

FONVCA MINUTES

THURSDAY November 20th 2008

Place: DNV Hall 355 W. Queens Rd V7N 2K6
Time: 7:00-9:00pm
Chair: Cathy Adams – Lions Gate Neighbourhood Assoc.
Tel:604-987-8695 Email: cathyadams@shaw.ca

Members Present:

Cathy Adams (chair)	(Lions Gate N.A.)
Dan Ellis (notes)	(Lynn Valley CA)
Corrie Kost	(Edgemont CA)
Val Moller	(Lions Gate NA)
Diana Belhouse	Delbrook C.A.
Paul Tubb	(Pemberton Hts. C.A.)
Eric Andersen	(Blueridge C.A.)
Lyle Craver	(Mt. Fromme R.A.)

Regrets:

1. Order/content of Agenda
2. Adoption of Minutes of Sept 18th

<http://www.fonvca.org/agendas/sep2008/minutes-sep2008.pdf>

The minutes were approved (Eric/Dan) with following corrections: Diana Belhouse (Delbrook C.A.) was present. Regrets – Lyle Craver (spelling).

Motion of item 5.2 re: Community Planning Working Group was not unanimous (Dan Ellis dissenting) – Action item 5.2 of minutes- to send letter did not take place. In light of this and passage of time it was felt too late to now send. **Cathy and Corrie will try and attend meetings of this group and report back in December.**

3. Old Business

See 5.2 below.

4. Correspondence Issues

4.1 Business arising from 8 regular emails:

Contents of the letters were outlined. Some discussion took place on letter from Alan Nixon re ordering of responses to FONVCA questions. The order posted/printed (see <http://www.fonvca.org/Issues/Election-2008/replies/>) was felt to be appropriate. No further discussion was felt necessary on the issues raised in the remaining letters.

4.2 Non-Posted letters – 0 this period

5. New Business

Council and other District issues.

5.1 State of the Air 2008 - by BC Lung association.

<http://www.bc.lung.ca/pdf/2008%20BC%20State%20of%20the%20Air%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>

Some encouraging trends were shown in the statistics provided on the air quality/pollution levels in North Vancouver. For example the

average annual level of NO₂ was below 30 ug/m³ (federal guidelines being 60), while SO₂ levels were below 4 (provincial guidelines being 25 ug/m³) See also <http://www.bc.lung.ca/airquality/stateoftheair-report.html>

5.2 Questions for 2008 Municipal Election

- results accurately predicted by FoNVCA members with the average score being 9 out of a maximum possible score of 10 (6 members for council and 4 members for school board)
- disappointingly low 16.7% voter turnout
- wide variations in total eligible voters list being in contrast with population numbers; Corrie queried Clerk and got no explanation.

Corrie / Cathy to check stats for other municipalities, and possibly draft a letter to ? Provincial Returning Officer???

5.3 DNV “External Links” Policy 4-1345-1

Council policy on this matter is found at <http://www.dnv.org/upload/documents/cpolicy/c413451.pdf>

Attached to distributed agenda package was Nov 18/2008 SUN article by Richard Sharpe on *Who’s policing local elections?*

It seems clear that the above DNV Council policy was not adhered to in this election. DNV CAO will be investigating this external web-links policy issue. Cathy has already sent a letter noting the issue is outstanding. Hopefully FONVCA will get a reply on this matter in due course.

5.4 Wood-Frame Construction Floor Limits

The Province will increase the limit on wood-frame construction in the BC Building Code **from four to six storeys** in January 2009. This could impact height of new proposals by developers.

http://www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/wood_frame/index.htm
http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2008HSD0079-001459.htm

Dan noted July '08 joint submission by APEGBC & AIBC; expressed his ongoing concern that added height and complexity will raise the stakes around diligence by responsible professionals to inspect that their designs are being faithfully executed. FoNVCA will watch how this unfolds.

5.5 Climate Change and Bill 27

Corrie noted that Bill 27 dealt with several issues related to Climate Change.

http://www.leg.bc.ca/38th4th/1st_read/gov27-1.htm

Note: Sewerage & Drainage DCC exempt for apartments < 29m² (312 sq-ft)

Section 855 of LGA was amended to remove the absolute requirement of a Regional Public Hearing – it is now optional.

Section 877 is amended by adding the following subsection:

(3) An official community plan must include targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the area covered by the plan, and policies and actions of the local government proposed with respect to achieving those targets.

Oct 6th presentation on Climate Change was given to Council by Ken Bennett – however it was largely symbolic since it constitutes a lot of effort to save ~ \$1/resident/year.

3 reference articles were attached to the agenda package

- Urban Form and Climate Change article by MSURJ
- Optimizing Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Housing Mix and Density
- Alternative Energy Sources by Walter Youngquist

5.6 Dennis Back Retires Nov 20th.

Concern was expressed over possible loss of corporate memory as more long term senior members of DNV staff retire.

5.7 Tax Comparison puts DNV near top.

Nov 17th Vancouver Sun Article by Don Cayo, which shows DNVmunicipal spending increased 43.1% over the past 7 years with inflation of 15.2% over that period being exceeded by a factor of 2.83. This is the second highest factor (with West Vancouver taking top spot at 62%, with inflation/growth totaling 17.4%, yielding a ration of 3.93)

However FONVCA members felt that a proper comparison requires component costs. Dan to ask thru CAO for CFO to present at a future FoNVCA meeting: high-level summary of the big-ticket items.

5.8 Inside the Secret World of Ottawa and the RCMP – by Paul Palango

Material from <http://dispersingthefog.com/> was attached to the agenda package.

The relevant question for us: Is DNV well served by the RCMP? The review of that issue is forthcoming. It is unknown when the report will be publicly available.

5.9 Public Hearing Notes of West-Van on FSR changes to SF Homes.

The relevant part of the notes of the Oct 20/2008 WV Public Hearing <http://www.westvan.org/reports/2008-30.shtml> were attached to the agenda package –provides most details as did the attached NSNEWS article of Nov 7/2008 “WV amends house “bulk” rules.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Legal Issues – Corrie briefly reviewed the following legal issues.

- Supreme court to decide this fall whether trash is public or private property. This impacts both municipal due diligence and/or the public right to access the material put out as garbage.
- Is a \$1000/day fine for using plastic bags (Leaf Rapids, Manitoba) a reasonable response?
- A full review of the impact of Bill 27 should be conducted in the near future.
- The BC Supreme Court upheld the Metro's right to impose tougher emission standards for air-quality management than the provincial requirements under its agricultural waste control regulations.

6.2 Any Other Issues (2 min each)

-Something to ponder: Whereas building more hospitals does not necessarily increase the birth rate, building more roads does not necessarily increase car use. Some FONVCA members felt that this analogy was flawed.

- Spirit Trail Planning meetings were noted on the attached flyer.
- Illusion of Transit Choice - article by Wendell Cox – was attached to the agenda for information
- An article on London's housing support for key workers was attached for information.

7. Chair & Date of next meeting.

Dan Ellis – Lynn Valley C.A.

Thursday, December 18th, 2008

The meeting was adjourned ~ 9:30 pm.