

MINUTES of a SPECIAL meeting of COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE of the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the District of Oak Bay, held in the Council Chambers, Oak Bay Municipal Hall, 2167 Oak Bay Avenue, Oak Bay, B.C., on Wednesday, September 25, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor N. Jensen, Chair
Councillor P. Copley
Councillor C. Green
Councillor M. Kirby
Councillor J. Herbert
Councillor T. Ney

STAFF: Municipal Administrator, G. Nason
Municipal Clerk, L. Hilton
Deputy Municipal Clerk, M. Jones
Director of Building and Planning, R. Thomassen
Director of Engineering Services, D. Marshall

Mayor Jensen called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION SECTION: (Chair – Mayor Jensen)

1. 2013-269 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, Sept. 23, 2013
- 2013-222 DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES, Aug. 8, 2013
- 2013-222-1 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE, May 21, 2013
- EXCERPT – PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION, Mar. 6, 2013
- 2013-12 GREATER VICTORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT, Nov. 30, 2012
Re Oak Bay High School Transportation Study Documents – Responses from Engineering Services, Parks & Recreation Commission & Active Transportation Advisory Committee

From School District 61, Seamus Howley and Jim Soles were in attendance, as was Dave Thomson, Principal, Oak Bay High School. Ray Herman, Director of Parks and Recreation was also present.

Mayor Jensen provided an overview of the structure and purpose for the meeting, noting the proposed order of topics, as identified in the Chief Administrative Officer's September 23, 2013 memorandum. He commented on the importance of the Oak Bay High School Redevelopment project and on the good relationship between the School District and the Municipality.

Kris Nichols, Chair, Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC), made a presentation to the Committee of the Whole reviewing the suggested approach by ATAC on the transportation functions of the Oak Bay High School site and on the connection of the school to Oak Bay's active transportation network. Mr. Nichols commented on the importance of Cadboro Bay Road as a commuter route for active transportation and noted that there are several sources of funding available for innovative active transportation projects. He concluded his remarks, noting that ATAC recommends that the Oak Bay High School Redevelopment project be in keeping with Oak Bay's Complete Streets Policy and that Council allocate funds in the 2014 budget cycle for complete streets projects, beginning with those arising from the Oak Bay High School Redevelopment project.

David Leach, member, Active Transportation Advisory Committee, continued ATAC's presentation, reviewing the existing transportation routes around Oak Bay High School and commenting on ATAC's suggestions with respect to complete streets elements of the redevelopment project.

Dave Thomson, Principal, Oak Bay High School, commented on the constraints of the Oak Bay High School site and the challenges of meeting the competing needs and desires of the various users while still maintaining the requirements for the school.

Jim Soles, Supervisor of Building Projects, School District 61, noted that the preliminary design for the Oak Bay High School redevelopment project is currently being reviewed for compliance with the statement of requirements. Once working drawings have been finalized, he said, these can be made available for review.

Mr. Soles and Mr. Thomson commented that consideration had been given in the overall design to a north/south transportation corridor, the use of the Bowker Creek Pathway as an east/west transportation corridor and incorporating bicycle parking on site.

Turning to the issue of timelines for consultation on the overall site design, Mr. Soles noted that the School District's intention is to make a submission to the Municipality for a building permit on November 8, 2013.

In response to questions from Council, the Director of Parks and Recreation noted that the bylaw requirements for the Goldsmith parking lot should provide sufficient spaces for both municipal staff and recreation centre users; however, he said, consideration still needs to be given to the permits and signage needed in order to manage the lot.

The Director of Engineering Services commented on his August 8, 2013 memorandum outlining 2 options for installing bike lanes on Cadboro Bay Road from Foul Bay Road to Cranmore Road. Mr. Marshall noted that Option 1 would add bike lanes by removing approximately 35 on-street parking stalls in this area. He stated that it would be appropriate to undertake community consultation before proceeding with this option.

A discussion ensued with respect to the impact of removing on-street parking in this area and on various safety issues with respect to bike lanes.

Mr. Marshall stated that Option 2, which would add bike lanes by removing an east-bound travel lane, was not recommended. This option, he said, could result in a decreased level of service at the intersection of Foul Bay Road and Cadboro Bay Road, impacting patrons heading to the Oak Bay Recreation Centre, and would not be in keeping with recommendations from the Transportation Association of Canada.

A discussion ensued on Option 2, with a member of the Committee of the Whole commenting that services levels for other forms of transportation beyond vehicles should also be considered. A member of the public noted that the volume of cyclists tends to increase as more cycling infrastructure becomes available.

Members of the Committee of the Whole made various comments regarding transportation issues for the Oak Bay High School redevelopment. It was noted that consideration should be given to the needs of parents and students accessing the school, as well as to the interface between the school and the broader community. The key role played by the school in the municipality's transportation network and the need for a complete streets approach to transportation were also highlighted.

MOVED by Councillor Ney

Seconded by Councillor Kirby, That School District 61 be requested to provide to the District of Oak Bay, as soon as reasonably feasible, a work plan and timeline for the Oak Bay High School redevelopment project, including key components and decision points, and further, that the School District be advised that Council respectfully requests its prior reasonable consultation with Oak Bay before the submission of an application for a building permit.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED by Councillor Kirby

Seconded by Councillor Green, That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Municipal Clerk

Chair, Committee of the Whole