

Minutes of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the **DISTRICT OF MISSION COUNCIL** held in the Gymnasium of the Mission Leisure Centre at 7650 Grand Street, Mission, British Columbia on Thursday, April 16, 2015 commencing at 7:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Mayor Randy Hawes
Councillor Pam Alexis
Councillor Carol Hamilton
Councillor Jim Hinds
Councillor Rhett Nicholson
Councillor Danny Plecas
Councillor Jenny Stevens

Staff Members Present: Glen Robertson, Interim Chief Administrative Officer
Tina Penney, Acting Corporate Officer
Jennifer Russell, Deputy Corporate Officer
Michael Boronowski, Manager of Civic Engagement & Corporate Initiatives
Maureen Sinclair, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture
Bob O'Neal, Director of Forestry
Stacey Crawford, Economic Development Officer
Clare Seeley, Executive Assistant Economic Development
Hayley Gould, Administrative Assistant
Mark Goddard, Acting Assistant Fire Chief
Ted De Jager, Inspector RCMP

Planning Team Present: Bill Brooks, Planning Team Lead
Tumia Knott, Councillor Kwantlen First Nation
Drew Atkins, Seyem' Qwantlen Business Group
Terry Hood, North Shore Project
Shaun Wright, Mission RCMP
Gene MacInnes, MacInnes & Associates
Lindsay Bisschop, Ministry of Jobs, Tourism & Skills Training
Allan Main, Community Futures North Fraser
Carmen Zajac, Zajac Ranch for Children

Noted Guests Present: Chief Marilyn Gabriel and Elders from Kwantlen First Nation
Mark Duyns, MLA Representative
Mel Zajac, Zajac Ranch for Children
Jennifer Kinneman, FVRD
Kevin Mills, Editor Mission City Record

The meeting was opened with a welcome by Tumia Knott, Kwantlen First Nation, where she highlighted the importance of the Stave West region to Kwantlen and all cultures that use the area. Kwantlen First Nation commended the Mayor, Council and the Planning Team for their openness and respect in bringing the Master Plan together.

A welcome song and dance was performed by Kwantlen First Nation.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was officially called to order at 7:40 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

SC15/042
APR. 16/15

Moved by Councillor Nicholson, seconded by Councillor Plecas, and

RESOLVED: That the April 16, 2015 Special Council Agenda be adopted.
CARRIED

3. NEW BUSINESS

Mission Interpretive Forest – Stave West Master Plan Final Report

The Stave West Master Plan was introduced by Mr. Brooks, with members of the Planning Team contributing to the content.

Highlights:

Background: Stave West is the first ungated access to Crown Land east of Metro Vancouver. The vision is to transform this area into a family friendly tourism, outdoor-recreation, and education destination, alongside the sustainable working forest (TFL#26), and including respect and protection of local First Nation heritage and culture.

It was just over one year ago that the Stave West initiative was unveiled. The Master Plan Team was comprised of 20 people and 6 working groups, with collaboration between the District of Mission, the Province of British Columbia and local First Nations.

The Stave West Master Plan is based on ten guiding principles which are as follows:

- Governance and Oversight;
- Public Safety and Security;
- Environmental Stewardship;
- Cultural and Heritage Protection;
- Recreation and Tourism;
- Education, Training, and Research Programs;
- Economic Investment and Job Creation;
- Communications and Engagement;
- First Nations Relations; and
- Working Forest Operations.

Governance and Oversight: A tripartite co-governance model is envisioned for Stave West, comprised of equal representation from the provincial government, local First Nations, and the District of Mission with input from current user groups. An interim structure will be established with its own Terms of Reference.

Public Safety and Security: Ensuring visitors enter a safe and secure environment. Improve the reputation of the area and manage the impact on community based resources, including Search and Rescue.

Environmental Stewardship & Cultural Protection: Offering access that respects and protects both the environment and culture, where all users co-exist and conflict is reduced.

Recreation Development: This will require ongoing consultation and funding. Five million dollars has been secured for road work through the Province of British Columbia. The Planning Team hopes to secure another five million dollars from Federal funding to ensure safe access and roads in this area.

Education and Training: Many educational stakeholders came together, including the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) and Mission School District 75. Opportunities identified include combining education on innovative forest programs with learning related to nature-based education, First Nations traditional knowledge, outdoor recreation, and natural resource sector education.

Investment, Commercial and Job Opportunities: This will be a key economic driver for Mission with opportunity for investment, partnership and management.

Marketing, Branding and Communication Strategies: Will focus on transforming the reputation of the area and attracting new visitors.

Funding Strategies: A variety of funding sources will support initial development and ongoing financial sustainability.

Mayor Hawes opened the floor to Council and to the public for a question and answer session.

In response to questions, various members of the Planning Team answered as follows:

- The marketing of Stave West will utilize any recommendations identified from the branding exercise.
- Further research is required regarding the use of the Cedar Creek area (known as the mud flats) due to its archeological significance and fragile environment.
- Unlawful activity in the area is an ongoing problem, currently being addressed through educating users. The team will return to Council with further information, including levels of enforcement.
- There is unlimited potential for tourism and commercial use. A comparative market analysis will be required, with opportunities for staged development with short, medium and long term goals.
- Part of the implementation plan is to establish funding sources.
- Part of security and safety measures will include a proper gateway access into the area, allowing for administration of information and screening of vehicles and contents.
- All plans moving forward will be respectful of the guiding principles outlined in the Master Plan and overseen by the governing body.

Following the question and answer session, it was:

SC15/043
APR. 16/15

Moved by Councillor Alexis, seconded by Councillor Nicholson, and

RESOLVED:

1. That the Stave West Master Plan dated April 2015 be adopted;
2. That within 60 days an Implementation Team be created with representation from appropriate Provincial Ministries, local First Nations and the District of Mission; and
3. That all members of the Planning Team be thanked for their efforts.

CARRIED

4. ADJOURNMENT


SC15/044
APR. 16/15


Moved by Councillor Plecas, seconded by Councillor Hinds, and

RESOLVED: That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.



RANDY HAWES
MAYOR

TINA PENNEY
ACTING CORPORATE OFFICER