

FONVCA

DRAFT Minutes of Regular Meeting June 20th 2012

At DNV Hall 355 W. Queens Rd V7N 2K6

Attendees

Paul Tubb (Chair pro-tem)	Pemberton Heights C. A.
Diana Belhouse (notes)	Delbrook CA & Save Our Shores Society
John Miller	Lower Capilano Community Res. Assoc.
Sharlene Hertz	Delbrook C.A.
Carol Hartnett	Norwood Queens Community Assoc.
Douglas Curran	Capilano Gateway Association
Kim Belcher	Capilano Gateway Association
Eric Andersen	Blueridge Community Association
Dan Ellis	Lynn Valley C. A.
Corrie Kost	Edgemont & Upper Capilano C.A.

Regrets: Val Moller, Cathy Adams, John Hunter

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

1. Order/Content of Agenda

Corrie added FYI 8.2(b) "Food-miles".

2. Adoption of May 16th 2012 Minutes

<http://www.fonvca.org/agendas/jun2012/minutes-may2012.pdf>

With correction to spelling of "Eric Andersen" moved by Diana, seconded by Eric – carried unanimously.

6.1 Conversation with DNV CAO Dave Stuart

Item was carried forward in the agenda...

a) DNV Agenda Notification:

Dave Stuart remarked that placing weekly ads in NSNEWS to list council agenda items was felt too costly (7 or \$8000/yr). However Council is considering Monthly notices in the NSNEWS and the Outlook outlining the items to be discussed in the following month's council meetings, workshops, and those in-camera. The Clerk's website would follow the same procedure. Dave remarked that staff predicts the council agenda items about one year in advance and then zero in on six months.

As a result, this may reduce District Dialogue publications.

After some discussion about having a weekly phone message outlining upcoming agenda items Dave agreed to reinstate this after creating a special number to call and informing residents of its availability.

A FONVCA member pointed out how West Vancouver has a very open process and the agenda notice should include all details (i.e letters) about public hearings. Dave rejected this as too costly – requiring too much staff time to redact all the relevant material.

b) DNV Correspondence sent to Mayor & Council

Dave remarked that if a letter applies to an agenda item it is published and that anything to do with a public hearing should be public so reasons are available to explain Council decisions. A FONVCA member remarked that, after a public hearing, there is a need for the public to see all letters sent prior to the public hearing as well.

c) DNV Policy on Redacting Documents

In response to a complaint by a FONVCA member that the elimination of the name of the letter writer changed the meaning of the letter, Stuart promised an explanation. The FONVCA member promised to provide him with a copy of the legislation covering this process.

A FONVCA member stressed the need for Council to promote and explain the Healthy Neighbourhood Fund.

d) Sewage Treatment

Stuart responding to a question by a FONVCA member stated that a Public Advisory Committee for Metro is being set up to control this project. Members would be professional in their field (eg. environmental groups, business people, engineers) from CNV/DNV/WV

DNV is considering Waste Water treatment plant along with Vancouver. DNV seeks full treatment (secondary treatment as well) and want Provincial money to contribute.

In response to a FONVCA engineer's statement that DNV is challenging the science on (the need for) this, Stuart replied that Vancouver is all for it and he can't see Vancouver saying NO to it. Metro sees this as a way to get revenue. A FONVCA member opined that this level and type of treatment is unnecessary. (response not audible).

e) RCMP 20 Year Contract

Stuart stated that the provincial minister says we will lose 10% from the (Federal?) government if the contract is not signed by June 30th So DNV will sign it – but under duress [subsequent to this meeting it was signed at the last moment on June 30th]. Richmond, NVC, and Burnaby all oppose this contract. There is a political agenda behind this. Some municipalities just want to embarrass the Provincial Government irrespective of this issue.

To change from Provincial (RCMP) force to a local force will require 2 year notice. There could be two choices – a North Vancouver (DNV/CNV) independent force or a North Shore independent force. A consultant has been working on this and will have a report by the end of 2012. No details available, but costs and other issues are being considered. No alternative options were offered by the Province.

f) Second Narrows Bridgehead

A FONVCA member asked why industry is not represented on the Special Committee to provide recommendations to Council. It was because they input mainly via Port of Vancouver. There is a concern about routing such port related truck traffic through the proposed Seylynn residential development since the Main St. on ramp is too short for trucks.

g) PILT Decision (see also 8.1(c))

Port related industrial taxes (in lieu) are largely determined by the Federal Government and has never been up to the amount assessed by BC. Then the Port hired an independent assessor who devalued it even further. In 2009 DNV filed an objection. However the panel can only make recommendations to the Minister. The Port cannot

make up it's own assessment. For DNV this meant a devalued amount of \$500,000. An appeal overturned this in 2011 – but was repeated in 2012 – and is again being appealed. The recent Supreme Court of Canada decision (see section 8.1(c)) means that the ports must pay a fair share of municipal taxes.

It was noted that water leases are undervalued – with the Port saying that water leases don't need to pay based on zoning if the land isn't developed yet.

h) Waterfront Encroachment Strategy

In response to a question from a FONVCA member related to waterfront property encroachment – Stuart replied that council has not yet contacted any of the waterfront owners who have encroached on street-ends, lanes, or right of ways. He cited problems of legal issues and possible litigation by wealthy waterfront homeowners. Equitable (non-discriminatory) treatment of all encroachments (waterfront related or not) – even though some encroached areas are not currently used by the public – is problematic – and may result in lawsuits against the DNV.

Council has looked at encroachments all over DNV, of which many really don't restrict public access unlike those on the waterfront. Stuart will bring it before Council in Sep/Oct and stress that dealing with the waterfront encroachments will have a major effect on much needed public access.

i) Community Associations

In response to a question from a FONVCA member, Stuart replied that, as a result of a council meeting, membership qualifications, certification, and meeting procedures are now up to FONVCA. The current situation is the result of policy adopted many years ago. Council recognizes that Community Associations do not represent the views of the whole community.

The chair thanked Dave Stuart for his attendance

3. Roundtable on Current Affairs

A. Overview of Vancouver's Laneway Housing

<http://www.fonvca.org/agendas/jun2012/Vancouver%20Laneway%20Housing,%20Regulations%20and%20Guidelines.pdf>

The above link describes Vancouver's regulations and guidelines for laneway housing. Note that Vancouver allows what amount to 3 family units (cannot be stratified) on a single family lot – original, secondary suite, and laneway house.

B. Is Urban Densification Just Plain Dense?

<http://www.fonvca.org/agendas/jun2012/news-clips/Is-urban-density-just-plain-dense.pdf>

An article by SUN reporter Pete McMartin espousing the views of Wendell Cox – a US public policy consultant arguing that densification reduces quality of life.

C. Policing Costs to increase 30%

<http://204.239.10.176/wowza/flowplayer/council/council.html?start=5610&end=7510&filename=20120529>

One reason not to sign the RCMP contract

D. DNV Tree Bylaw Amendments – June 5th Council Workshop

http://www.dnv.org/upload/documents/Council_Agendas_Minutes/cw120605.pdf

One detail – citizens can trim public trees overhanging their properties – just so long as tree remains viable.

E. Special Meetings & Workshops of Council & Public Input

There are sometimes no recordings of council workshops. Little opportunity exists for the public to ask questions at these meetings. It is recommended that more citizens attend these council meetings to encourage council to allow questions after each staff presentation and council questions.

F. Marine Design Guidelines

The vision for Marine Dr. is/was to eliminate their car dealerships. Proposals to house them in showrooms topped by condos thwarts this community vision.

4. Old Business

4.1 Council Agenda Distribution Update – web users can subscribe to receive

<http://www.dnv.org/article.asp?a=5300> status change

Letter was to council – attached in full agenda package as per May 16th FONVCA meeting.

Compare to a web tool (attached example in full package) which highlights changes in the notification. DNV is to provide this highlighting in the future, as currently the notification by DNV does not indicate what has changed.

4.2 FONVCA Resolution on Home Care – item 3F of May 16th

<http://www.fonvca.org/agendas/jun2012/letter-to-council-item-3F-w-attachment.pdf>

We missed the deadline for DNV council to submit the requested resolution to UBCM.

ACTION ITEM: Encourage council to submit the requested resolution in time (early 2013) for next year's UBCM.

5. Correspondence Issues

5.1 Business arising from 9 regular emails.

Item from last meeting to be carried over to next (Sept) FONVCA meeting - about Alpine Plan not being followed and confusion over rebuilding versus dismantling. **Dan** Ellis will follow up with R. Boulton regarding correspondence on reopening trail(s). **ACTION ITEM**

5.2 Non-Posted letters – 0 emails were not posted.

6. New Business – Council & Other District Issues

6.1 Conversation with DNV CAO Dave Stuart – see insert after agenda item 2.

6.2 Release of DNV 2011 Annual Report

<http://www.dnv.org/article.asp?c=1124>

<http://www.dnv.org/article.asp?p=true&a=5311&v=1>

Annual report is lengthy. Only 3 people made presentations to council on the report.

Corrie: remarked how reporting on taxes are handled differently in different municipalities. Reference was made to the report produced by Saanich at www.saanich.ca/services/docs/pdf/annual-report2011.pdf

A non-official, compact, single pdf file of the Annual report can be found at <http://www.fonvca.org/dnv-annual-reports/2011.pdf>

Dan: No explanation in the report as to why the cost of Library services went up 7.5%

Corrie: Average DNV Total Residential Property Taxes and Charges – as taken from the provincial government website went up 38% ABOVE INFLATION in 10 years.

Note that people were allowed to speak to council without any time limits!

7. Any Other Business

LionsView Seniors Planning Society

The society has completed a survey on needs and held workshop meetings on Seniors Housing, need for services which affect Seniors, Transit etc.

Jane Osborne, Director is willing to talk to FONVCA about their work.

It was agreed that Doug Curran would contact Jane **[ACTION ITEM]** and suggest she be given one hour for her presentation (including Q/A).

Corrie mentioned a new development proposal planned - abutting Edgemont Village – a 140 unit seniors rental apartment complex for people of age around 85 who are still in good health but want to be provided 3 meals/day. Cost would be in the \$5000/month range.

8. FOR YOUR INFORMATION ITEMS

See agenda for details

For eases of reference 8.1(c) reference above was

Supreme Court of Canada: PILT ruling

<http://fcm.ca/home/media/news-releases/2012/statement-by-fcm-president-karen-leibovici-following-the-supreme-courts-decision-on-the-payments-in-lieu-of-taxes-act.htm>

<http://scc.lexum.org/en/2012/2012scc29/2012scc29.html>

8.2 Food-Miles

Corrie alleged that Environmental Policy Analysis revealed that it's easier to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by changing one's diet than to shift to local food production. See

http://www.foodpolitics.com/wp-content/uploads/food_miles_climate_impacts.pdf

Meeting adjourned at ~ 9:30 pm.

9. Chair & Date of next meeting – John Hunter – September 19th.

Moved by Dan, seconded by John Miller and carried - that
THERE WILL BE NO REGULAR FONVCA MEETINGS FOR JULY & AUGUST

Corrie will try to arrange, by email, an informal dinner gathering of interested members for August 15th – suggestions for a place/venue are welcomed.

Email corrie@kost.ca