



City of New Westminster McBride-
Sapperton
Residents' Association

Public Meeting Minutes

Location: Sapperton Pensioner's Hall

Date of Meeting: Thursday 3 Mar 2005, 7:00PM

Attendees:

Executive: Neil Powell, Geoff Pinkerton, Ken McIntosh, Emma Peelstreet.

City Councilors: Casey Cook.

Brian Coates, city staff member

General Attendance: Approximately 30

1. Introduction and Welcome.

Neil welcomed the crowd.

2. Go Green Presentation.

Deanne LaRocque made a presentation on alternative transportation. She works for On-Board which is affiliated with TransLink. They promote things like bike lockers and investigate things like carpooling (e.g. the Jack Bell Rideshare program). They hire a consultant, do an assessment in the workplace and follow through to assist the employer in

Geoff Roberts from the Fraser Health Authority was present and answered a few questions about the Go Green program at Royal Columbian Hospital. They investigated this program about three years ago and have not initiated anything as they need to be equitable across the Fraser Health Authority. The survey at RCH was done some years ago and it was suggested that it be redone.

3. Liveable Region Coalition.

Andrew Feltham made a presentation about the Liveable Region Coalition (LRC), which was formed last summer. The plan as presented by Minister Falcon is to widen Highway 1 to 6 or 8 lanes from Vancouver to Langley and to twin the Port Mann Bridge. The LRC acknowledges there is a problem with congestion, but doesn't believe that this will solve the lower mainland transportation problems, believes this is in conflict with the Liveable Region Strategic Plan, and wants a more transparent investigation into alternatives.

The MSRA has written a letter to New Westminster City Council in 2003 stating opposition to the Gateway Program.

The following motion was put forward and voted on. The majority of those in attendance were in support.

Be it resolved that a letter be written to Minister Falcon stating concerns and requesting that the following questions be addressed.

“While we recognize the important position of our community in the transportation network of the region, we are concerned that lack of public transparency into the Minister's project has left many unanswered questions:

There are many ways to tackle traffic congestion. Has the Ministry done due diligence to weigh the costs and benefits of all the possible transportation options for the Highway 1 corridor? and if so, does such an evaluation consider the negative impacts of more traffic on ours and other communities in the overall analysis?

Will the Minister be making public this cost benefit analysis so that citizens too can participate in a decision which has a huge impact on our communities and region?

It is our perception that the Minister's plan will work against the GVRD's LRSP, a plan which should benefit our community. Has the Ministry consulted with TransLink, the GVRD and regional governments to determine how best their solution might fit in with existing transportation and land-use plans?

Does the Ministry have a projection for when the proposed expanded freeway will again be at capacity? And can the Ministry estimate what the impact on air quality and traffic volumes in adjacent neighbourhoods will be at that time, when the freeway is again congested?

The North Fraser Perimeter Road is planned to be developed through our community, to improve the flow for existing volumes of traffic through New Westminister. Will the NFPR plan be revised to reflect the increased volumes of traffic which will be expected from an expanded Highway 1? Can we find out what these revised plans look like? Has the Minister factored this into the cost of freeway expansion?”

4. Fireside Pub Cold Beer & Wine Store Good Neighbour Agreement Meeting.

Fireside Pub Cold Beer & Wine Store Good Neighbour Agreement Meeting has been set for 7:00pm on March 31st at Knox Presbyterian Church Hall.

5. Status of Sapperton Improvement Grant Program.

The \$100,000 that has been earmarked for this program is in limbo and is not guaranteed for this year.

Casey Cook advised that the budget will be finalized in April. He suggested that sending a letter to the City expressing that we are anxious to get started with the program. He also mentioned that the 12th St. money has not been spent yet.

The merits of immediately forming a society to manage these funds were discussed. Even if a society is not formed, an ad-hoc group could meet with the 12th St. group, come up with draft constitution and bylaws, and get

information from Lauren Wolf, who cannot officially start until the funding is approved.

It was agreed that we would set a meeting for some time in May after the City's budget is set.

There were many people in attendance who are eager to start the program and expressed concern that the signage program was taking too long.

6. MSRA becoming a Not for Profit Society.

Cynthia Hamilton made a presentation and explained the benefits of applying for the MSRA to become a Not for Profit Society.

Becoming a not for profit society is the first step in becoming a Charity, if we wanted to go down that road. A Not for Profit Society cannot give out charitable receipts.

The upsides are that it opens up sources of funding. The downsides are regular reporting, a cost of \$25.00 per year and a \$100.00 setup fee.

The following motion was put forward and voted on. The majority of those in attendance were in support.

Be it resolved that the MSRA proceed with applying to become a Not for Profit Society.

7. Council size: 8 vs. 6.

Neil Powell and Geoff Pinkerton discussed the recent events around the City's decision to stay with 6 Councillors rather than go to 8 Councillors as required by the GVRD. Casey Cook advised that every other municipality under 80,000 people have only 6 Councillors and that the cost of another two Councillors would be \$70,000 and the cost of a referendum would be \$100,000.

The following motion was put forward and voted on. The majority of those in attendance were in support.

Be it resolved that the MSRA write a letter to City Council to encourage that a referendum question about the size of Council be included in the next municipal election and if the referendum passes, to avoid a by-election, that the people with the top eight number of votes be automatically elected.

8. Sapperton Day

We have applied to the City for some funding and hope it comes through. Meetings are ongoing and there are lots of good ideas. We are working hard to make this successful again this year.

9. Lacro Development downtown New Westminster.

Public meeting is set for 15 Mar 2005.

10. Elizabeth Fry Townhall meeting.

Elizabeth Fry are having a Townhall meeting on 22 Mar 2005 at Sapperton Pensioner's Hall.

11. Crime

It was noted that there has been a number of robberies of the 7-11 lately. People are justified in their concerns and would like more police presence in Sapperton.

12. Traffic

The greening of the traffic circles was brought up once again. Casey Cook advised that they will be completed this year.

The lights at Braid St. and Rouseau St. have been changed and the lighting level has increased dramatically.

It was noted that the speed hump program has been approved, but there is currently no information on how to apply. It was also asked if the program was going to be expanded to include things other than just speed bumps. Brian Coates advised that he will investigate.

Note later, Roger Emanuels advised "*We are planning to have the Speed Hump Policy finalized by the end of this month [March 2005] which will include the process for the resident funding of the humps. Currently the Engineering Department does not have plans to expand this process to all types of traffic calming devices, as the program is aimed at addressing localized issues outside of the neighbourhood traffic calming processes.*"

13. Other business.

None.