

Edgemont Community Association

Minutes of the General Meeting Tuesday, May 31st 2006, at 7:00 p.m. Capilano Library, 3045 Highland Blvd.

1. Introduction:

Edgemont Community Association meeting chairman, Peter Thompson, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed all attendees. Peter gave a brief outline of the agenda and explained that the ECA's General Meetings are run under the "New England Town Hall" format where anyone may speak, but once a point has been made it should not be repeated. It was noted that although all general meetings are open to everyone – the ECA is a residents' association, therefore only residents of Upper Capilano may vote on issues. To be a voting member, one must be a current resident of Upper Capilano having attended at least one previous meeting and be registered on the ECA's phone list.

2. Highlands Elementary School Redevelopment:

School District 44 Director of Facilities and Planning, Ian Abercrombie, along with the projects director, Jim Prenty, outlined the redevelopment of the school. Highlights of the presentation included:

- History and timelines for the construction of the new school
- New siting location to the north of existing building is on firmer ground
- Youth band and preschool will still be accommodated
- School size planned for 350 students
- Currently completing Phase 1 of feasibility study which indicates a new school is needed
- Phase 2 involves building details re: designs and costs
- Not too late for changes that respond to public input
- 10 classrooms envisioned for the first floor with 6 classrooms on the second
- Only basic plans in place now
- Tender later this year when details are finalized

Q & A highlights included:

- June 14 will be a presentation to the school PAC
- Vehicle pick-up / drop-off is paramount
- Covered play areas are not planned because of extra costs
- Portables to remain because they are cheaper to simply relocate elsewhere on the property
- New school building could be extended in future, including covered play areas
- School intended to last 60 years
- Children and construction? Workable like the reconstruction of Westview
- Playground equipment to be relocated
- New gravel field with no lighting
- Earthquake standard? Not "post disaster" level
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3. Coffee Break by Delany's & '06 Dues Collection

4. Service Canada Centre for Youth Employment:

Highlights from Jennifer Johnstone's presentation included:

- Program is funded by the federal government
- Students helping students find employment
- Employers are provided no-cost job listings
- It is a casual labour program where employers must provide a minimum of 2 hrs work and \$8 minimum per hour, however, the homeowner/employer can pay more
- There were 200 students in the NV program last year from May through August

5. Black Bear network Report:

Kitty Castle's brief presentation included the following:

- \$10,000 tri-municipal study on bears and garbage
- No sightings around Edgemont Village
- Some sightings north of Montroyal Blvd.
- Showed small bear-proof container
- Bin that is half the Shaefer container size will be tested

6. Village Entry Sign:

Jennifer Jones reviewed the background and showed the drawings of what the sign will look like. There are still a few obstacles to overcome but Jennifer is working hard to make the sign a reality.

7. NV District Council Issues by Corrie Kost:

6.1 Homeowners Grant

Basic: \$470 → \$570 (to \$780,000 assessments → \$0 at \$894,000)

Seniors: \$745 → \$845 (to \$780,000 assessments >\$0 at \$949,000)

6.2 Property Taxes & District Budget

Municipal Taxes for Single Detached Homes

- Average Assessment for 2006 was \$657,215
- Average 2006 Municipal Charges: \$2,569
- Average 2005 Municipal Charges: \$2,444

Increase: 5.1 %

Surplus & Reserves usage (of total revenue):

- 2004: 5.06%
- 2005: 7.53%
- 2006: 16.0%

6.3 Amendments to C5 Zones – Capilano Suspension Bridge

- Impacted Lower Capilano C5 site
- Allegedly to correct mistake in 1995 zoning consolidation process
- Staff proposal would allow 86,000sq-ft "accessory uses"
- Very strong public opposition – especially from adjacent West Van residents

- Far exceeded remedy to pre-1995 conditions
- Issue of food consumption – bears – garbage extraction west of Cap. river
- Staff to return issue to council June 12th – new Public Hearing ASAP

6.4 Grouse Woods Proposed Rezoning

RM1/2 single family homes proposed rezoning to allow secondary suites, boarders, B&B

- public hearing held
- very strong local opposition
- local covenant (no suites etc. allowed) exposed
- council decision pending

6.5 Norcross latest proposal – 3 single family homes approved

6.6 DVP's exceeding FSR – No longer being granted

6.7 Commercial (6) Dog Walking - in some parks – Trial period

6.8 BC Rail Lands – another rezoning attempt – w no bus depot

6.9 “Libraries Without Walls” – Prov funding enhancements

7. Merchant's Update:

Pat Gallagher made a brief presentation noting that the pigeon problem (that Pat raised at the last ECA general meeting) under some business awnings is being addressed. There will be a Father's Day promotion and also the Summer Concert Series on Friday evenings throughout the summer will be held again.

8. Any Other Business:

9. Adjournment at 9 p.m.