adopted and a review is necessary. They will be looking at the areas around the Skytrain stations and try to integrate businesses in the area.

A plan of the Brunette Creek area was completed.

He noted some new businesses in the area, including the refurbishment of the old Shop Easy / Caps Bicycle building. There was a restrictive covenant on this building limiting a grocery in the building.

He noted the start of construction of the Brunette-Fraser Regional Greenway in Hume Park. They gained an easement behind the old Woodwards storage building to complete the trail to the Braid St. Skytrain station. They are working with property owners to extend the greenway through the industrial park to Sapperton Landing.

He noted some zoning changes along East Columbia St. The west side of the street has been zoned for high rise for 20 years. It has now been amended to a low rise option (four story). The City policy is for tall and slim buildings rather than short and wide. This limits the view impact. The east side of the street is zoned for four story – one story of commercial and three stories of residential.

Much of the Hobbis family property has been sold, so development in Sapperton is expected. He noted that the City is very interested in the MSRA input into businesses that will go into the area and developments must meet the goals of the Official Community Plan.

There is a proposal at 200 Keary St. for a nine story residential and a four story commercial complex at the Skytrain plaza.

Post Meeting Note: A presentation on proposal this was made to the MSRA on at the Annual General Meeting on 19 Jun 2003.

The lands below Royal Columbian Hospital on Sherbrooke St. were rezoned for four story residential. There was no interest for a seniors complex, therefore the city rezoned it for a low rise residential complex of 120-150 units in three buildings. The City wants to save the park, trees and greenspace. There has been no interest to date. The City will renew its proposal call later this year.

Federal funding has been approved for upgrades to the north end of the Queensborough Bridge.

In response to a question, he noted that New Westminster has no tree-cutting bylaw.

5. Traffic Issues.

Faye Olson (the MSRA representative on the City's Traffic Advisory Committee) is in New York, but the following issues were discussed:

- Speeding in the lanes between Wilson St. and Rousseau St.
- Traffic circles in lower Sapperton should be greened.
- It was noted that truck traffic is using Kelly St. Mike Judd agreed to alert Sgt. Deacon.

6. The City of New Westminster's Proposed Extraordinary Cost Bylaw.

Neil noted that this proposed bylaw would allow the city to charge landlords of problem properties for policing costs.

7. Sapperton Day.

Geoff Pinkerton made a public call for volunteers to help with Sapperton Day this year.

See the website for meeting dates and times.

Post Meeting Note: Due to low volunteer support, Sapperton Day has been postponed until Spring, 2004. See the website for updates.

8. Other Business.

The Sapperton Bike Festival is on 14 Jun 2003. There will be Penny Farthing races on East Columbia St. The Sapperton Merchant's Association will have a sidewalk sale and there will be a bake sale / garage sale in the park.

9. Next public meeting.

It was announced that the next public meeting has been scheduled for 7:00PM on 19 Jun 2003 at the Knox Presbyterian Church hall.