

Minutes of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the **DISTRICT OF MISSION COUNCIL** held in the Conference Room of the Municipal Hall, 8645 Stave Lake Street, Mission, British Columbia, on Monday, July 27, 2015 commencing at 2:04 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: Ron Poole, Chief Administrative Officer
Tina Penney, Acting Manager of Corporate Administration
Maureen Sinclair, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture
Christine Brough, Executive Assistant

Sikh Community Representatives Present:
Terry Gidda, Spokesperson
Dalwinder Singh Brar
Manpreet Kaur Brar
Hakam S. Dhaliwal
Jarnail Singh Dhaliwal
Harmen S. Dhillon
Parmjit Gill
Palwinder Singh Kaler
Paramjit Singh Toor
Mohinder Singh Grewal

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Hinds, seconded by Councillor Plecas, and

RESOLVED:

1. That the following items be added to this agenda
 - Item 4. Waive Notice of Meeting (Closed)
 - Item 5. Resolution to Exclude the Public
2. That the July 27, 2015 Special Council Agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

3. NEW BUSINESS

SC15/067
JUL. 27/15

Meeting with Representatives of the Sikh Community

Mayor Hawes welcomed the representatives of the Sikh Community present and discussion ensued on the following topics.

i. Handrail on Wren Street

Mr. Gidda explained that there is a need for a handrail on the west side of Wren Street as it is steep and becomes very slippery in the wintertime. He noted that while this issue affects members of the Sikh Community who walk down Wren Street to get to the Mission Sikh Temple, it is very much a general safety issue that needs to be addressed for the well-being of all Mission residents.

Council discussed the issue and it was:

Moved by Councillor Hinds, seconded by Councillor Alexis and

RESOLVED: That staff be directed to assess the need for and the costs associated with placing a handrail on the west side of Wren Street, from the start of the Lougheed Highway, and report back to Council.

CARRIED

ii. Facilities at Griner Park

Mr. Gidda requested additional infrastructure at Griner Park, noting the following:

- the current shelter allows rain to come in which makes at least one of the benches unusable;
- the shelter is insufficient for the number of people who use it; and
- washroom facilities are requested for the park.

Mayor Hawes explained that the District of Mission will be forming a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee in the fall which will seek input from Mission residents regarding the use of and facilities at the various community and neighbourhood parks. He noted that the purpose of this committee is to consult the public and then bring forward recommendations for Council's consideration. He expressed his hope that members of the Sikh community would participate in this process.

The Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture confirmed that, while less than ideal, there is a portable toilet on site. She also stated that, as a short-term solution to the shelter issue, she will have her staff reassess the structure and, if possible, move either the canopy or the one bench that is unprotected from the rain. In response to questions regarding enhancing the structure or installing a temporary windscreen, Ms. Sinclair noted that these options increase the likelihood of vandalism but that she and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee will work toward a long-term solution to the problem.

iii. Bus Service

Mr. Gidda expressed appreciation for the increased level of bus service to and from the Temple in recent months and requested bus service from the Temple to Tunbridge Avenue as there are currently no direct buses on this route.

Councillor Alexis, Vice Chair of the Mission Traffic and Transit Committee, explained that the committee is aware of this concern but that, unfortunately, the buses cannot be rerouted to Tunbridge Avenue and still maintain the connectivity of the system at this time. She noted that the three year Provincial freeze on the transit budget has limited options for many municipalities in BC and that Council will continue to lobby on behalf of the community for enhanced transit services. Council encouraged those present to contact their Members of the Legislative Assembly also to ask for change.

iv. Street Lights in Front of the Temple

Mr. Gidda noted that there are no lights on Rai Avenue near the Mission Sikh Temple and Real Canadian Superstore which presents a general community safety issue (at both the western and eastern gates of the Temple).

Council agreed to direct staff to assess the need for street lights in the area.

v. Bus Shelters and Bus Benches

Ms. Brar stated that there are many bus stops without either benches or shelters. In particular, she asked that enclosed shelters, or at least benches, be installed on Cherry Avenue and Egglestone Avenue.

Council agreed to refer this request and review of the Bus Shelter/Bench Program to the Mission Traffic and Transit Committee for consideration at its October 2015 meeting.

vi. Parking at the Corner of Intersections Blocking the View of Traffic (Safety Issue)

Mr. Gidda stated that there are many intersections in Mission where vehicles are regularly parked at the corner which obstructs drivers' view of oncoming traffic. He asked that these problem areas be identified and that steps be taken to address this growing safety issue.

Council agreed to refer this issue to the Mission Traffic and Transit Committee for consideration at its October 2015 meeting.

Mayor Hawes thanked the representatives of the Sikh community for their time and their comments.

4. WAIVE NOTICE OF MEETING

SC15/068
JUL. 27/15

Moved by Councillor Alexis, seconded by Councillor Hinds, and

RESOLVED: That, pursuant to section 5 of the Council Procedures Bylaw 5345-2015, notice of meeting is hereby waived for this Closed Council Meeting on the 27th day of July, 2015.

CARRIED

5. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE PUBLIC

SC15/069
JUL. 27/15

Moved by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Nicholson, and

RESOLVED:

1. That, pursuant to Sections 90 and 92 of the *Community Charter*, this Special Meeting of Council be closed to the public as the subject matter being considered relates to the following:
 - Section 90(1)(a) of the *Community Charter* – personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality; and
 - Section 90(1)(c) of the *Community Charter* – labour relations or other employee relations.
2. That the public portion of the meeting be recessed until 3:30 p.m.; and
3. That Council immediately resolve into the closed portion of their meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting recessed at 2:53 p.m.

6. RECONVENE TO SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

SC15/070
JUL. 27/15

Mayor Hawes reconvened the meeting at 3:30 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: Ron Poole, Chief Administrative Officer
Tina Penney, Acting Manager of Corporate
Administration
Maureen Sinclair, Director of Parks, Recreation and
Culture
Christine Brough, Executive Assistant

Mission Heritage Association Representatives / Guests Present:
Brian Antonson, Mission Heritage Association (MHA)
Board President
Jack Ethier, MHA Board
Bill McAuley, MHA Board
Abe Neufeld, MHA Board
Kate Gruenwald, Office Manager FRHP
David Anderson
Bob Ingram
Carl Koehler
Lloyd Rash
Rick Ross

7. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

SC15/071
JUL. 27/15

Meeting with Mission Heritage Association Board (3:30 p.m. start)

Mayor Hawes welcomed the Mission Heritage Association (MHA) Board members and other interested parties and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to address ongoing communication and transition issues related to the transfer of management of Fraser River Heritage Park from the MHA to the District of Mission. Mayor Hawes further noted that previous discussions regarding this topic have been held in Closed Council out of respect for the parties involved as the subject matter related to or contained the following: personal information about individuals, staffing/personnel issues, receipt of legal advice, potential litigation, and preliminary negotiations and related discussion respecting the provision of a municipal service.

i. Communication

Mayor Hawes expressed his belief that some members of the MHA Board have been misrepresenting the facts surrounding the transition of the Park to the District of Mission, citing the following:

- The District did not fire the Mission Heritage Association but rather exercised its option not to renew, at the end of 2015, its maintenance agreement with the MHA for the management and upkeep of Fraser River Heritage Park.
- The District of Mission will be forming a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee in the fall which will seek input from Mission residents regarding the use of and facilities at all of the various community and neighbourhood parks, including Fraser River Heritage Park.
- Programming will continue uninterrupted at the Park and volunteers and volunteer groups will continue to play an important role at the Park.
- There is no reason to believe that the costs for running the Park will increase under the District of Mission's governance.
- There are significant deficiencies related to the recent building and renovation projects at the Park, the seriousness of which precipitated the District's consideration of alternate governance models.
- The District is still in the process of assessing the costs associated with these deficiencies.
- The business plan for the Observatory will be assessed by independent consultants.
- The role of the Transition Team is twofold:
 - to ensure the smooth transition of the operation of the Park from the MHA to the District; and
 - to assist the MHA, where possible, in winding up its affairs at the Park.

Mr. Antonson, in turn, expressed his belief that:

- The District of Mission did a disservice to the community by failing to consult with the MHA Board prior to making the decision not to renew or renegotiate the maintenance agreement, despite the fact that the MHA Board had requested, on more than one occasion, to meet with the newly elected Council.
- The MHA Board had a long term plan regarding the building and renovation projects at the Park and have demonstrated, in the past, that they are able to leverage money more efficiently than the District.
- Because the MHA relies heavily on volunteers and donated funds, all of its projects progress as resources become available.
- The 2009-2011 Council were in support of the proposed building plan.
- The Observatory Project is viable and Mr. Antonson should be able to speak with the consultants in order to explain MHA's approach to the project.
- It is reasonable to assume that the maintenance costs will increase under District operation as much of the work that is currently done at the Park is provided by volunteers and funded by donations.

Further discussion ensued regarding the future of the Park, current District of Mission funding to MHA for Park operations, the status of assets purchased with Park-generated revenue and public donations, and the need for a list of MHA owned assets well in advance of the transition date.

ii. Role of the Transition Committee

The MHA Transition Committee members and Council discussed the role and effectiveness of the committee. It was agreed that both sides would continue to work together for the good of Fraser River Heritage Park and the community.

8. ADJOURNMENT


SC15/172
JUL. 27/15

Moved by Councillor Alexis, seconded by Councillor Hinds, and

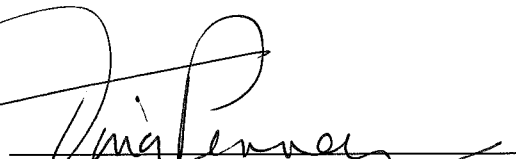
RESOLVED: That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.



RANDY HAWES
MAYOR



TINA PENNEY
ACTING CORPORATE OFFICER