
Monday, January 25, 1993

Committee Room
Municipal Hall
14245 - 56th Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
Time: 4:54 p.m.

Present: Councillor Robinson - Chairperson, Mayor Bose, Councillor Schrenk, Councillor Watkins, Councillor Hunt, Councillor Higginbotham, Councillor Ralston, Councillor Villeneuve, and Councillor Fomich.

Also

Present: Municipal Manager, Municipal Clerk, and W. Hyndman - Administrative Assistant.

A. CORPORATE REPORTS

The Corporate Report to Council of January 25, 1993, was considered and dealt with as follows:

Item No. C6 Affordable Housing Implementation Strategy (2104-014)

The Corporate Studies Analyst submitted a report concerning the Affordable Housing Implementation Strategy.

The Corporate Studies Analyst was recommending that Council:

- (a) endorse the proposed "Demonstration Projects for Innovations in Affordable Housing", as outlined in Appendix "D";
- (b) designate 14198 - 92 Avenue for a Municipal Lands Demonstration Project; and
- (c) request that staff report back to Council by February 26, 1993, with detailed Terms of Reference for both private and Municipal lands proposal calls.

This item was not dealt with.

B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

C. DELEGATIONS

1. Mr. Michael Kirkland, Consultant
(2122-182/2)

The General Manager of Planning & Development introduced Mr. Michael Kirkland of the Kirkland Partnership, whose headquarters are in Toronto. Mr. Kirkland was present to apprise Council of his work on the Surrey City Centre Urban Design Vision.

Mr. Kirkland noted that the objective of the Urban Design Concept is to give a physical image to the city centre which will inform citizens, direct future planning efforts (including public investment initiatives) and guide private development. He added that the Urban Design Concept study is one in a series of studies concerning the city centre and should be viewed as the framework on which a city can build and grow.

The Urban Design Concept has been developed in accordance with previously conducted work, except that it proposes a phased transformation in the appearance and function of the King George Highway and suggests an alternative location for Central Square. The present study recognizes that the King George Highway will continue to play a major role in the life of Surrey; particularly, as a place of arrival for visitors and for daily use by Surrey citizens. Mr. Kirkland emphasized that King George Highway should be recognized as an important vehicular corridor and while it will not be the focus of the City Centre, advantage should be taken of the spectacular mountain view. He added that the gradual upgrading of King George Highway would include landscaping and the removal of overhead powerlines.

Mr. Kirkland pointed out that the section of King George Highway, between 108 Avenue and 100 Avenue is exactly one mile long. He suggested this would be a suitable route for annual parades and, perhaps, a unique event such as a straight mile run. He commented on the view of the mountains when proceeding north on the King George Highway and noted that this will become a very important asset for Surrey over a period of time. Mr. Kirkland continued that the mountains are the ultimate monument and suggested that a plaza of civic memory could be established at a significant point along this route.

Mr. Kirkland discussed the location of Central Square and noted that previous work suggested it should be located on the city-owned land west of the station. Mr. Kirkland opined that while open spaces should organize that site, the principal public square should be located between the central station and King George Highway. Central Square is seen as a centrally-located, active urban space divided by stands of trees to provide open and sheltered areas.

Mr. Kirkland suggested that Central Square would have a decorative paving pattern, low-level lighting to provide intimacy, and outdoor cafe seating with the possibility of fountains. He commented on a possible underground pedestrian connection across King George Highway to provide ease of access for pedestrians east/west.

The proposals for Whalley Square and South Gate Square were discussed, both squares are considered points of arrival with Whalley Square at the north and South Gate Square being the southern point of introduction for visitors to Surrey City Centre. A semi-circular public square, split into four sections is proposed for South Gate Square, with one of the segments being proposed as an area in which to hold a farmer's market.

Members of Council commented on the size of Central Square and noted that efforts should be made to avoid a large, empty space.

Mayor Bose referred to a plaza which leads from the Star Ferry Terminal on Hong Kong Island to the City Hall and requested that an illustration of that plaza be provided as an example of what is being proposed for Central Square.

D. DELEGATION REQUESTS

E. COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS

F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was Moved by Councillor Hunt

Seconded by Councillor Higginbotham

That the Council-in-Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Council-in-Committee meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

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