



# City of Surrey

## Council-in-Committee

### Minutes

Council Chamber  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2008  
Time: 4:56 p.m.

#### Present:

Councillor Steele - Chair  
Mayor Watts  
Councillor Villeneuve  
Councillor Gill  
Councillor Martin  
Councillor Hepner  
Councillor Bose  
Councillor Hunt  
Councillor Higginbotham

#### Absent:

#### Staff Present:

City Manager  
City Clerk  
City Solicitor  
General Manager, Planning & Development  
General Manager, Engineering  
General Manager, Finance & Technology  
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture  
General Manager, Human Resources

## A. DELEGATIONS

### 1. Dawn Topham, Grade 5 Teacher Brookside Elementary School File: 0510-20; 0550-20-10

Brookside Elementary School teacher, Dawn Topham, and her Grade 5 students were in attendance to make a brief submission regarding their findings and ideas with respect to land use in Surrey. The students each provided a short presentation addressing their concerns. Comments were as follows:

- With road rage on the increase, driving tips on how to avoid road rage, such as listening to calm music, avoiding the use of cell phones, keeping your eyes on the road and do not drink and drive, should continue to be advertised in the local newspapers.
- A greater effort in reducing pollution and garbage needs to be made. Some ideas include:
  - heavier fines for littering;
  - increased charges for extra garbage in order to encourage recycling everywhere (businesses, institutions and homes);
  - stores should stop using plastic bags (they do not break down) to pack purchases and use cloth bags (as done in the community of Trail, BC);
  - recycling and e-waste education promoted in all schools; and
  - compost bins should be located in all new developments in Surrey.
- Building houses with solar panels (energy harnessed from that sun and stored), as well as conventional sources of power, should be considered as the burning of fossil fuel contributes to pollution and global warming. In addition to solar panels for homes, solar powered external lights around buildings would also be beneficial. It is interesting to note that many places in Europe have installed lights that turn off automatically when leaving and on automatically when entering a room.
- As the population of Surrey grows, so does commercial and residential development and the risk of endangerment to Surrey's trees. Each tree species shares a unique beauty.

- Trees play an important role in maintaining air quality; trees breath in carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen, which keeps the earth cool by forming ozone that protects us from the sun's rays. With oxygen, the air is healthy.
- Diseases of the lungs, such as asthma, are becoming epidemic. Polluted air lacking oxygen and moisture also affect citizens' overall health, contributing to cancer and other illnesses.
- Not only does protecting the trees protect us, protecting trees protects the animals from an increased habitat loss. Local birds and mammals rely on these trees for food, shelter and safe nesting. There has been a 15% annual increase in the amount of birds and animals taken in to wildlife centres due to the loss of their homes.
- Habitat loss, generally caused as a result of urban development, road building, water development, pollution, forest fires, etc., disturbs natural eco systems (e.g. trees provide shade, break winds, recycle rainwater, maintain constant rainfall and counter greenhouse gases in the atmosphere by consuming carbon dioxide through photosynthesis).
- Ruining nature is like ruining ourselves; a campaign to increase awareness on the irreplaceable eco systems, provided by natural habitats, is desperately needed. Developments of the future should sacrifice a little of the profit to retain trees, advance our well-being and protect habitat by saving room for the birds and animals.
- More trees could be saved if homes were built with concrete. The walls of a single-storey concrete structure can be completed by three people in just one day. By 2015, it is expected that 15-20% of all new homes will be built with concrete. Concrete homes are easy to heat and dramatically reduce the number of trees required to be cut down.
- Water conservation is an urgent and growing need. Simple changes such as installing toilets that use less water (6 litres instead of 30 litres) and installing rainwater management systems for irrigating kitchen gardens should be encouraged.
- With the rapid amount of building in Surrey, water consumption has increased. It is important to note that of the 75% of the earth's surface that is covered with water, only 3% of that water is fresh, most of which is trapped in glaciers.
- As every person needs two litres of clean water daily, there are increasing concerns regarding the amount of chlorine being used to treat the water supply. Not only is there concern with drinking chlorinated water, chlorine causes holes in the ozone layer (attributing to global warming) once it evaporates. Surrey's water supplier should use ozone for sterilization as it is one of the most powerful sterilizing agents in the world, five times more powerful than molecular chlorine in destroying germs and bacteria.

Councillor Hunt responded to the student's presentation on water chlorination versus ozone sterilization and noted that the water in Surrey comes from the Coquitlam Watershed, which does use both ozone sterilization and chlorine (for the prevention of bacteria growth). *[A tube from the Coquitlam Watershed and how it works in treating the water, was demonstrated by Councillor Hunt at the end of delegation's presentation.]*



The students continued:

- There is also a need for pathways and gardens in our developments:
  - attractive treed pathways between homes and development areas provide an opportunity to avoid busy streets and encourage walking instead of driving, which is an easy and pleasant way to get exercise and meet neighbours; and
  - gardens make our environment and planet beautiful, give insects food and shelter and provide an opportunity to enjoy with friends and neighbours.
- When creating new housing complexes, small community/recreation centres, for all ages, should be included as part of the complex to encourage recreation and socializing, which will alleviate the fees and transportation costs that are incurred when having to go elsewhere for these opportunities.
- There is also a lack of playing fields in Surrey; the inability to find any information noting the number of playgrounds that have been built in the last two years highlight the fact that there is a need for creating more playgrounds and playing fields to accommodate the rapid growth that Surrey has undergone.
- In 2007, almost double the amount of lots were approved for development compared to the year before. Double the amount of new houses and residents, means that the few City parks and schools with playing fields have become crowded, and playgrounds for young children are at a premium.
- Playgrounds enhance our communities by providing a safe area for children to play, get plenty of fresh air and exercise and meet new friends. By having neighbourhood playgrounds, children are more likely to play outside instead of watching TV and getting no exercise at all.
- At least two of the busiest playing fields in Surrey (Bolivar Heights and Cloverdale Athletic) are threatened by increased traffic and proposed development (e.g. twinning of the Port Mann bridge).
- If we want Surrey to remain the “City of Parks” and not the “City of Houses”, we must ensure that enough space is set aside for playgrounds and playing fields prior to development.
- With increased development comes an increased population that requires reliable public transportation throughout the community. The dedicated efforts made by our Mayor and Council to boost public transit are to be commended.
- Some further suggestions to get people to leave their cars at home include:
  - improve transit routes along the main roads and to the suburbs, as there is a greater likelihood of transit use when the difference in the time it takes isn't as great as it is at present (i.e. one hour by bus versus ten minutes by car);
  - lowering the transit fares would encourage further ridership;
  - other incentives for taking public transit could include cheaper auto insurance, some form of gas refund, free transit for a day (once a certain amount of usage has been established) or discounts at venues (similar to the 10% discount received at the theatre in Vancouver) upon transit ticket proof;

- “preferred parking” for car pooling;
- limit parking in the downtown core and increase the cost of parking;  
and
- create more safe urban bike paths (cycling in urban Surrey can be life threatening at times);
- Twinning the Port Mann Bridge does help reduce (exhaust) pollution slightly by reducing the amount of vehicles that are stopped and idling, however the cost to the taxpayers of \$1.7 billion would provide a greater benefit if directed to public transit options.

Mayor and Council expressed their appreciation for the presentation and noted the students’ courage to speak and the information and ideas they presented. The teacher, Dawn Topham, and the Surrey School District, were commended for developing a strong community sense encouraging students to be involved in their community.

**B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

**C. CORPORATE REPORTS**

**D. DELEGATION REQUESTS**

**E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

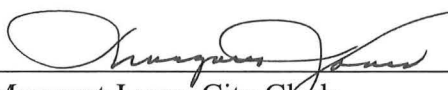
**G. ADJOURNMENT**

It was  
  
now adjourn.

Moved by Mayor Watts  
Seconded by Councillor Hunt  
That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

  
Margaret Jones, City Clerk

  
Chairperson