



City of New Westminster McBride-Sapperton Residents' Association

Public Meeting Minutes

Location: Knox Presbyterian Church

Date of Meeting: Thursday, 6 Nov 2003, 7:00PM

1. Introduction and Welcome.

Neil Powell welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Membership update.

Kevin Little announced there are 16 paid members and growing. Everyone who comes out is encouraged to support the group by becoming a member. Memberships help to defray the cost of renting the hall for the public meetings.

3. Sapperton Day and Sapperton Bike Festival update.

The last meeting was held in late October and the response was great. People are very interested in making this work. We will run the Sapperton Day in conjunction with Sapperton Bike Festival.

4. Traffic issues.

Faye Olson brought a number of the following traffic issues up at the last Traffic Advisory Committee meeting. They were further discussed tonight.

Faye said that whatever issues raised in the MRSA meetings would be taken forward to the TAC. For follow-up of your issue, contact Faye.

- Trucks using a driveway as a turnaround on Kelly St.
- The Fader St. residents will send a petition for a speed bump.

Post Meeting Note: In late November, it was noticed that the city has traffic counters in the 450 block of Fader St.

- The money announce by the GVRD for the North Fraser perimeter road. Faye said not to expect much as most of the money is being used around the Queensborough Bridge.
- Crosswalk across East Columbia St. at Hospital Street. A cement refuge in the middle is planned. The general consensus at the meeting tonight was that a pedestrian activated flashing crosswalk light and better lighting

is required. It was agreed that the MSRA write a letter to the City of New Westminster regarding this issue. It was suggested to get the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities to write a letter in support also.

- Jake Brakes on 8th Ave and Braid S. The City has advised they will start enforcing the ban on use of Jake Brakes. They have not enforced this for years. It was agreed that the City should have better signage.
- The City will be doing traffic counts by the end of November in lower Sapperton to test the traffic islands. It was unclear if there is an intention to remove them.
- Speeding on Richmond St and the ineffective 3 way stop at Richmond St. and Hospital St. Mark Allison (City Traffic) advised speed bumps cannot be installed on Richmond because of the buses.
- Faye Olson said that the most effective solution is for residents to individually write letters to the City if you see someone running a stop sign, speeding through the park, etc. The City will write a letter to the offender.

5. Public Safety issues.

The slippery Sapperton Skytrain station floors have not been addressed by Translink. Neil Powell wrote a letter to Translink on this issue. There was a Translink representative at the Station Areas vision workshop meeting on 16 Oct 2003 and took the message away.

The crosswalk at 8th and Buchanan is very dangerous. There is a tunnel there, but the lighting is lacking and it is in one woman's words "creepy". Two people have been killed at this intersection over the years (one in the last few years) and it was suggested that a pedestrian activated light be installed.

It was suggested that a crosswalk be installed across Sherbrooke St. at the top of Sapperton Park. The concern is that there is no marked crosswalk and people speed down the hill through the park zone.

A motion-activated still camera has been proposed for Sapperton Plaza. The City owns the park and the Knox Presbyterian Church has raised concerns.

The shrubs by the old CIBC are too high and the area too dark. More lighting is required overall in Sapperton.

It was noted that there were six break & enters on Kelly St. last month.

A Public Safety meeting has been set for 4 Dec 2003 at the Knox Church. Members of the New Westminster Police Services will attend. Items such as an update on the murder, public safety, break and enters of residences and businesses, etc. will be covered.

6. Motions.

Motioned by Neil Powell, seconded by Faye Olson, passed by those present:

- That the MSRA request that the City do a study into traffic/pedestrian problems at the 8th & Buchanan and East Columbia St. & Hospital St. intersections and investigate the installation of pedestrian activated lights.

7. Sapperton Property Development.

Ashley Gareb of Joshua Development Corporation presented the plans for the new development at East Columbia St. and Braid St.

The lot has been vacant for 11 years and has seen a lot of proposal put forward. Residential was not an option as there is no market for condos.

This proposal has gone through the City's Design Review Panel three times and they changed the proposed cultured stone to red brick. They also said no to a drive-through. The wrought iron compass sign and the colours were selected to match the heritage of the area. The compass sign was selected because of the Sappers. The building is well lit, anti-graffiti paint will be applied at the back, there is employee parking.

The wording for the sign is flexible and Ashley is open to suggestions from the MSRA.

The only secured tenant at this time is a Mac's / Quiznos combination. The banks, Canada Post, Tim Hortons, are all not interested. Concern was raised about another 24 hour place in the area.

The permit was granted by City Council on Monday, so this project is moving forward. The building permit will be applied for in Jan / Feb. and the building should be up in 4 months.

Concern was raised that there is no plan overall for Sapperton – i.e. style of buildings. This project is moving forward before a plan is in place. The Transportation Planning meeting did not address development in this part of Sapperton. This area is in the Official Community Plan.

Brian Coates advised that the City will review the Official Community Plan within a year.

8. Heritage

Emma Peelstreet talked about the heritage tree planned for Woodlands and the plaques that are in the works. She also indicated that we are interested in signage in the area and a plaque at the Sapper's Hall.

Brian Coates indicated that the City has funding in the amount of \$4,000 per neighbourhood. The Brow of the Hill is putting up new signs over the existing street signs. Moody Park and the West End are looking into it. The downtown is getting new street signs and interpretive signage. This is partially paid for by the building owners.

9. New items

Carley's Law. Ken Barclay spoke to the bill (C453) that Randy White has put forward for tougher sentencing for hit and run driver. This is in reaction to the hit and run of Carley Regan who was killed in Jan 2002.

Andrew Feltham spoke on behalf of the Vancouver Cycling Coalition regarding lobbying the government to upgrade the sidewalk on Queensborough Bridge.

Once again, advance notice of meetings was raised. We must endeavor to advise Brian Coates as early as possible. He will put the advertising in the City Pages for three issues.

10. Next public meeting.

It was announced that the next public meeting has been scheduled for 7:00PM on 8 Jan 2004 at the Knox Presbyterian Church hall.

Post Meeting Note: The meeting was rescheduled to 15 Jan 2004.