

FONVCA

Minutes Thursday June 19th 2008

Place: DNV Hall 355 W. Queens Rd V7N 2K6

Attendees

Eric Andersen (Chair)	Blueridge C.A.
Cathy Adams	Lions Gate N.A.
John Miller	Lower Capilano C.R.A.
Corrie Kost	Edgemont C.A.
Diana Belhouse (Notes)	Delbrook C.A.
Hugh Murray	Lower Capilano C.R.A.
Dan Ellis	Lynn Valley C.A.
Brian Platts	Edgemont C.A.

Time at start of meeting: 7:10pm

Regrets: Val Moller, David Knee

1. ORDER / CONTENT OF AGENDA

Added items:

Added Items: Under section 6.2

- email by David Knee re: new sewage plant
- "road to hell is paved with public transport"
- "answer to urban traffic congestion – cars"
- "Mayors rule out regional police force"
- Shared dock facility proposal

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

May 15th minutes were approved as circulated.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3.1 Council's Increased use of Consent Agenda

A letter was sent to council in accordance with the unanimous FONVCA resolution at the May 15th meeting. Copy posted on web site as

<http://www.fonvca.org/agendas/jun2008/FONVCA-letter.pdf>

Response by Councillor Nixon at

<http://www.fonvca.org/agendas/jun2008/FONVCA-letter-response1.pdf>

4. CORRESPONDENCE ISSUES

4.1 Business arising from 6 regular e-mail

Correspondence on various issues. No action/items generated except for letter

http://www.fonvca.org/letters/2008/12may-to/John_Paul_Morrison_21may2008.pdf which

resulted in distribution of 33page article "Smart Growth – Threatening the quality of urban life" by Wendell Cox of Frontier Centre for Public Policy.

http://www.fcpc.org/main/publication_detail.php?PubID=701

This item will be placed on the next FONVCA Agenda for broader discussion.

4.2 Non-posted letters – 0 this period.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Council and other District Issues

5.1 Government 2.0 The Next Generation of Democracy

http://www.internetevolution.com/author.asp?section_id=506&doc_id=154118&

http://www.socialtext.net/wiki-government-and-democracy/index.cgi?government_2_0

<http://www.networkedgovernment.ca/Government2Williams>

The referenced articles demonstrate how the internet has completely changed the way governments at all levels interact with people. A potential subject for a more in-depth discussion at some future date.

5.2 DNV Annual Report (Released June 6th)

Public response to be allowed in Council Chambers – 5pm Monday June 23/2008. "This is your opportunity to ask questions or make submissions on any aspect of the report." It was shown how some other municipalities have been tracking "Quality of Life" indicators (Township of Langley, West Vancouver). The DNV report was felt to be too general by some and lacked this (required) long term tracking. Graph from Port Moody's annual report showed DNV 2nd highest for Tax & Utility charges for an average home.

This year's DNV annual report, being available in hard copy form, was felt to be a positive step over last year.

DNV spending growth (reported in Vancouver Sun on 5 June/2008) from 2000-2006 of 43.1%, with population and inflation component accounting for 15.2% is not sustainable. Port Moody did much better with comparable figures of 44.2 and 39.5%. Corrie showed a graph indicating how municipal taxes in the DNV, after adjusting for inflation, have grown at an unsustainable rate for the average home since 1975.

5.3 Blueridge Good Neighbour Day, June 8 2008.

Report by Eric- was held on a Sunday a couple of weeks ago and was a lot of fun, due to hard work of many volunteers. Lots of children's events and some 500 free hot dogs, a parade, and a magician. Ref:

<http://members.shaw.ca/blueridgeca/>

5.4 The price of freedom...

From May 26th Agenda/Minutes of West Vancouver

Resolution that the Province be requested to consider amending the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to provide **the option** for recovery of actual request processing costs.

FONVCA members felt that this was not a good approach – with many problems resulting from “selling” public information. Some felt that putting a price on information requests could lead to bureaucrats putting an artificially high price on information in order to stonewall such requests. The frequency of requests can vary rapidly over time and/or issues. It was stated that BC Hydro lists contents and corresponding charges before an order is placed. Requests for information some years ago, when Seymour was working on their OCP, resulted in much staff work and large volumes but were done at no charge to the customers.

References:

<http://library2.usask.ca/gic/17/nilsen.html> (hard copy distributed)

<http://space.frot.org/docs/why-free.html>

http://www.atirtf-geai.gc.ca/report/key_points-e.html

5.5 Freedom of the District Ceremony

Despite council policy 1-0220-2, the meeting of council to award 4 citizens of the DNV the Freedom of the District, held 7pm, Monday June 9/2008, immediately following a 6pm Council Workshop, was largely unknown to district residents since there was minimal information provided prior to this ceremony – which appears not to have been recorded as well. Although the awards were announced at a Council meeting in February, if advertised the general public may have not had enough space to be seated.

Corrie and Cathy attended by chance and said that it was a lot of fun, but there was no opportunity to stand-up and applause when the award for the late Ernie Crist was announced. Dan Ellis announced that the NV Golf Course Society will be planting a tree in memory of Ernie Crist near the 18th hole and the Northlands Club House.

5.6 Alpine Trails Plans – DNV Council July 7

An article from Monica Craver, outlining her usual concerns was distributed. Feeling was that the plan was poorly laid out with unsafe multi-use of trails. An article from June 14th issue of “The Okanagan” - “Illegal mountain bike jumps removed” illustrates the universal problems of this issue.

5.7 Pesticide Bylaw – DNV Council June 16th

Option 1 of the bylaw was given 3rd reading on June 16th with only Councillor Mike Little opposed. Staff have promised “soft enforcement” of the bylaw – stressing the educational component. 19 people spoke for the bylaw, with 1 speaking against (Corrie).

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Legal Issues

Bill 44 – Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act

http://www.leg.bc.ca/38th3rd/3rd_read/gov44-3.htm

Excerpts (from Bill St. Arnaud):

Targets for carbon neutral public sector

5 (1) Each public sector organization must be carbon neutral for the **2010 calendar year** and for each subsequent calendar year.

(2) The Provincial government must be carbon neutral for the 2008 and 2009 calendar years in relation to its PSO greenhouse gas emissions that are directly related to public officials travelling on public business for which the travel expenses are covered by the consolidated revenue fund.

(3) In advance of the obligation under subsection (1), for the 2008 and 2009 calendar years, each public sector organization must pursue actions to minimize its PSO greenhouse gas emissions.

Requirements for achieving carbon neutral status

6 (1) In order to be carbon neutral for a calendar year, a public sector organization must

(a) pursue actions to minimize its PSO greenhouse gas emissions for the calendar year,
(b) determine its PSO greenhouse gas emissions for that calendar year in accordance with the regulations, and
(c) no later than the end of June in the following calendar year, apply emission offsets in accordance with the regulations to net those emissions to zero.

The above applied to our DNV government.

City of Prince George Zoning Bylaw 7850

http://www.city.pg.bc.ca/city_services/cpd/newzoning/ and specifically

http://www.city.pg.bc.ca/city_services/cpd/newzoning/final/report.pdf and

http://www.city.pg.bc.ca/city_services/cpd/newzoning/background_report.pdf

is a great example of a recent, comprehensive, review of zoning process. It has an exhaustive list of definitions.

Corrie noted that the review of the DNV OCP has been started and according to staff, should be completed in about 2 ½ years.

6.2 Any Other Issues (2 minute input limit)

a) **New Sewage Plant.**

David Knee's June 16th email on this was distributed. The proposed new sewage plant, located on the old BC Rail site (same site as failed Costco proposal) is to replace the ageing/inadequate facility under the Lions Gate Bridge. It will be costly. Corrie expressed concern that we should be compensated for at least the taxes that would have accrued to DNV coffers if the Costco proposal had proceeded.

This new facility will prevent toxins and other raw sewage from entering the Burrard inlet. It **should** be a silent and odourless plant.

- b) **“Road to hell is paved with public transit”**
– May 21st Globe and Mail article by Neil Reynolds was distributed. Lots of interesting stats. Public transit good for city cores – not suburbs. Note: Re Council Workshop of June 9th – Lions Gate Bridge /Marine Dr. Transit Priority – it was mentioned that 2+ cars **may** be allowed on the bus lanes (eg HOV). Some FONVCA members understood it to be a bus only lane.
- c) **“The answer to urban traffic congestion? Cars”** – May 23rd Globe and Mail article by Neil Reynolds was distributed.
- d) **Mayors rule out regional police force:**
Vancouver Sun article of June 5th 2008 was distributed.
- e) **Shared Dock Facility on Beachview Dr.**
Public open house 5-9pm Tues June 24/2008 at Parkgate Community Centre. **FONVCA members are urged to attend and register their views.**
- f) **Grand Opening of the Lynn Valley Town Centre – Sat June 21st noon-3pm**
Dan Ellis indicated time/date – ceremony to be held in new plaza in front of new library.

7. CHAIR AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Diana Belhouse Eric Andersen – Delbrook C.A and Save Our Shores.

Tel: 604-987-1656

Thursday, 7:00pm **July 17, 2008**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05PM.