

FONVCA

Minutes of January 15th 2004

Attendees:

Brian Platts (Chair)	Edgemont C.A.
Eric Andersen	Blueridge C.A.
Maureen Bragg	Save Lynn Canyon Park
Dan Ellis	Lynn Valley C.A.
Cathy Adams	Lions Gate N.A.
David Knee	Norgate Park C.A.
Corrie Kost	Edgemont C.A.
Hugh Murray	Lower Capilano C.R.A.
John Miller	Lower Capilano C.R.A.
Val Moller	Lions Gate N.A.
Allan Orr	Seymour C.A.
Tome Hodson	Panorama Drive Ratepayers

J. Knee (notetaker)

Guests

James Ridge	DNV CAO
Elizabeth James	CAGE
John Harvey	resident

Meeting started 7:15pm

1. ORDER/CONTENT OF AGENDA

- 6.2 Yard Trimmings – Corrie – dealt with in item 5.4.
- 6.3 District Advertising - Cathy

Brian introduced James Ridge, Chief Administrative Officer of the District of North Vancouver. James Ridge then gave a brief outline of his past work experience. This was followed by a more detailed outline of his vision for the District. Areas discussed were:

- arts co-ordination
- BC ambulance service
- internal auditing reporting relationships
- legal services
- policing
- building assessments
- council procedures
- contract renewals

A concern was also expressed on the adequacy of FONVCA's current policy on the screening of posted letters [to be placed on next month's FONVCA agenda]

James Ridge (with encouragement) stayed for duration of meeting.

2. ADOPTION OF Jan 15TH MINUTES

At suggestion of Dan the wording "usual purchasing system" in item 3.1 was changed to "a typical purchase order system". Adoption of minutes with above change was moved by Allan, seconded by Dan and carried unanimously.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3.1 Canopy Walk Approval Process

Corrie distributed the hand-out as noted in previous meeting.

3.2 Northlands

Sentencing on the theft of district funds is to take place March 12th at 1:30pm. Cathy to provide any updates.

3.3 Letter(s) sent by FONVCA

Invitation to James Ridge to this meeting.

3.4 Sign Bylaw.

Doug Allan's response letter

<http://www.fonvca.org/agendas/jan2004/sign-bylaw-da-email.pdf> was circulated. This was in relation to ensuring harmonization of sign character areas with proposed sign bylaw. Cathy also contacted Doug about her specific concerns with Marine Drive sign character area and Doug informed her that he had done his report to council. This item requires follow-up when it goes to council as staff position does not align with that of FONVCA.

4. CORRESPONDENCE ISSUES

4.1 Business arising from regular emails:

Some 58 emails were posted Dec 15/2003 to Jan 11/2004. Corrie briefly reviewed them. Most issues are included in current agenda.

4.2 Non-Posted letters. None this period.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Property Tax Assessment:

Corrie reviewed the existing thresholds on losing the home owners and supplementary grant – former lost by any assessments over \$572,000 and the latter also lost by assessments over \$599,500. Whistler's threshold was set to \$2,000,000. A figure of \$800,000 would be in line with assessment increases since 1996 (no change since then) to again cover about 95% of homeowners. He also noted that **Property Transfer Taxes** – 1% of first \$200,000 and 2% above that – with a First-Time buyers exemption of only \$275,000 and complete exemption phase-out at \$300,000 in lower mainland means an upfront payment by buyers of \$8,000 on a \$500,000 home. Lack of adjustments another windfall to province and download to taxpayers. Corrie also reviewed the attractiveness of **deferring property taxes** for those age 60+.

5.2 Ipsos-Reid Translink Survey

Corrie distributed his response to this translink survey <http://www.fonvca.org/agendas/jan2004/ipsos-reid-response.pdf> it's deficiencies. Allan reported that the Seymour Community Association has passed a motion re: TRANSLINK funding on Jan 14th. Brian to write a letter to council endorsing support for items 2, 3, and 4 of the SCA motion (**attached**). Corrie stated that the parking levy is for anything 'non residential', with concern expressed as to what this then applies to.

5.3 Recreation Vehicle /Boat Bylaw 7387

Corrie reviewed, what he termed a flawed bylaw, and the fear that next year the situation could even worsen – given what was expressed by some members of council debating this issue.

5.4 North Shore Recycling Program

Corrie commented that, in consideration of the limited mandate, the Smythe Ratcliffe report http://www.dnv.org/upload/documents/Council_Reports/00253.pdf was a good report. The program's overall cost effectiveness (taking into account time and materials

downloading to the taxpayer and environmental impacts) was never reviewed.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Legal Issues to think about.

The issue of free passes / family subsidies to councillors sitting on boards/commissions was debated. Section 100-106 of Community Charter – distributed – was relevant to this issue. <http://www.fonvca.org/agendas/jan2004/CC-COI.pdf>

Concern was also expressed about potential conflicts of interest of member of council's ties with real estate dealings.

6.2 – See item 5.4

6.3 District Advertising in Outlook and North Shore News

James reported that staff is studying the situation and future contracts will be given where it results in the best readership.

6.4 Shirtsleeve Session with Council.

This is scheduled to take place 7pm. Wednesday March 3/2004 at the hall.

7. CHAIR AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Val Moller, Lions Gate Neighbourhood Assoc. Tel: 604-926-8063 7:00 p.m. Thursday February 19th 2004 at District Hall

Meeting adjourned 10:00 p.m.

SCA Motion:

On January 14, 2004 the SCA met and passed the following motion:

The Association is unalterably opposed to Translink's funding options as outlined in the 3-10 year transportation plan for the following reasons:

1. The Board of Translink is not elected by residents at large and has no political or moral authority to fund its 3 year plan by accessing the property tax
2. The tax does not discriminate between users and non-users of the transportation system. There is strong support for a user-pay method of funding the transportation system.
3. Residents, such as those living on the North Shore, will be taxed unfairly for the minimal services received, because of historically high property assessments.
4. Together with groups in opposition to the RAV project across the GVRD, the Association is opposed to the disproportionately higher cost of using Skytrain technology and tunnelling under Cambie Street, versus, the more cost-effective system of at-grade light rapid transit.

This motion was passed unanimously at the SCA meeting. Participants at the meeting included representation from every part of the boundaries of the Association: Windsor Park, Roche Point, Dollarton, Parkgate, Indian River, and Deep Cove.

Allan Orr, Chair, SCA.