

FONVCA

Minutes November 19th 2009

Attendees

K'nud Hille(Chair)	Norgate Park C.A.
Diana Belhouse	Save Our Shores
Cathy Adams	Lions Gate N.A.
Dan Ellis	Lynn Valley C.A.
Paul Tubb	Pemberton Heights C.A.
Eric Andersen (Notes)	Blueridge C.A.
Corrie Kost	Edgemont C.A.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM

Regrets: Val Moller, Del Kristalovich

1. ORDER / CONTENT OF AGENDA

Added: 6.2(f) Spirit Trail
6.2(g) Marine Dr. Developments
6.2(h) Shirtsleeve meeting with council
6.2(i) Shelter Act

2. Adoption of Minutes of Oct. 15th

<http://www.fonvca.org/agendas/nov2009/minutes-oct2009.pdf>

Adopted as circulated.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3.1 OCP Roundtable Update

There was a good attendance at the Nov 18th OCP public meeting.

A small criticism was that there was no control whatsoever as to where the 'dots' were going on the maps showing housing various options. This could lead to abuse/misinformation.

The public engagement is not that good – there is only a small percentage of participation when compared with the DNV's total population.

Is it too much motherhood and apple-pie so far? When will the actual hard issue debates take place? There has been no discussion on the big issues yet, e.g. growth in the DNV, areas of potential zoning changes, and tax implications. There is information on the District website (<http://identity.dnv.org>) about the workshops that have been held, and the draft Vision and Goals Workbook.

3.2 Resilient Cities Urban Strategies for Transition Times

<http://www.gaininggroundsummit.com/theme.htm>

It is not clear who attended this conference held in Vancouver October 20-22. It would be beneficial to obtain a report from the Councillor(s) who attended this conference. Corrie agreed to follow up with the appropriate parties. – **ACTION ITEM**

3.3 NS Police Services Review

<http://www.dnv.org/article.asp?a=4103>

Cathy Adams (as per 5.5 of Oct 15th agenda) wrote the DNV's CAO, Dave Stuart, a letter about the police review and his response was that it is too early to discuss at this point. The process issues need to be determined, so Cathy will attempt to invite Dave Stuart to our January meeting- **ACTION ITEM**

4. CORRESPONDENCE ISSUES

4.1 Business arising from 2 regular e-mail

No business arising.

Corrie feels that bear-proof garbage containers should be allowed the evening before pick-up, however, no response has been received to Corrie's e-mail in this respect.

4.2 Non-posted letters – 0 this period.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Council and other District Issues

5.1 Policy on green waste limit

This item was tabled over from the Oct meeting. Another debate was had about the possibility of an increase of bags from 6 to 10 per household per week - especially during spring and fall clean-ups - but no agreement or decision was reached, as too many factors do not seem to be available.

5.2 Comments on the Nov 18th OCP Visioning Workshop

Although this item was also discussed under 3.1 above it was noted that the member names of the roundtable committee was not on the DNV's website. The terms of reference are on the website, but not the membership list.

5.3 A New Fire Hall in Your Neighbourhood?

Corrie (as the only speaker there) reported on the Public Hearing held on this issue on Nov 17th

The new regulations adopted by Council following this public hearing would allow the fire hall's own dimensions to be used regardless of neighbourhood zoning regulations (eg.. no height restrictions)

A concern was expressed about the future locations of DNV fire halls. Could a new fire hall possibly come to Edgemont Village in the future? If so, no further public hearing would be REQUIRED.

5.4 North Van Drivers Ignore Stop Signs

In spite of a recent newspaper article (SUN – page G6 of Nov 6th 2009) it is unclear whether ignoring the stop signs is worse on the North Shore than in any other places in the Lower Mainland.

5.5 Housing Affordability Gap

From a Nov 6th 2009 SUN article <http://www.chfcanada.coop/eng/pdf/DunningReport2009EnWeb.pdf>
For just C\$1 per household per day the housing crisis could be solved – i.e.\$4.7 billion will solve the housing crisis, but the question remains where the money will come from? Is there the political will and resolve to further tax Canadians to solve this problem?

A brief debate dealt with how housing affordability is solved in Northern Europe.

5.6 Seylynn signals the “End of Suburban Domination”

As a comparison to a 6Nov2009 SUN article by Sam Sullivan (“Densification is the path to affordable housing”) it was pointed out that – to the contrary -Seylynn **was** a residential single family neighbourhood which has recently been rezoned to multi-family.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Legal Issues

(a) Excessive Municipal Industrial Tax Rates?

Supreme Court of BC decision on Catalyst Paper Co. vs. Corp. of District of North Cowichan. Some remarks about judgment at <http://www.courts.gov.bc.ca/jdb-txt/SC/09/14/2009BCSC1420.htm>

- Municipalities do not have independent constitutional status
- Tax rated do not need to be related to services consumed
- Municipal taxes were about 1% of Catalyst operating costs

It should be noted that Catalyst concedes a somewhat higher rate is justified due to its income tax deductibility (something that is not allowed by residents)

In summary the court decided that:

Excessive Municipal Tax Rates do not need to be related to actual services that are consumed.

(b) Neighbours Feud over Noise & Video Surveillance

<http://www.courts.gov.bc.ca/jdb-txt/SC/09/14/2009BCSC1403cor1.htm>
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- camera constituted a nuisance
- air conditioner constituted a nuisance
- injunction and \$6,000 award granted
- 45 db(A) limit at night at property boundary

An air conditioner causing grief between neighbours was deemed by the judge not just to be a humming sound. It was deemed that it could not exceed 45 decibels.

(c) Home Inspector fined in BC Supreme Court Ruling

<http://www.courts.gov.bc.ca/jdb-txt/SC/09/15/2009BCSC1515.htm>

Concerned a home on Skyline Dr. Action against DNV were dropped. Fine was \$192,920.45
A home inspector was held liable by the court for missing a number of important details in his recommendations to a resident buying a house in North Vancouver.

6.2 Any Other Issues (2 min each)

(a) Climate Change Deniers – it would appear that the deniers are gaining some ground.

(b) Chilliwack Landslide.

From an article in SUN – Oct 10/2009 “4,000-year-old landslide leaves taxpayers on the hook for \$18 million”

Geotechnical Engineer quit/retired before event.
Thus the municipality of Chilliwack ended up being responsible.

(c) Terminology for Disaster Risk Reduction

The list of terms was attached to agenda package.

(d) Retroactive Legislation & Olympic Sign Bylaw

SUN article of Oct 21/2009 “Legislation would Reverse Supreme Court Ruling” Article (about Omnibus Bill 13 – the “Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act” –also attached) were provided dealing with retroactive legislation and the draconian Olympic sign bylaws of Vancouver.

(e) Air Pollution and Bronchiolitis

Nov 17/2009 article by American Thoracic Society was distributed for information.

(f) The Spirit Trail – there are still issues in Norgate regarding the Spirit Trail. The local residents want this trail to remain on the road rather than being diverted.

(g) Marine Drive development – an update was given on the most recent development. Parking remains an unresolved issue.

(h) Shirtsleeve meeting with Council – Cathy will suggest to council that a meeting between Council and FONVCA members take place after the Olympics. **-ACTION ITEM**

(i) Shelter Act

Draconian measures can be taken against homeless people during the Olympics and is a reason for concern.

7. CHAIR AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Chair of next meetin:

Diana Belhouse – Delbrook Community Association – Tel: 604-987-1656

It was decide **NOT** to have a FONVCA meeting in **December. The next FONVCA meeting will be held 7:00pm Thursday January 21st 2010**

Meeting was adjourned at ~ 9:10PM.