



City of New Westminster McBride-Sapperton Residents' Association

McBride-Sapperton Residents' Association Public Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2013 @ 7 pm
Location: Knox Presbyterian Church
Meeting Chair: Catherine Cartwright, MSRA President
Attendance: 20 people

Agenda

1) Introduction of the Executive – Catherine Cartwright

- Members of MSRA executive who were present introduced themselves
- Catherine introduced Jason, President of Massey Heights RA
- Catherine also introduced Don and Mike from the City

2) Adoption of minutes from last meeting - Carried.

3) City Residents' Association Forum - Catherine

- Catherine attended this meeting and discovered our RA wasn't on the list of attendees or absentees from past recent meetings
- At the meeting, guidelines were reviewed about what is expected of residents' associations and what is expected of the City in relation to RAs
- City is in process of creating an information pamphlet containing information about all RAs, including the above guidelines
- City staff presented information on Surrey Coal issue and a comprehensive traffic plan.
- Catherine suggested we should focus our energies on getting people involved in the city-wide traffic plan
- RA forums to take place 3 times per year
- MSRA will post minutes from the forum meetings on the MSRA website

4) Surrey Coal Port Issue - Catherine

- Catherine shared the City's response to this issue as it was presented at the City RA forum
- Catherine briefly summarized the issue: proposal to ship American coal from Wyoming via rail to Surrey coal port, then shipped to Texada Island, and then offshore

- Concerns have been expressed on behalf of the City by the Mayor to the many interested parties who are involved in this issue. These concerns include: impact of emissions from trains on local areas; coal dust and chemicals for dust suppression; risk of accidents, etc.
- The City is on side with all residents' concerns; however, it's a federal issue, and ultimately there is not much we can do about it.
- Whether the project goes ahead will come down to public pressure on the federal government.
- Talk being held on May 16 @ Frankie G's Pub in Queensborough; organized by someone opposed to the project.
- Port Metro Vancouver will hold 2 open houses on the issue; info will be sent out to the RA membership via email and posted on the RA website
- Mike from the City said there will be a meeting held in Surrey; he'll find out the date and location and forward it to the RA.

5) RA Website/ Twitter – Gerry Sommers

- Gerry's done lots of updating of the website
- The site is missing the minutes for 2010-2012; Geoff's been sending some to Gerry, but the 2012 minutes are missing.
- Web-hosting – our website has been hosted on a server by a Coquitlam resident who used to live in Sapperton. Gerry's thinking we should move the website to a company that would host it for us for a monthly fee.
- Discussion over whether the City would host the RA minutes. Mike will check and get back to us about this.
- This idea will also be brought up at the next RA forum so perhaps that forum could formally ask the City, on behalf of all RA's, to host RA minutes
- Discussion about Twitter – is there an appetite to set up an MSRA Twitter account?
- Consensus around the table was "yes"; some people suggested this may generate interest in meetings and info in the minutes
- The Merchants' Association has just started a new Twitter account.

6) Police Report - Dee Beattie

- She will be attending a Policing meeting on May 16
- One concern to bring up: people would like ticketing to happen for cars and trucks violating parking restrictions on Richmond St. and Major @ Columbia (especially large trucks/buses parking there)
- Reminder to residents to report suspicious incidents, no matter how minor they are, to the police.
- There have been many car break-ins lately in our area.

7) Neighbourhood Clean-up - Monica Hardjowasito (on behalf of Anita Riddell)

- Anita has secured a small neighbourhood grant to purchase supplies for upcoming clean-ups
- Tentative date for next community clean-up: Sunday, Sept. 29, mid-afternoon
- Would like to grow the group from 11 to 22 so as to tackle a larger area than was covered in February (suggestion to contact the local Scout group to help)
- Anyone interested in helping is encouraged to contact Anita via the MSRA email address
- Marnie from the Merchants' Association will discuss the cigarette butt situation with local business owners

8) Traffic Report – Babar Khalid

- City gave a very good presentation about traffic to the RA forum
- The City is planning a Master Transportation Plan; as more information comes out, Babar will let us know. In the meantime, local residents can go on the City website to give our input.
- Patullo Bridge:
 - City is working with City of Surrey, MOT, and other parties on this issue
 - Open Houses for public input will start in June
 - Translink is working on a regional goal with this project
 - Suggestion was made for the Patullo Bridge info link from the City to be placed on the MSRA website
 - Interesting statistic: before the toll was put on the Port Mann bridge, 2030 trucks went over the Patullo Bridge each day and 67,000 cars; after the toll was put in, the number of trucks has increased to 2,500 per day, and the number of cars 75,000 per day
- Bailey Bridge:
 - City is working with City of Coquitlam on this issue
 - New West wants to stay with the single-lane bridge; Coquitlam wants a 2-lane bridge
- Babar would like to get feedback on traffic and transit issues; would like to set up a survey on Survey Monkey or through Twitter
- 8th Avenue and Buchanan:
 - concern raised by Kevin Little on behalf of residents of Upper Sapperton: they are asking for resident-only parking or 2-hour parking in their area
 - Betty said the City process is for a neighbourhood to get a petition going (standard form from City Hall); a person from the affected street needs to head up the petition.

- Don from the City spoke about the work to improve safety along the 8th Avenue corridor
- Open House was held @ Richard McBride school in October/2012
- Feedback was received from 93 people in response to the City's proposed alternatives
- City identified certain streets for priority treatment: Devoy, Cherry, 8th Avenue, William and Sherbrooke
- One suggestion involves closing off Sherbrooke, using curb extensions, etc., with the priority of improving safety
- Don shared with the meeting a variety of alternatives at Richmond Street @ 8th Ave, including putting in a fully signalized intersection there
- Emphasis by residents at meeting on improving the underpass rather than spending money on a full intersection or crosswalk @ Richmond Street & 8th Ave
- An active discussion took place over the implications of the City's proposal and possible alternatives
- A preference was expressed for a pedestrian-controlled intersection to prevent Richmond from becoming a major through route
- A request was also made for orange flashing lights @ 8th and Buchanan to improve safety as cars are not stopping for pedestrians
- Don stated that more people who attended the open house at McBride in October (and gave feedback) preferred the proposal than opposed it
- City is meeting with MSRA, Massey-Heights RA, the Traffic Advisory Committee and the Pedestrian/Bicycle Committee to get feedback on their proposals
- Sherbrooke Street - suggested improvements: proposal to close off Devoy and Sherbrooke @ 8th Ave
- Concerns were expressed over access to the hospital via Sherbrooke St.
- In response to residents' concerns, the Engineering Department is drawing up modifications to this proposal but hasn't presented this to Council yet. It would allow a one-way turn in off 8th to Devoy and Sherbrooke, but no right-turn out from Sherbrooke
- Proposal will include improved curb extensions, straightened crosswalk, crosswalk moved farther down
- ICBC will contribute funds for this project and the one at Richmond to enhance safety features
- City has consulted with BC Ambulance, which has stated that they are not concerned with restricted access to their ambulances posed by these modifications, and they will find another way to access the hospital

- Catherine will send out an email to the membership to get more feedback from residents on these proposals. She will send it via Babar and forward all feedback to Don.
- Next step: after meetings and feedback, the Engineering Dept. will prepare a report on its position and share it with Council
- Timeframe: before summer is desirable

9) Follow-up to Past Items

- MODO Co-op Car – has been moved off Kelly Street onto Sherbrooke in response to residents' concerns
- Sapperton Street Festival – Marnie (from Merchants' Association)
 - reminded group of Festival – June 9 from 11 am to 5 pm
 - they are looking for volunteers
 - will be promoting Sapperton Day during Hyack parade; people are welcome to participate in the parade, dress in multi-cultural outfits, wave flags, etc.
 - Theme of Sapperton Days: "Food From Around the World" - there will be LOTS of food this year
 - Most local restaurants are participating and food carts will also be brought in.
 - Pancake breakfast: - Wesgroup is coordinating this. Volunteers are welcome
 - They will need helpers for: set-up/tear-down; running of carnival games; face painting.
 - Marnie will email a list of volunteer duties to Catherine and provide contact information for the Volunteer Coordinator
- Emergency Services:
 - Should we have the City make an Emergency Planning presentation to a future RA meeting? Consensus was "yes". Catherine will plan to include this in one of the Fall meetings.
- Concern from resident over bluish-tinged smoke coming from AMX plant in Surrey; Catherine will ask Mike (our City rep.) to look into it.
- Waste-to-Energy issue: Diane expressed interest in the City's position on a potential WTE facility in our area. Is NW putting itself forward as a possible location for such a facility? Mike will look into it. Surrey has strong interest in hosting such a facility.

Meeting adjourned: 9:10 PM

Next meeting: September 18th, 2013.