

Regional District of Nanaimo

Summary of the Electoral Area 'A' Official Community Plan Review Citizen's Committee Meeting Held on Monday, April 6, 2009 @ 6:30pm At the North Cedar Improvement District Hall 2100 Yellow Point Road

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm. There were approximately 26 people in attendance including guests.

The Chair, Director Burnett, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 1 – Minutes of the march 23, 2009 Meeting

The minutes March 23, 2009 were moved by Henrik Kreiberg and seconded by Mike Hooper and were approved without amendments.

Agenda Item No. 2 – Presentation 1 Laura Kiteley, Manager of Transit Planning

Laura Kiteley gave a brief overview of the RDN Transit Plan. Ms. Kiteley indicated that BC Transit is the major transit partner. Ms. Kiteley indicated that the RDN operates both transit and custom transit, which is not typical. Ms. Kiteley provided some stats on a number of items including the budget, fuel use, fuel use, customer numbers, current service, etc.

Ms. Kiteley spoke about the process involved in preparing the Transit Business Plan. She indicated that the RDN is a little bit behind for a community the size of the RDN. Ms. Kiteley indicated that there are more than 90,000 hours of additional service approved in the next decade. She indicated that the RDN met with a number of different user groups to provide for input in to the plan including every Electoral Area.

Ms. Kiteley indicated that the community wanted to provide service to key destinations within the plan area. She indicated that the community wanted to improve service to commuters and students. Ms. Kiteley indicated that the community wanted to ensure that the RDN was continued to be improved for youth and seniors. Ms. Kiteley also indicated that the community wanted to have an environmentally friendly service.

Ms. Kiteley stated that the community wanted better service, more street lighting, on time service, affordable service, etc.

Ms. Kiteley talked about the potential increase for transit service for March 2009, which has been postponed by BC Transit to ensure that the plans are sustainable for the long term. Ms. Kiteley indicated that the RDN will hear back in June. Ms. Kiteley spoke about the transit expansions identified in the transit plan. She indicated that statutory holiday service would also be provided at a regular Sunday level of service.

Ms. Kiteley spoke about the increased to custom transit in District 68. She indicated that HandiDart service levels have doubled in Electoral Area 'A'. She indicated that the taxi supplement program has been increased as well.

Ms. Kiteley indicated that in September 2010, there will be peak service on number 9 route, which will affect Electoral Area 'A'. She also indicated that route 7 in Electoral Area 'A', Cinnabar Cedar loop will be increased by about 700 hours. She indicated that the 15 bus, which goes to South parkway Plaza, which will then carry on.

Ms. Kiteley indicated that overall there will be an additional 23,000 hours in 2010. She then spoke about rapid transit from Woodgrove to South Parkway Plaza in Phase 1. Phase 2 will go to the university. Ms. Kiteley then spoke about upcoming projects, including new electronic fare boxes, transit security cameras on the buses, automatic vehicle locators and GPS on all busses for vehicle location and signal pre-emption, a new dispatch software for custom transit, employer pass, and u-pass program.

Ms. Kiteley spoke about Electoral Area 'A'. She indicated that any expansion of services is a partnership with BC Transit so they would have to be involved to provide additional services. She indicated that expansions are a result of a transit review, which has not been done yet. Ms. Kiteley indicated that the review is scheduled.

Ms. Kiteley indicated that Cassidy has potential for service with high density and a destination, as well as park and ride. She indicated that the roadways provide a challenge, as the roads are not up to standard. She indicated that there is possibility to use mini busses in Cassidy. She indicated that either option would require a review by transit engineers.

Ms. Kiteley suggested that the only option for South Wellington is Park and Ride as the roads do not warrant regular transit.

Ms. Kiteley indicated that the airport has great access and is a good opportunity.

Ms. Kiteley stated that when Ladysmith is linked to Nanaimo, there is an opportunity for Electoral Area 'A' transit expansion. She indicated that there would have to be a want from the Community to expand. She indicated that expansion in Cedar will continue as it is an existing route. She indicated that there is a good opportunity to address transit at the rezoning stage.

Henrik Kreiberg asked about a trial effort about smaller busses running on a regular time table.

Ms. Kiteley indicated that was the community bus between Qualicum Beach and Parksville, which can deviate from the route. She indicated that it was not very successful, but has generally worked well in other areas of the Province.

Mike Hooper indicated that there is an opportunity for an exchange between the CVRD and RDN. He asked about future plans for transit to the airport.

Director Burnett indicated it is part of the 2009 plan to investigate the topic.

Ms. Kiteley indicated that Electoral Area 'A' has been selected for an Electoral Area review to look at the feasibility for transit expansion in Area 'A'.

Agenda Item No. 3 – Presentation 2 Joan Michele, RDN Parks and Trails Coordinator

Joan Michele began by introducing herself. She indicated that parks are about recreation, well-being, spiritual outcomes, the environment and habitat, transportation, and economics. Ms. Michele indicated that there are two different types of parks regional and community and they differ fundamentally in how the community pays into them. She indicated that regional parks are funded by the region and that community parks are funded by Electoral Area.

Ms. Michele spoke about the RDN Regional Parks and Trails Plan. She indicated that there are 11 regional parks and 7 regional trails in the RDN. Ms. Michele indicated that the parks portfolio has increased significantly over the past few years. She indicated that in Area A there is one Regional Park and Trail and 13 pieces of Community Park. She indicated that Thelma Griffiths is the only developed park in Electoral Area 'A'.

Ms. Michele stated that BC Parks is generally not keen on multiple accesses into Provincial Parks. She then spoke about parkland acquisition. Ms. Michele indicated that subdivision is an important tool to obtain park and that it is important to articulate in the OCP what the community wants for park. Ms. Michele indicated that the many parks have historically not been in ideal locations with interesting characteristics hence the importance of having good language in the OCP to ensure that the land for parks is beneficial to the community.

Ms. Michele then indicated that another tool to acquire park is rezoning. She gave an example of a park acquired on Gabriolla Island acquired as part of a rezoning where density transfer occurred. Ms. Michele spoke to direct strategies for park land acquisition. She provided an overview of other options to acquire park such as purchase, private land donations, transfer of crown land, undeveloped road allowance, private right of ways, and private licence of occupation.

Ms. Michele explained that there is a new Parks, Recreation, and Culture Commission in Electoral Area 'A'. She explained that this is the first Electoral Area to have a Parks and Open Space Committee in the RDN. Ms. Michele explained that the Commission is to create a 5 year plan for community parks in Area 'A'. Ms. Michele then provided an overview of the community parks budget.

Ms. Michele then provided a brief overview of the Area A Active Transportation Plan. She indicated that the RDN is working on a rail trail agreement with the E&N Railway. Ms. Michele has indicated that the RDN has done a feasibility study of the railway on the RDN. Joan provided a handout that shows a summary of the feasibility. Ms. Michele stated that one of the easiest stretches of rail to improve is at the south end of Area A.

Ms. Michele stated that the Nanaimo River crossing at the Morden Colliery Trail is something that has come up from the community. Ms. Michele then indicated that the Nanaimo River bridge crossing for the Morden Colliery Trail is in the Regional Parks and Trails Plan however, there are many bridges in the queue and it is a difficult bridge to build.

Ms. Michele then spoke about roadside trail. Ms. Michele indicated that roadside conditions are a problem throughout the region. Ms. Michele indicated that it is a challenge to retrofit existing roadways. She indicated that it has been difficult to get the Ministry of Transportation to the table to discuss road improvements.

Ms. Michele then spoke about extending the Morden Colliery to Swan Point, which was brought out by the community during the Active Transportation Planning project. She indicated that this is private land, but is identified in the Regional Parks and Trails Plan.

Agenda Item No. 4 – Presentation 3 Greg Keller RDN Senior Planner

Greg Keller provided a brief presentation on transit, parks and recreation, and some options for the new Official Community Plan. Mr. Keller, also spoke about the Electoral Area 'A' Active Transportation Plan.

Agenda Item No. 5 – Workbook Results

Greg Keller introduced the having a Saturday meeting with the Committee to discuss the results of the workbooks. The Committee agreed with the suggestion, but a date has not been set.

The meeting was closed at approximately 9:20 pm.

Certified correct by:

Director Joe Burnett, Committee Chairperson