



Corporation of the City of **NEW WESTMINSTER**

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION FORUM ANNUAL MEETING WITH COUNCIL

MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Held Electronically

PRESENT:

Mayor Jonathan Cote
Councillor Chinu Das
Councillor Patrick Johnstone
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa
Councillor Mary Trentadue

STAFF PRESENT:

Emilie Adin	Director of Climate Action, Planning and Development
Jennifer Miller	Manager of Public Engagement
Nicole Ludwig	Assistant City Clerk

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATIONS Monica Hardjowasito, Sapperton Residents' Association
Robin Howard, Quayside Community Board
Gavin McLeod, West End Residents Association
Karl Moser, Victoria Hill Ginger Drive
Gail North, Queens Park Residents Association
Bob Petrusa, Connaught Heights Residents Association
Deb Thomas, Massey Victory Heights Residents Association

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Mayor Cote provided introductory remarks and welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting it has been a challenging couple of years for Residents Associations and engagement.

2. BeHeard New West

Jennifer Miller, Manager of Public Engagement, provided an overview of the BeHeard New West platform and opportunities for public engagement.

In discussion, Residents Associations Representatives noted:

- Looking forward to adding the link to BeHeard to the RA websites;
- The only concern so far is the requirement to create a login and password to participate;
- The rest of the City's websites need to be updated to match the modernity of BeHeard.

In response to comments and concerns, Ms. Miller advised that:

- Requiring a login is intentional and requires people to answer a few demographic questions; these only need to be filled out once, as opposed to requiring answering the questions for each survey; and,
- Responding to demographic questions ensures that the City is hearing from residents and allows people to fill out the survey only once; the responses to questions also allow staff to determine who may be missing from representation.

At this point in the meeting, Mayor Cote acknowledged that the meeting is being held on the unceded and unsundered land of the Halq'eméylem speaking peoples, colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land, and that the City, Council members and staff are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands the City exists on.

Mayor Cote also advised that the Reconciliation, Social Inclusion and Engagement Task Force (RSIETF) has been developing an official land acknowledgement, and an update on a more formal policy is anticipated for Council in the fall.

3. UPDATES FROM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATIONS

Procedural Note: The representative from Quayside Community Board was the first presenter.

3.1 Connaught Heights – Bob Petrusa

Mr. Petrusa noted the following:

- A successful pollinator garden has been installed;
- A cookbook was published from the grants received;
- The neighbourhood is working on planting boulevards;
- Concerns with congestion along Twentieth Street, especially with Burnaby increasing development along Tenth Avenue;
- There are not enough egress routes from the neighbourhood and pedestrians are having problems crossing at Eighth Avenue and Twentieth Street;

- There is a need for continued engagement in the neighbourhood around the Official Community Plan, traffic, and around other issues that affect the entire city such as the recycling centre, and the Queens Park Bicycle Park.

Procedural Note: The representative from Massey-Victory Heights presented next.

3.2 West End – Gavin McLeod

Mr. McLeod noted that:

- There had been no formal meetings during the pandemic;
- Would like to see something more formal developed with the Council Liaison, and nail down a meeting or two they could attend;
- Suggestion to have an informal get-together with RA representatives, and asked if there would be space available at City-owned facilities; this would be to see which issues are the most important to all RAs and then put those forward at the meeting.

Councillor Trentadue, as the Council Liaison for West End, advised she would work with Legislative Services to ensure she can be in contact with the West End RA.

3.3 Moody Park

No report.

3.4 Glenbrooke North

No report.

3.5 Massey Victory Heights – Deb Thomas

Ms. Thomas advised:

- Many events had been cancelled due to the pandemic due to restrictions on gatherings;
- The RA had stayed connected with neighbours via a quarterly newsletter;
- A fall AGM is being planned with updates on the Royal Columbian Hospital expansion and the tēmāsewtx^w aquatic centre;
- New sawdust and upgrades to the basketball courts at Victory Heights Park were completed;

- The Second Annual Halloween House decorating competition will take place this year; and
- There is ongoing interaction about the Cariboo Street intersection with the City.

3.6 Brow of the Hill

No report.

3.7 Queen's Park – Gail North

Ms. North provided the following information:

- The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held last November with Councillor Nakagawa in attendance;
- The nature of projects coming forward in the neighbourhood is focused on Heritage Houses, and there is consultation over the next few months to do a refresh on HRAs.
- As a spring project, the RA is looking to support climate change work through urban farms; and,
- The RA is encouraging residents to participate in feedback opportunities as much as possible.

3.8 Victoria Hill Ginger Drive – Karl Moser

Mr. Moser noted the following:

- They hold five meetings per year with membership required;
- The last AGM was in 2019 and successes in the interim include meeting and maintaining membership despite the restrictions from the pandemic; attendance is consistent at 30 to 40 people per meeting;
- Neighbourhood issues include the Patullo Bridge Replacement project and facilities for children;
- Challenges include operating on a limited budget; the annual grants given by the city were very helpful and he hopes that level of support will be maintained for 2022; and,
- The Patullo Bridge Replacement Project team has attended most meetings and this level of contact and timeliness of staff responses are appreciated.

3.9 Sapperton – Monica Hadjowasito

Ms. Hadjowasito advised:

- The current chair has had to step down;
- Meetings have been conducted via Zoom and Councillor Das has been very responsive;
- They have had presentations and engagement on the redevelopment of Hume Park and organizations working on the opioid crisis;
- Challenges include multiple major projects going on in the area at the same time which causes major disruptions in the neighbourhood, especially with traffic;
- It would be ideal to see more coordination with projects;
- Various staff have been working with the neighbourhood on parking issues and traffic calming, and have been very responsive to issues raised; and
- Would like Council to visit the neighbourhood regularly to see what is happening, attend the RA meetings, and take seriously upcoming requests for traffic calming measures.

3.10 Quayside Community Board – Robin Howard

Robin Howard provided a presentation and:

- Thanked City staff for helping with crowd management in this densely populated area;
- Thanked the Mayor and Councillor McEvoy for speaking at a meeting and recommended other RAs invite them as well; and,
- Requested a stronger two-way connection in the form of senior staff liaisons this would be only a few days per year in terms of time commitment.

3.11 Downtown – Quentin Vandermerwe

Mr. Vandermerwe provided a presentation, noting:

- The RA has been unable to meet in person for 18 months and online meetings have been poorly attended, in part because of zoom exhaustion, and because it is difficult to get the word out to condo residents;

- Despite reduced meetings, the Mayor, Councillors Trentadue and Councillor Nakagawa were all able to attend meetings which was appreciated by the RA;
- The Downtown Strata Connect Initiative is going well as an effort to get at least one strata member on a mailing list and have somewhat regular meetings with strata council members to address issues of concern to everyone downtown;
- Issues of concern included
 - the state of Carnarvon Street, which has been under construction continuously for about a decade
 - When a traffic study is done for construction, it only considers one condo building at a time, but there is a problem when there are several active projects;
 - Derelict buildings on Columbia Street make it uninviting;
 - The sewer construction on Columbia Street with traffic cones is creating a traffic hazard because nobody ensures they stay in place;
 - The pile driving at the Bosa site was supposed to be completed already; and
- Requested guidance on the boundary between Downtown and Quayside; and
- Voiced concerns about Police enforcement and asked if anything else could be done.

Councillor Nakagawa noted that the RAs set the boundaries, however the City might be able to help facilitate a dispute.

3.12 Queensborough

No report.

4. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

In discussion, Mayor Cote:

- Thanked all the Residents Associations;
- Noted representatives did well at highlighting issues;
- Encouraged RAs to use the City as a conduit for major non-City projects;
- Advised the old recycling centre is now an active construction site, the Coquitlam centre will be completed on schedule, and staff are proposing to add glass recycling to recycling pick-up;

- Encouraged RAs to reach out to their Council Liaisons, and encouraged Council Liaisons to attend meetings they are invited to;
- The Police Board has been discussing appropriate engagement with vulnerable populations; it may be worthwhile to have the Chief Constable come to meetings to clarify rules around enforcement.

At the request of the Mayor, Emilie Adin, Director of Climate Action, Planning and Development, provided the following information:

- The plan for Twenty-second Street was delayed because of the pandemic;
- The Elizabeth Fry development was expected some time back, however funding was delayed;
- The Connaught Heights affordable housing is on the back burner indefinitely; staff will immediately engage with the RA if there is movement;
- Staff are dedicated to try to coordinate work as much as possible on major projects; the Construction Impacts Coordinator is the first point of contact to liaise with necessary staff and developers.

Other matters raised by RA representatives were:

- Concerns about the traffic lights at Eighteenth Street and Tenth Avenue which may require liaising with Burnaby;
- The possibility of acquiring land at London and Ninth Street to acquire for community building and greening.
- It may be an idea for RAs with stratas and high levels of rental to work together for outreach.

Councillor Nakagawa noted that on August 30, 2021, Council had approved a motion regarding Urban Farming which may help with greening and community building.

5. **END OF MEETING**

The meeting ended at 7:54 p.m.