

Minutes of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the **DISTRICT OF MISSION COUNCIL** held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Hall, 8645 Stave Lake Street, Mission, British Columbia, on November 17, 2009 commencing at 3:30 p.m.

Council Members Present: Mayor James Atebe
Councillor Paul Horn
Councillor Terry Gidda
Councillor Danny Plecas
Councillor Mike Scudder
Councillor Heather Stewart

Council Members Absent: Councillor Jenny Stevens

Staff Members Present: Glen Robertson, chief administrative officer
Dennis Clark, director of corporate administration
Ray Herman, director of parks, recreations, and culture
Ken Bjorgaard, director of finance
Wendy McCormick, deputy director of parks, recreation, and culture
Carmelle Jullion, executive assistant

1. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Civics Educational Opportunities

Mayor Atebe welcomed Mr. Bill Webster, Mr. Warren Summer, and Ms. Erin Moore of Professional Environmental Recreation Consultants Ltd. (PERC) and stated that the purpose of today's meeting was for council to review and provide input into the draft Infrastructure Study for Culture, Seniors, and Youth prepared by PERC.

Mr. Webster provided the following brief overview of the study:

Objectives:

1. To undertake a space and needs assessment for cultural, seniors and youth services and facilities.
2. To establish principles to guide the provision of appropriate infrastructure in the community.

Methodology:

1. Meet with District officials, staff and the Cultural Resources Commission;
2. Visit major facilities in the community;
3. Meet with community organizations;
4. Contact other communities to discuss facility provision, trends, and best practices; and
5. Prepare and present a draft and final report that addresses facility needs.

Recommendations for Youth Services:

1. Ensure that youth services and programs are available at the Mission Leisure Centre (MLC) 6 days a week during prime hours;
2. Enhance space at the MLC by adding space above or adjacent to the youth lounge area;
3. Enhance access to the MLC by adding a separate, dedicated entry to the facility adjacent to the staff parking area;
4. Convert the existing staff parking area into a useable indoor/outdoor space; and
5. Replace the existing skateboard park, and move the facility to the existing ball diamond adjacent to the MLC, and add a sport court in the immediate area.

Recommendations for Senior Services:

1. Dedicate the Senior Centre (PLAY Station) space six days a week, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
2. Ensure late afternoon space at the Seniors Centre is available for seniors and other age groups;
3. Continue to upgrade the Seniors Centre by converting space used for District and non-District staff into a seniors lounge;
4. Develop an appealing entrance to the Seniors Centre by creating a new lobby area; and
5. Develop a more appealing outdoor space adjacent to the Seniors Centre.

Recommendations for Culture Services:

1. Work with the Mission Heritage Society and Fraser River Heritage Park user groups to plan and develop improvements to electrical, water, and staging facilities;
2. Work with the Arts Council and the Historical Society to explore development of an interim arts/museum facility with shared administrative, exhibition, and programme areas;
3. Work with the Historical Society to explore the acquisition of additional storage space for historical artefacts and archival collections; and
4. Work with the private sector and other potential partners to plan and develop a studio theatre and arts instructional and workshop areas, in conjunction with the proposed waterfront civic complex.

General Recommendations:

1. Work with the Central Fraser Valley Transit System and Township Transit Services to improve access to indoor and outdoor facilities for youth, seniors, and culture;

2. Provide additional staff resources dedicated to the provision and facilitation of youth services, senior services, and cultural services within a community development model; and
3. Initiate planning for a new community centre, including multi-purpose spaces for all generations, in addition to dedicated spaces for seniors and youth.

Mr. Webster also provided the following potential implementation strategy:

Short Term Implementation (within 5 years):

- Increase the hours of operation for the youth lounge;
- Enhance the space at the youth lounge;
- Create a separate entrance for the youth lounge;
- Dedicate hours for senior use at the seniors centre (PLAY Station);
- Develop multi-generational scheduling of the seniors centre;
- Develop a seniors lounge space;
- Develop a lobby at the seniors centre;
- Upgrade the outdoor area at the seniors centre; and
- Upgrade the infrastructure at the Fraser River Heritage Park.

Mid Term Implementation (5 to 10 years):

- Expand the youth lounge; and
- Develop an interim arts/heritage facility.

Long Term Implementation (beyond 10 years):

- Convert existing staff parking space at the Leisure Centre into additional youth space;
- Replace/enhance the skateboard park; and
- Develop a studio theatre/arts instructional space.

Mr. Webster concluded his presentation by stating that a 2nd draft reflecting comments received from council at today's meeting will be brought forward within the next several weeks for further review and consideration.

Council and staff thanked Mr. Webster for his presentation and provided the following summarized comments:

1. Due to financial constraints, it will be important for the District to seek partnerships to implement some of the strategies identified in the report. This community development approach will be achieved through dialoguing with community groups and organizations.
2. The study lacks the estimated costs to implement the strategies.
3. A visual graph of short, mid, and long range implementation strategies would be helpful.
4. The study should include data about how much space the District currently has, and how much space (square footage) is required to implement the strategies.
5. The study should include information about the use of technology.
6. Information about best use practices and how to share space efficiently is needed.
7. The report should address using shared space to allow opportunities for the youth and seniors to share experiences and learn from each other (i.e. Century House in New Westminster).
8. The report addresses heritage, arts, seniors and youth spaces, but does not address multi-cultural or aboriginal spaces.
9. More details (size, cost) about 'studio theatres' would be helpful.
10. Is there a need in Mission for a space that can accommodate 50 to 400 people for conferences, weddings, etc?
11. Partnership opportunities described in the report should also include possible funding sources and strategies.
12. Community comments indicate that an Indo-Canadian outdoor meeting shelter (with washroom) is needed in the Cedar Valley area and should therefore be included in the report.
13. In hindsight, a meeting should have been scheduled to discuss council's expectations earlier on in the process.
14. The report lacks information about possible synergies in the community, for example, what spaces are available but not being used? (i.e. schools, community halls).
15. Use of the word 'ensure' should be replaced with terms such as 'balanced evaluations' or 'consider'.
16. When the District considers the capital cost of providing facilities, it must also consider the costs to operate and maintain the facility in the future. Financial sustainability is a key factor which should be addressed in the report.

17. Facilities, should, in as much as possible, serve a diverse group of people.
18. Consideration of 'central' facilities should be expanded to include facilities that are not so central; for example, Hatzic School, Silverdale Hall.
19. The School District was not interviewed as part of the study; (i.e. there could be opportunities to locate an additional youth lounge in one of our schools, or one of our schools could facilitate a studio theatre).
20. Facilities such as Cedarbrooke and Carrington House were not mentioned in the report. Are there partnership programming opportunities that could be explored?
21. Input from Mission Association for Senior Housing (MASH) and the Sikh Temple is lacking from the interview process.
22. There are likely many under-utilized facilities in Mission which could be explored and addressed in the study.
23. Activity/service driven facilities seem to be very successful (i.e. lawn bowling, curling, etc).
24. Integration of services, multi use purpose space for inter-generational use should be further explored. Amenities need to be multi functional.
25. Timelines to develop facilities should be identified in greater detail; for example, what is possible now, six months from now, 12 months, 18 months, etc.
26. A closed meeting needs to be scheduled to discuss the human resource component of expanding programs and facilities.
27. The report could also include facilities that we should avoid altogether.
28. Information about how to best reach the community at large to inform them about the facilities we have would be helpful; for example, use of technology.
29. Negative comments from the community need to be quantified (was this one person's opinion or is the opinion widely held?).


Mr. Webster thanked council and staff for the comments and stated that it will likely take several weeks to incorporate as many comments and suggestions as possible in the report. He stated that once this has been completed, he and his associates will meet with council again to review and discuss the revised version of the study.


2. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Plecas, seconded by Councillor Horn, and

RESOLVED: That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.



MAYOR

DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION