



# Sapperton Residents' Association

*The purpose of the association is to preserve and enhance the livability and quality of the Sapperton neighborhood.*

## Sapperton Residents' Association Public Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Thursday, November 07, 2019 @ 7:00 pm

**Location:** Knox Presbyterian Church

**Attendance:** 21 residents

**Executive:** Dee, Anita, Jerry, Ross, Monica (minutes) Regrets: Geoff, Kevin, Wilf

**Presenters:** Cheryle Beaumont and Architects for Urban Academy; Sharat Chandra, Interim Project Officer, RCH Redevelopment Project

**City Representatives:** Rupinder Basi

### 1. Welcome and Introduction of Executive

Dee

### 2. Approval of Minutes from September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Meeting

Dee

### 3. RCH Redevelopment

Sharat Chandra, RCH

- Sharat gave a brief update on the status of the project.
- Mental Health Building on schedule to open in April, 2020.
- The Open House for Phase 2 of the project will be held Nov. 26 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm, probably at Sapperton Pensioners' Hall. Phase 2 will include the new acute care tower, which will increase capacity by 50%. The Heliport will be part of this tower and will have 2 helipads.

### 4. Urban Academy

Cheryle Beaumont and Architects and Engineer, Rep.  
from Bundt and Assocs

- Cheryle Beaumont gave a presentation on the status of their application for a text amendment to allow for expansion of the school capacity to 5 floors and an additional 100 students.
- The held an Open House earlier this evening, which several people attended.
- Stated the school has been in operation on site since March.
- They want an additional floor (5<sup>th</sup>) and need permission from the City to add 100 students and five additional classrooms.
- The school currently has over 200 students and they hope to build out to 550 students within five years.
- The additional floor would be steel construction, not concrete. It is scheduled to be built "fairly quickly" with "minimal impact" on traffic and the neighbourhood. The presenters emphasized the green space on the building. They had a Transportation Management Plan pamphlet with them, which was also made available at the Open House.

- One resident recommended an overpass over Braid Street for student safety when crossing the road.
- Concerns raised by the residents in attendance about parking. Peter, the representative from Bundt and Associates stated: “It is fair to say the school needs to put more effort into dealing with the parking issues”. He wants to know how pervasive the parking problems are.
- Residents responded that parents are parking illegally “daily” on Rousseau, Wilson and Garrett Streets. Other concerns noted: parents blocking residents’ driveways; parents parking in Resident Only zones; parents driving quickly and dangerously down and up Major Street, almost hitting pedestrians and other cars; parents stopping on Rousseau Street in the middle of the road in front of UA or across the street in No Parking zones; parents incorrectly entering roundabouts. This is all happening with only 200+ students; how much worse will it get with 550?
- Concern expressed that there’s not enough parking for current number of students let alone for the additional ones being proposed with the expansion.
- One resident asked: What was done as part of the initial design to accommodate the potential for expansion? The number of parking spots included was based on the number of students they had planned for at the time of the original zoning application. Why didn’t UA plan for extra parking to accommodate this phase, especially since this expansion is being proposed so soon after initial construction? Resident voiced concerns over process involved.
- Peter from Bundt stated that the City will “hold the school’s feet to the fire” to ensure they meet all expectations.
- Cheryle stated that 30% of the school population comes from New Westminster, and the majority of the rest of students from Coquitlam and Burnaby.
- Multiple speakers voiced concerns and objections to the addition. Some called the presenters’ comments “disingenuous”. For example, the school has stated that dialogue with the neighbourhood is very important to them, but there has been little concrete action in this area.
- In response to a question, Cheryle said that the school worked on having access to the parking lot across Braid, but RCH said “no” to this proposal.
- A concern was expressed about ambulance access down Major with the new Emergency at RCH moving to Sherbrooke Street.
- Someone proposed speed bumps on Rousseau Street.
- Rupinder stated that the next steps for this proposal involve the Advisory Planning Committee and the Public Hearing.
- One resident emphasized the need to be involved in these next steps.
- Another suggested having an ongoing action plan and dialogue with the school.
- **Ross proposed a motion:** That the R.A. write a letter to the Mayor and Council expressing opposition to the proposed expansion to the school. Seconded. Residents suggested the letter needs to focus on traffic and the process involved, and that the school should be urged to deal with the current problems before considering an expansion. **Vote: Carried** – almost unanimous – all in favour except one resident.
- Residents in attendance emphasized the importance of individuals writing letters. Dee will send an email blast to RA members with the email addresses of Mayor and Council Members.

## 5. Police Committee

- We have lost our Police Committee representative and are looking for a new one.
- The Police Committee meets five times each year. November 20 is the next meeting.
- One resident said she would consider doing this after January..

## 6. Traffic Committee

- Dee provided a report from Wilf as he was unable to be in attendance tonight. She will send out the report to members as it is too long to include in the minutes.
- The Traffic Committee has been renamed and reconfigured. Wilf has applied to be part of the new committee.

## 7. Old Business

### A. Trash Mob Report

- The event, held in September, was very successful, with approximately 60 people participating.
- She sent out a full report on the event to the RA via email.
- There were two big delegations from RCH and Urban Academy.
- Thanks to Steve Kasper for the tent, and to all the local businesses for their support and donations of prizes.
- We are planning for another Trash Mob next year on the same Saturday in September. One resident from the San Marino building offered to mobilize residents from that building.
- Having heard about our Trash Mob, other RAs have now expressed interest in holding similar events in their neighbourhoods.

## 8. City Updates

**Rupinder Basi, City of NW**

**A. East Columbia empty lot site:** The developer is still working through the process.

**B. Building 8 – Wesgroup:** Building 7 has an active rezoning application which is tied into the Building 8 changes. Wesgroup has gone through the Committee process. The Design and APC Committees supported the developer's application. It will probably go to Public Hearing early in the New Year.

**C. Sapperton Green:** The developer is still working to meet City expectations.

**D. Questions for Rupinder:** Is the City going to take the 14 parking spots behind the Church? Why is there a new no parking sign up on Kelly and Fader Streets? Rupinder will let Dee know the answers to these questions after he checks into each situation.

## 9. New Business

### A. Joint Meeting with Massey-Victory Heights RA

**Dee**

- To be held early in 2020 to discuss boundary changes for the RAs.
- The two Executives will meet in early January to talk about boundary changes.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 9:01 pm.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, February 06, 2019 at 7:00 pm – Knox Presbyterian Church.