



City of Surrey

Council-in-Committee

Minutes

Council Chamber
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2006
Time: 4:30 p.m.

Present:

Chair: Councillor Higginbotham
Mayor Watts
Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor Steele
Councillor Hepner
Councillor Bose
Councillor Hunt

Absent:

Councillor Gill
Councillor Martin

Staff Present:

Acting City Manager
City Clerk
City Solicitor
General Manager, Engineering
General Manager, Finance, Technology & HR

A. DELEGATIONS

1. Sherry Baker, Chair Joint Family Court Committee File: 0540-20 JFC; 0550-20-10

Sherry Baker, Chair, Joint Family Court Committee was in attendance to submit the Joint Family Court Committee Annual Report and discuss the work of the committee and to answer any questions Council may have. She introduced those members in attendance: Fred Hardy, Arvind Sharma, Beant Singh, and James Bennett.

The following comments were provided:

- The City of Surrey has appointed five members to the Joint Family Court Committee (JFCC).
- The JFCC is comprised of representatives from the City of Surrey, Township of Langley, City of Langley, Corporation of Delta, and the City of White Rock.
- The concept of the JFCC was pursued in the early 1990's and through efforts of Joint Councils, was established in 2001 to consider and examine the resources of the community for family and children's court related matters.
- A Task Force was struck in 2000 to hear from various Family Court Committees and it was determined that there was sufficient support from the various Councils to strike a JFCC despite no budgetary allocations.
- JFCC membership was formed in 2001 based on a formula and administration/support for the Committee rotates on an annual basis between the member municipalities.
- The JFCC operates under Section 5 of the Provincial Court Act, R.S.B.C., 1996, C379.
- The JFCC assists officers, judges, the Attorney General and others by making recommendations and assisting in individual cases where applicable.
- Two changes were approved after the mandate was developed: the term for Surrey appointees was extended to two years and the Corporation of Delta was invited to attend.

- This year the Corporation of Delta is currently reviewing its committees and has no members attending.
- A report entitled “New Justice System for Families & Children” has been released with a goal of reforming the system to move Family Law from an adversarial framework into a more workable system.
- The Family Justice system includes mediation, and dispute resolution.
- Families bear the responsibility to make their own arrangements, and under the proposed system, families would be supported by Family Justice Hubs counseling services.
- There are currently only three such hubs in the province: Kelowna, Surrey and Vancouver.
- The JFCC would like to see another 25 hubs around the province.
- Families in dispute must attend at least one mediation session and the first session is free.
- Some cases would require a judge, as there are intractable cases.
- There are currently two parallel court systems currently used to settle family matters.
- A unified Family Court would report only on Family Law.
- The JFCC Task Force endured a level of frustration back in 1992 when it discovered that Family Law is low in priority in the Courts and remains a “poor cousin” in the justice system.
- There are no natural lobby groups in the case of family justice and reform.
- The recent report also notes that 7 of 10 provinces have unified Courts, however, B.C. is not one of the seven.
- Family Law affects us all.
- Council is invited to attend an Annual General Meeting, which has been scheduled for April 28, and 29, 2006.
- At the JFCC meeting in February 2006, it was recommended that member municipalities, community service providers, and decision makers be brought together to a Joint Family Court Committee meeting to look at ways that the community could work together to achieve some of these goals, address complaints, hear concerns from individual citizens regarding the justice system, and identify ways agencies can work together to provide better family services.
- They ask that the JFCC be given a high profile in its role as community representatives in helping to make desired changes to the delivery of court services as they apply to children and families.
- The JFCC continues to pressure, lobby, and provide feedback for the implementation of recommendations presented by the Family Justice Reform group.
- The JFCC would like to be kept informed of ongoing research into this matter and would continue to look at ways to implement findings locally.
- The JFCC Sub-Committee in Langley recommends a Family Justice Hub be set up in Langley.
- The JFCC advised there is a need to have some type of tracing mechanism or benchmark to judge whether or not new ways of providing services are actually beneficial, saving time and money.
- To determine program successes would require research.

- Each member municipality Council made a commitment to contribute towards a total of \$6,500 per year to keep the project going.
- The JFCC budget will be finalized April 5, 2006 and they are hoping that Surrey Council will continue to support their work.

2. Paul H. LeMay, Facilitator
Semiahmoo Peninsula Citizens for Public Safety (SPCPS)
File: 8710-01; 0550-20-10

Paul H. LeMay, Facilitator, Semiahmoo Peninsula Citizens for Public Safety (SPCPS) was in attendance regarding what role the City of Surrey might play in the building of a new railway corridor to replace the aging Burlington-Northern/Santa Fe (BNSF) line that runs from the Canada-US border along the shore to the Colebrook Road junction. Mr. LeMay introduced other members in attendance: Chris Magnus, Margaret Wood, Ken Jones, Jim McMurtry, and Peggy Richardson.

- The Semiahmoo Peninsula Citizens for Public Safety (SPCPS) appeared before Council in January 2006.
- The SPCPS is concerned with mudslide activity along the tracks.
- There has been considerable support in the past by the Chambers of Commerce in Surrey and White Rock.
- The City of Surrey was involved in negotiations with the City of New Westminster in the early 1900's and Surrey Council set up survey lines for the proposed CP Rail running from the Fraser River to the United States.
- CP Rail did not install tracks in Surrey but moved their tracks to Port Moody.
- The Surrey Council went ahead and laid track for the Great Northern Railway, which runs along the south shore of Fraser River and into Cloverdale, past Colebrook Road exchange or Highway 15, to 32 Avenue, to the border at 176 Street.
- This line was replaced in 1909 with the current system used by BNSF.
- There have been over 100 reported mudslides since 1909 or an estimated two slides per year, however they did not have any documented evidence to sustain those figures.
- There have been 55 documented accounts of track closures at Ocean Park and 12 flash floods in the area since 1930.
- In February 1982, Surrey Engineering Department noted 68 mudslides had occurred in a period of two weeks.
- There was a flash flood on June 12, 1999.
- The cliffs along the peninsula are between 20 m to 50 m in height.
- Train tremors and rain causes to slides to occur and the consequences of mudslides are train derailments.
- Of the nine train derailments since 1909, two occurred when trains hit a slide already on the tracks and seven occurred while the slide was in transit.
- Two train derailments occurred even after slide detection fences were installed in 1947.

- There have been 12 known deaths; some associated with train derailments and other types of pedestrian accidents.
- There is another safety risk factor as the 2.5 km wood trestle bridge over Mud Bay is at risk for structural failure due to advanced age.
- Mr. LeMay has submitted an FOI request to the Federal Government to access records relating to this bridge.
- The SPCPC notes several safety concerns: earthquakes and train tremors triggering mudslides or structural failure of the trestle bridge, extreme weather events, track bed washouts due to flooding, blind curve reduces visibility and opportunity for train crews to have a clear view of obstacles ahead, wind storms, wave erosion, and daily transit of trains carrying dangerous goods.
- Risk assessments stated that for every human life lost, there is a \$700 million loss to the Canadian economy.
- Statistics stated that for every 10 homes destroyed by fire, insurance claims range between \$2 million to \$5 million.
- In addition, such events cause damage to the reputation of an area as a tourist destination.
- There are tort liabilities if no action is taken and a new regulation, Bill C45 passed in 2003, holds members of corporations and bodies criminally liable for failure to take actions to protect the public, and prevent damage to the environment and wildlife.
- There are economic benefits to moving the line as a study by Pacific Gateway and Cascadia advises that rail traffic will increase by 50% by 2012.
- The current railway track capacity cannot handle that type of activity on the BNSF line.
- Additional loading of the trestle bridge increases the risk of collapse.
- The Planning & Development Department submitted a North-South Connector Corridor report in 2002, that explored moving the rail track to the 188 Street Corridor, at a cost of an estimated \$130 million.
- The SPCPC is requesting a Council resolution supporting the relocation of the railway and addressing some safety concerns by undertaking a public awareness campaign for residents living along the shoreline area through the installation of a siren / warning system in the event of a derailment.

3. **Katrina McKeown, Head Organizer**

ACORN Canada

File: 5460-20; 0550-20-10

Katrina McKeown, Head Organizer, ACORN Canada was in attendance regarding a crosswalk/light at the intersection of 126 Street at 96 Avenue.

Note: At the December 12, 2006 Regular Council - Public Hearing, Council passed a motion that the request from Katrina McKeown, Head Organizer, ACORN Canada (letter dated December 1, 2005) be referred to staff for a report at the first meeting of Council in January, 2006.

Note: At the January 16, 2006 Regular Council, Council passed a motion that the delegation request by Ms. McKeown be tabled until after the public

information meeting (January 25, 2006 at Holly Park Elementary School; as per memorandum from the Manager, By-laws & Licensing Services under date of January 9, 2006).

- Jeff Penner, elected Chair for Cedar Hills taxpayers, was in attendance to speak on behalf of Katrina McKeown.
- He asked Council to listen to the concerns of its constituents and allow the installation of a crosswalk/lighted intersection at 96 Avenue and 126 Street.
- He noted they first applied for a crosswalk/lighted intersection on December 1, 2005.
- Staff advised they would not install a crosswalk, as the statistics don't support this action.
- He represents the 300 people who signed the petition for a crosswalk two years ago, as well as the hardworking families not able to attend this meeting.
- He submitted a letter from Sue Hammell, MLA, Surrey-Green Timbers, in support of a crosswalk.

It was

Moved by Councillor Steele

Seconded by Mayor Watts

That the petition as submitted by Jeff Penner

be received.

Carried

- He advised 96 Avenue and 126 Street is a dangerous intersection with poor visibility.
- There have been 150 accidents since 1996 and traffic continues to increase.

4. Masood Anwar

File: 4020-20; 0550-20-10

Masood Anwar was in attendance to request Council reconsider his appeal regarding property located at 10265 - 148A Street, the City of Surrey and the Fire Department cost charges.

Note: At the February 13, 2006 Regular Council meeting, in response to a memorandum from the Manager, By-laws & Licensing Services, Council passed a resolution that the memorandum be forwarded to the Appellant and that Council deny the appeal.

- He is requesting Council to reconsider his appeal as to charges from the City of Surrey and Fire Department relative to a clean-up from a grow operation.
- He noted the tenant moved on September 1, 2005 and an inspection was made on September 12, 2005.
- The fire occurred on November 9, 2005.
- He advised he had made two inspections during the time the tenant was living at the property.

B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

C. CORPORATE REPORTS

D. DELEGATION REQUESTS

E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Steele

Seconded by Mayor Watts

That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

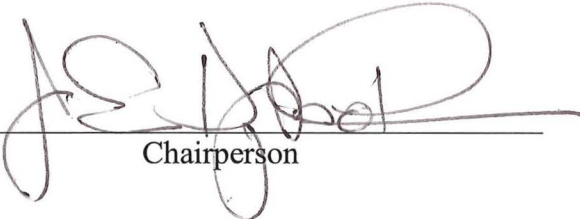
now adjourn.

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:53 p.m.



Margaret Jones, City Clerk



Chairperson