
Tuesday, June 1, 1999

Council Chamber
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
Tuesday, June 1, 1999
Time: 4:13 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Watts - Chairperson
Councillor Caissie
Councillor Steele
Mayor McCallum

Absent:

Councillor Robinson
Councillor Hunt
Councillor Villeneuve

Staff Present:

Acting City Manager/General Manager,
Planning & Development
Deputy City Clerk
M. Hamod, Administrative Assistant

Joining the Meeting in Progress:

Councillor Eddington
Councillor Higginbotham

As quorum could not be achieved, it was agreed to hear the delegations.

C. DELEGATIONS

1. Bob Thompson, General Manager

Greater Vancouver Economic Partnership (GVEP)

Vancouver Economic Development Commission

File: 0065-012; 0313-001

Mr. Philip Boname, Vancouver Economic Development Commission, was in attendance to explain the Greater Vancouver Economic Partnership (GVEP) and to see what needs the City of Surrey might have for its intended services.

Mr. Boname stated that he was here to discuss a single organization promoting regional economic development for the whole Lower Mainland. He explained the details of the proposal which will ensure the competitiveness of the Greater Vancouver region in attracting investment and job creation opportunities.

The purpose of the GVEP will be:

- To assist governments, businesses, institutions, business associations and interested individuals to co-operate in advancing the economic development of the Greater Vancouver region.
- To help establish economic development priorities for the Greater Vancouver region.
- To develop a strategic plan to achieve these economic development priorities.
- To further economic development in the region through research, marketing, education, direct development activities, and undertaking joint projects.
- To deliver general economic services on a region-wide basis including:
 - Promoting the Greater Vancouver region nationally and internationally.
 - Providing information to potential investors on business opportunities in the region.

- Organizing incoming and outgoing trade missions and business delegations.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Boname for his presentation, but indicated that the concept would only benefit Vancouver. He felt their approach was too aggressive and that municipal governments should not be expected to fund such an endeavor. Mr. Boname stressed he was not representing the City of Vancouver and for the partnership to be successful, it must be seen not to benefit any particular City.

Mr. Bob Thompson, General Manager, GVEP, was then introduced and stated that his interest is with the region and not with one municipality. He would like to know how to make Surrey's economic development more productive, and what can be done as a region to help.

Councillor Higginbotham entered the meeting at 4:19 p.m.

Mr. Thompson advised the GVEP currently has five directors and is looking for ten more. Representation from the City of Surrey would be welcomed.

The Chair advised she has the Economic Development portfolio for the City and would be pleased to meet with representatives of the GVEP.

Mr. Thompson provided information to the Clerk for distribution to Council.

The Chair thanked the delegation for their presentation.

**2. Peter E. Simpson, Executive Vice President
& Chief Operating Officer
Greater Vancouver Home Builders' Association
File: 0065-012; 0023-001**

Mr. Peter E. Simpson, Executive Vice-President & Chief Operating Officer, Greater Vancouver Home Builders' Association was in attendance to express significant concerns regarding the proposed by-law that would mandate automatic sprinkler systems in all new homes except single-family residences. Council has deferred consideration of the Fire Chiefs report on the subject until the year 2000.

Councillor Eddington entered the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Mr. Simpson thanked Mayor and Council, in particular Councillor Watts, for conducting the recent Residential Development Forum which has generated a lot of discussion and took leadership to initiate.

Mr. Simpson requested Council review the report and consider all the implications. He quoted statistics indicating that deaths caused by fire rate tenth and last behind car accidents and other misfortunes. Mr. Simpson noted the ten provincial and three American buildings codes do not endorse sprinklers and that homeowners are well-served by the current standards for fire safety.

Councillor Caissie, as Chair of the Public Safety Committee, acknowledged that with building starts so low it was not a good time to initiate new regulations, but that you could not risk the loss of one life.

Councillor Higginbotham questioned if Mr. Simpson supported sprinklers in high-rise buildings or multi-family dwellings and was advised that he did, but not for single-family homes.

Responding to Councillor Eddington regarding insurance costs, Mr. Simpson advised there is approximately a \$30/year break on insurance for homes that have sprinklers. Mr. Simpson noted that sprinklers add more cost to homes, therefore making them less affordable. He closed by stating he did

not support any unnecessary cost that could be avoided.

The Chair thanked the delegation for his presentation.

3. Mohamed Allibhai & Nathan Thomas

Synergy Recreational Property Management (R.P.M.)

File: 0065-012; 0665-001

Mr. Mohamed Allibhai and Mr. Nathan Thomas, Synergy R.P.M., were in attendance regarding their corporate advertising proposal with respect to advertising spaces to private companies and corporations.

Mr. Allibhai explained his proposal which is to create strategic co-dependent marketing alliances with municipalities. Synergy is prepared to market and maintain advertising spaces on municipally owned lands. The advertising would be located in sports and recreational venues throughout Surrey and be specifically targeted at those who use the facilities.

Councillor Eddington questioned if he had spoken with Surreys Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission and was advised they had not.

Councillor Steele questioned if Synergy was operating with anyone else and was advised they were not.

Mr. Allibhai advised that the Cities of Burnaby and Richmond were not supportive of their proposal.

Councillor Higginbotham advised the City has an Advertising and Sponsorship Committee and requested the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture elaborate on the advertising program. The General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture advised the City contracts advertising in parks with chain-link as well as beverage sponsorships. Further, many advertising contracts are currently in process with a number of companies.

Councillor Higginbotham suggested the delegation contact the Advertising and Sponsorship Committee and the Parks and Recreation Commission for further information.

The Chair thanked the delegation for his presentation.

4. Teresa Kelly and Les Gordon

File: 0065-012; 2152-08500 (R1870)

Ms. Teresa Kelly and Mr. Les Gordon were in attendance regarding the unsightly property at 15296 - 85 Avenue.

The City Solicitor advised the open excavation on the property is in contravention of Surrey Community Improvement and Unsightly By-law, 1997, No. 13150. A proposed by-law will be introduced at the June 14, 1999 Regular Council meeting which will require the owner of the property to take action to bring the property into compliance with the City's by-laws. The by-law will be before Council for final adoption at the June 21, 1999 Regular Council meeting.

Ms. Kelly was disheartened that the property was still not cleaned up and the Mayor commended her patience and advised the City is moving as quickly as it can.

The City Solicitor suggested Ms. Kelly and Mr. Gordon attend the Council meeting when the property owners will be present so that both sides may discuss their concerns.

Ms. Kelly provided Council with copies of a petition for information.

Mr. Gordon suggested that Council visit the site to understand their 12 years of frustration.

The Chair thanked the delegation for their presentation.

5. Cindi Seddon

Bully B'Ware Productions

File: 0065-012; 8020-005

Ms. Cindi Seddon, Bully B'Ware Productions, was in attendance to apprise Council of the Bully B'Ware: Take Action Against Bullying Program and to receive feedback and support to implement this program in the City.

Ms. Seddon advised she is the Principal at Seaview Community School in Port Moody. She has written and developed, along with two colleagues, a program called "Bully B'Ware: Take Action Against Bullying" which has received national acclaim.

Ms. Seddon commended Constable Julia Chapman, School Liaison Officer for South Surrey, who is screening volunteers and training them to go into schools to prevent bullying situations.

Ms. Seddon has developed the Community Business Kidwatch Program which will extend protection of children from their homes and families into the business community. The businesses in the community become safe places for children to go if they are being bullied or otherwise harassed in the community until they can get help from home, police or other safe adult agencies.

The plan of the Community Business Kidwatch Program is to:

1. Recontact communities that have embraced the "Take Action Against Bullying" program.
2. Look for endorsements of the program through trusted community agencies such as the police.
3. Contact local newspapers to solicit their support in advertising businesses who are part of a Community Business Kidwatch Program through a social responsibility ad campaign.
4. Contact all businesses within a community and invite them to be a part of this undertaking.
5. Provide business with different levels of participation, ranging from \$100 to \$1,000.

Ms. Seddon requested Council's financial support in the range of \$10,000 - \$15,000.

Councillor Eddington questioned if Ms. Seddon had met with the School Board and was advised the School Board was supportive of the program. She has had difficulties building partnerships with societies as she does not have non-profit status. Councillor Eddington suggested she contact the Surrey Crime Prevention Society for support.

Ms. Seddon was advised that unfortunately the City as well as the province's grant process are for non-profit organizations. Ms. Seddon stated her interest in developing a private/public partnership with the City and provided the Clerk with relevant information.

The Chair thanked the delegation for her presentation.

6. Ralph & Anne Robertson

File: 0065-012; 2152-09865

Mrs. Anne Robertson were in attendance to discuss the problems being experienced with the front of her property located at 11510 Miller Road. Mrs. Robertson explained the property is eroding onto a roadway and the City should install a retaining wall or some other solution. Her lawn cannot be kept alive due to excessive drainage which has not been alleviated by the City's mitigation efforts.

Engineering advised the cinder block wall is the property owners own initiative and was constructed to flatten the lawn. If the wall had not been put in, it would have been a natural slope and the bank would not have a problem. The Engineering Department does not believe the bank is unstable.

Background information was given to the Clerk to be circulated to Council.

The Chair requested the Engineering Department prepare a Corporate Report on the matter.

7. Lisa Petterson

File: 0065-012; 8020-005; 2152-13200

Ms. Lisa Petterson was in attendance to express concerns regarding break-ins, drug deals, prostitution and vandalism in the 132 Street and 132A Street (Cedar Hills) neighbourhood.

Ms. Petterson requested Council view two short videos of the lane in question and the activities that are taking place.

The first video dealt with drug activities in her cul-de-sac. The drug users were injecting drugs; one was a known prostitute and the other a resident at a local recovery house.

Ms. Petterson circulated copies of a map of the area 95A to 92B and 133 Street.

The second video shown indicated the length of the alley in question to be 2 1/2 blocks long. Ms. Petterson is requesting a divider at 9448 and 132 Street. The affected property owners do not want the alley blocked off, but rather a divider put in to shorten its length. Ms. Petterson stated the alley does not need to be that long as it has turned into a drag strip and is also used for overflow traffic.

Ms. Petterson advised that this alley has received a lot of media attention recently and has since developed a life of its own. The neighbourhood cleaned up the alley on the weekend and affected property owners have paid for floodlights to illuminate the alley. A divider would make it more difficult for drug users to escape quickly. Ms. Petterson admitted the divider will not be a total solution to the problem but it was a step in the right direction.

The Mayor stated his support for Ms. Petterson's concerns but questioned if a divider would drive the problem to another neighbourhood. Ms. Petterson stated the appeal of the alley is its length and the speed which drug users and prostitutes can leave the area. She stated that Council's granting of this request it would empower the neighbourhood and encourage them and other neighbourhoods in continuing their own local initiatives.

The Mayor requested the Engineering Department prepare a Corporate Report and this matter be discussed further at the next Regular Council meeting.

Councillor Caissie asked Ms. Petterson if anyone from the Integrated Service Team had contacted her, as this problem was referred to the Integrated Service Team at the May 11, 1999 Public Safety Committee meeting. Ms. Petterson advised that no one has contacted her since she sent in her petition.

Councillor Watts assumed the Chair at 6:15 p.m.

The Chair thanked the delegation for her presentation.

As quorum could not be achieved, the following Corporate Reports were postponed to the June 14, 1999 Council-in-Committee meeting.

Item No. C425 Proposed Regulations for Methadone Clinics

File: 0023-001

Item No. C426 South Newton Neighbourhood Concept Plan - Stage 2 Report

File: 2350-009

Item No. C427 South Newton Neighbourhood Concept Plan - Stage 2 Report

File: 2350-009

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

C. DELEGATIONS

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

D. DELEGATION REQUESTS

E. COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

G. ADJOURNMENT

The Council-in-Committee meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.