



# **City of New Westminster McBride-Sapperton Residents' Association**

## **McBride-Sapperton Residents Association Public Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Tuesday, January 23, 2018 @ 7:15 pm

**Location:** Knox Presbyterian Church

**Attendance:** 23 residents

**Presenters:** Brad and Maryanne Eyers, Capital City Classic Arcade

**Executive:** Rnold, Jerry, Anita, Dee, Ross, Monica (minutes) Regrets: Babar, Kevin

**City Representatives:** Rupinder Basi and Mike Watson

### **1. Welcome and Introduction of Executive**

**Rnold**

- Rnold invited people to consider being a member on the Police Committee. There were no immediate takers, but Rnold will send out an email to the wider membership to see if anyone is interested.
- He asked the person who volunteered to be the Traffic Representative to connect with us at the end of the meeting. He later did: Mr. Patrick Austin.

### **2. Approval of Minutes from November 21, 2017 Meeting**

**Rnold**

### **3. EVO - Follow-up discussion**

**Rnold**

- Rnold led a follow-up discussion to the November meeting in which EVO and Antonia Reynolds from the City presented on the EVO program
- A resident in attendance suggested that we should be addressing our concerns to the City, not just EVO
- Issues that were raised by residents: where the cars park, how long they are parked, and the lack of responsiveness from EVO when the cars sit for a long time
- Concern was also raised about the lack of follow-through on the promises made in November by David Wharf and Antonia Reynolds. At that time, they said it was their goal to improve responsiveness, and that residents should contact EVO if cars are sitting for long periods. They also said they would not move cars into Sapperton, and would act quickly to move cars out of Sapperton if they see congested areas. Residents' observations and experiences are that these promises have not been acted upon.
- A suggestion was raised to press the City to be more flexible in allowing EVO users to park in City parking areas, or to change City paid parking spots to designated EVO parking spots, as they do in Vancouver.

- Another suggestion was to designate certain areas as “hot spot” areas and put “no EVO parking” signs or stickers for those areas.
- Residents noted that the extended EVO parking and congestion has seemed to occur at particular times of the year, like over the Christmas season or long weekends.
- Concern raised again about the fact that EVO pays the same visitor rate per car as residents, but have unlimited access to resident parking areas across the City, while residents do not have that same privilege.
- Question: What does EVO pay for user-designated spots?
- Rnold stated that the ideal scenario is one in which EVO serves the community with car-sharing, but also serve the neighbourhood by limiting the impact on the local community.
- He also stated that email feedback he has received from residents about EVO has been mostly positive.
- One resident suggested that feedback to the City should be kept to three focussed points rather than multiple points.

#### **4. Classic Arcade Proposal for Sapperton**

**Brad and Maryanne Eyers**

- Brad and Maryanne introduced themselves: he lives in Surrey, has a Master’s Degree in IT, was a professor for 15 years, and his wife is a scientist. They live in Surrey, and they have been collecting classic arcade video games (eg. Donkey Kong) for 24 years.
- He would like to open a classic video game arcade, and his first choice of location is New Westminster. He has been working with the City on this proposal for a couple of years.
- Most cities in the Lower Mainland have restrictions on opening arcades stemming from concerns dating back to the arcades of the 1980s and 1990s, yet cities across Canada and the United States have rescinded their restrictions and many now have vintage arcades. For example, Seattle has about a dozen retro arcades, as does Portland (eg. Ground Kontrol).
- Grad has attended and hosted retro arcade tournaments throughout the United States.
- He noted that most retro arcades are family friendly locations.
- He anticipates his target market to be those aged 36-50, but wants to create a family-friendly environment.
- He stated the video game industry is the 3rd largest industry in the world and classic arcade games are the start of this industry.
- He approached the City two years ago and wanted to get a by-law amendment to allow his arcade to be approved. He proposed a two-year temporary use permit to allow the operation to be evaluated before final approval would be given.
- Downtown New Westminster has proven too expensive for a location, so he is now looking at Sapperton. He would like to be close to Skytrain to make this a destination attraction. The proposed location is where Banana Lab is currently located. They will vacate on June 14, and Brad would like to take over on June 15, and, after completing some renovations, would like to be open in September, 2018.
- The name will be Capital City Arcade, and they will specialize in vintage video and pinball games.
- The City does not want to allow alcohol at the facility. The two-year temporary use permit restrictions are: no alcohol; open only to midnight; must be in a fully-enclosed building; machines cannot be used for gambling; games must be family friendly.

- The games will not be operated by quarters or change, but will use hourly/daily or monthly cards.
- Neither Brad nor the City wants to see this becoming a “loitering” or “kids hanging out” area.
- Brad also plans to add his own restrictions: he will require kids under 14 to be accompanied by an adult, for example.
- In the future, they may serve food, and will include the potential for a kitchen to be built in as part of the renovations.
- Rnold stated that he has received about a dozen emails in support of this proposal. The residents in attendance also expressed their support of the proposal.
- February 19 is the opportunity to be heard at City Council on this issue. Brad encouraged those in attendance to come out and voice their support, or send an email to Council to express support.
- Mike Watson was also in attendance as a City rep to take questions on the proposal.
- **Action Item:** Rnold proposed a motion to write a letter of support to Council on behalf of the RA. Carried.

## 5. Updates from the City

**Rupinder Basi, City Rep**

### A. Royal City Farm Market

- Business License Department went to the location on E. Columbia where this business says they are “opening soon”. They saw that there is tenant improvement work going on, but no business license application has been submitted yet.
- A local “Mom’s group” has talked to the owner, and he said it will be a fruit and vegetable store selling 90% produce and 10% daily goods.
- Apparently, it is a chain store with a location elsewhere in the Lower Mainland.

### B. Update on Road Construction Projects

- Rupinder will forward a project map to the Executive for distribution to the membership.
- Phase 1 – sewer separation project to be done by February, 2018.
- Phase 2 of the project to be completed by September, 2018.
- Repairs to the road surfaces to be done in March/April and completed by the same company that did the initial work (Targa).
- RCH work on Sherbrooke is ongoing.
- Suggestion from a resident: please communicate to the flaggers that they need to establish a positive tone. It was noted by many that some of the flaggers are not very helpful nor respectful and this is causing frustrations among local residents and others driving through the neighbourhood.
- Question: Can we put up a sign that says, “Local Traffic Only” to discourage outside traffic from congesting an already messy area?
- Concerns raised: lack of access in and out of the neighbourhood; an apparent lack of coordination between the two project coordinators; flaggers are not always helpful or polite; placement of “Road Closed” signs is unclear and misleading; lack of presence by the NW City Engineering Department to oversee what is going on and make suggestions.

- It was noted by a resident that is the Engineer Department's responsibility to look at the flow of traffic in the area and establish guidelines for the project coordinators.
- Further concerns/suggestions: put a "no access to hospital" sign at the base of Sherbrooke to dissuade commuters from turning off Brunette and coming up the hill during construction; bulldozers parked on Kelly Street over Christmas blocked the salt truck access during the snowfall, forcing it to back up onto Braid Street.
- **Action:** Letter to the hospital (Lesley Ann Drummond) regarding concerns over hospital road construction and flagger behaviour on Sherbrooke Street.

### **C. New Parking Regulations**

- The new parking regulations are waiting to go before Council before being finalized.
- Rupinder will find out the next steps.

### **D. Indigo Pharmacy on E. Columbia Street**

- The City business license officer went to this site and confirmed it is an actual pharmacy, not a methadone clinic.
- It is operating on a health care model with two doctors present on site.

## **6. Exciting Event Planned**

**Dee**

- Dee announced the very first MSRA summertime picnic.
- It will be held on Sunday, July 15, at the Lower Hume picnic area and ball diamond.
- It will be an opportunity for neighbours to come together in a fun, family friendly environment.
- Dee will apply for the neighbourhood grant next month.
- Ideas currently being considered: cardboard fort building contest, baseball game, etc.
- If any residents have ideas for the picnic, or would like to volunteer to help, please email or speak with Dee.

## **7. Meeting Dates**

**Jerry**

- The meeting dates this year are: March 13, May 15, September 18, November 20, and January 22, 2019.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:45 pm.

**Next meeting:** Tues., March 13, 2018, at 7:15 pm at Knox Presbyterian Church.