



CITY OF VANCOUVER
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 13, 2005

A Special Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Tuesday, September 13, 2005, at 7:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Mayor Larry Campbell
Councillor Fred Bass
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor Jim Green
Councillor Peter Ladner
Councillor Raymond Louie
Councillor Tim Louis
Councillor Anne Roberts
Councillor Tim Stevenson
*Councillor Sam Sullivan
Councillor Ellen Woodsworth

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Brent MacGregor, Deputy City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Cadman
SECONDED by Councillor Louie

THAT this Council resolve itself into Committee of the Whole, Mayor Campbell in the Chair.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Sullivan absent for the vote.)

MOVED by Councillor Cadman

THAT Council close the speakers list for the Special Council meeting on the 2006 - 2008 Capital Plan Draft Allocation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Sullivan absent for the vote.)

1. 2006 - 2008 Capital Plan Draft Allocation (File 1611)

Vancouver City Council, at its meeting on June 28, 2005, received a Report Reference on staff recommendations regarding the 2006 - 2008 Capital Plan and referred this matter to a Special Meeting of City Council on September 13, 2005, in order to hear from members of the public.

Accordingly, Council had before it the following:

- a) Extract from the Regular Council Minutes - June 28, 2005; and
- b) Administrative Report dated June 20, 2005.

Brent MacGregor, Deputy City Manager, and Ken Bayne, Director of Financial Planning & Treasury, provided an overview of the 2006 - 2008 Capital Plan Draft Allocation, reviewed the capital plan priorities and the planning process.

The following urged Council to include in the 2006 - 2008 Capital Plan the \$13 million requested by the Vancouver Public Library for the proposed DTES/Strathcona Branch Library:

Shannon Daub, Vancouver Public Library Board
Loring Bohach, Friends of the Vancouver Public Library (*brief on file*)
Nora Kelly, Strathcona Residents' Association
Bill Jeffries
Rick Archambault, Strathcona Community Centre Association
Marilyn Perry
Purdy Lee, Strathcona Business Improvement Association

Comments provided by the foregoing speakers included the following:

- the Vancouver Public Library Board and Friends of the Vancouver Public Library urge Council to include the full funding needed for the DTES/Strathcona Branch Library;
- a full service branch in this neighbourhood would offer families and individuals of all ages and backgrounds free, equal and fair access to the information and resources housed within the library;
- people in this neighborhood are enthusiastic about getting a new library because many residents don't drive either by choice or circumstance so having a full-service local library is critical;
- the Strathcona neighbourhood is the only one which has no facilities such as a library, skating rink or pool; we would take a library with a leaky roof any day, just give it to us;
- there has to be a creative way for the city to come up with the funds for this library; and
- a full-service library in the Strathcona neighbourhood would be a great anchor tenant to help revitalize the area of East Hastings Street near Strathcona School.

The following urged Council to save the Mount Pleasant Community Centre and outdoor pool:

Margery Duda, Save Mount Pleasant Pool Committee
Stuart Mackinnon
Glenn Bodnarchuk
Phalgun Joshi, Simon Fraser Elementary School Parent's Advisory Committee
Caroline Abramson, Simon Fraser Elementary School Parent's Advisory Committee
Holly Kerr, Simon Fraser Elementary School Parent's Advisory Committee
Nancy A. Chiavario
Trevor Boddy

Comments provided by the foregoing speakers included the following:

- ask that Council allocate funds to save Mount Pleasant Pool and keep this resource which has been in the community for nearly 40 years; have 5,420 signatures on a petition representing the goal to save this pool;
- one memory that sticks out, growing up in the 60's, is the time spent at the neighbourhood outdoor pool - want to see other children have the same; most of the neighbourhood outdoor pools are closed and now Sunset and Mount Pleasant are the only ones still open - it's not too late to save Mount Pleasant Pool;
- envision creating a full Aquatic Centre at the Mount Pleasant Community Centre site; why do we have to leave Vancouver when our kids want to have fun in the water?;
- demolition of the Mount Pleasant Community Centre will have a huge impact on Simon Fraser Elementary School as this centre has child care facilities used widely by the students of the school; urge Council to allocate specific funds for a new facility that contains all the existing services;
- demolition of this facility will result in the loss of 200 child care spaces and currently all these spaces are full and there is a waiting list - we want to ensure that sufficient funds are allocated to replace the existing facility with the new space which contains at the very least the same capacity as the current facility;
- we at Mount Pleasant Community Centre Association will have to shut our doors to all of the child care facilities and programs offered at the existing centre because the new centre won't offer the same; it's not sensible to tear down a recreation facility and replace it with green space; and
- a dysfunctional parks planning process has begun in this city and also within the civic government; it's absolute folly to demolish a building like this to create 4500 square feet of grass in an area that has lots of it already.

The following asked that additional funds be added to the 2006 - 2008 Capital Plan for upgrades to the Renfrew Community Centre and pool:

Yvette Bodnar
Bill McMichael, Collingwood Neighbourhood House
Gayle Uthoff, Renfrew Park Community Association
Bryan Young
Rabia Haque, Renfrew Community Centre
Lawrence Egan
Pat Hollingdale, Renfrew Park Community Centre

Comments provided by the foregoing speakers included the following:

- the present on deck change room was supposed to be a temporary solution but with all these cuts it has become what we are stuck with, there's no privacy, it's not safe and it gets drafty from the pool area which can provoke severe muscle spasms in some people with disabilities; would like to see a family change room that is totally accessible;
- call on Council to reinstate the Renfrew Community Centre upgrades back into the Capital Plan; this is one of the fastest growing communities with one of the largest numbers of children;

- the Renfrew/Collingwood community asks that the additional funds of 2.5 million be added to the Capital Plan for the required upgrades to the Renfrew Community Centre and change room renovation;
- urge that this program be put back on the Capital Plan - the Renfrew Community Centre is not structurally sound;
- was involved with a project to make Renfrew Community Centre more child and youth friendly and the Vancouver Foundation provided \$48,000 towards this project but when we came up with the best renovation it was determined seismic work had to be done and the funds had to be returned - the youth were very disappointed and disillusioned.

The following expressed the need to include more funding in the 2006 - 2008 Capital Plan for the Vancouver Bicycle Network:

Kari Hewett, Vice-Chair, Bicycle Advisory Committee (*brief on file*)
David Pritchard, Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition
Richard Campbell, Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (*brief on file*)

Comments provided by the foregoing speakers included the following:

- the Bicycle Advisory Committee recommends *"THAT the cycling routes identified in the 1999 Bicycle Plan and in the 2001 Downtown Transportation Plan be completed by year-end 2008, at the latest, as a first step towards attaining a 10% cycling mode share and that funding be provided in the 2006 - 2008 Capital Plan to complete these routes (\$17 million) and for up-coming needs (\$3 million)."*;
- urge Council to increase investment in the bicycle network - suggest \$10 m over the next 10 years; and
- if the goal of 10% mode share is met, there will be over a 140,000 trips per day or 51 million per year by bicycles, compared to the RAV line which is expected to be 100,000 trips per day - the popularity of bicycle facilities more than justifies.

The following spoke to other aspects of the 2006 - 2008 Capital Plan:

Kathleen Bigsby, President, Community Centre Association
Ken Thompson, Sunset Community Association Board
Edith Lear
Nancy Dickson, Van Dusen Gardens
Margie Knox, Van Dusen Gardens
Steve Wansleeben
Isabel Minty
Beth Beeching
Don Collins
Gay Collins, Vancouver Thunderbirds Minor Hockey
Diane King, Southwest Marine Drive Rate Payers
Dr. Avtar Ubi

Comments provided by the foregoing speakers included the following:

- request adequate capital funding to renew and expand aging community centres as it is essential to sustain a healthy, safe and prosperous city;
- urge Council to take appropriate steps to include full parks, recreation and legacy capital plan borrowing questions on the November 19th Civic Election; park statistics tell us visits to the city's 23 community centres exceeds 5 million per year;
- will vote against the November 19th referendum on this capital plan because the tax increases are not fair;
- urge Council and the Park Board to maintain the present allocation in this Capital Plan of 3 million for the redevelopment of Van Dusen Gardens - the new garden facility will allow us to contribute to the public significantly when the world is here in 2010;
- this Capital Plan should really be called the 2010 Capital Plan - instead of focusing on gradual, continued improvements and the gradual growth of our parks, bike routes, pedestrian walkways and utilities, a lot is focused on completing projects for the 2010 Olympics;
- supplementing the Olympic Committee Fund for the Olympic curling venue, replacing Percy Norman Swimming Pool and getting new ice rinks at Killarney and Trout Lake make economic sense; however, many streets on the east side are not getting their share of funding and it is recommended a greater share be directed there;
- Trout Lake Community Centre is a beautiful location, comparable to Stanley Park, and this Olympic Legacy Fund will allow the upgrades to the centre and ice rink - lets use these funds properly;
- Council should request that the Park Board review and resubmit their Capital Plan to ensure more ice rinks are constructed in the city rather than demolishing then replacing existing facilities - under the current proposal millions of taxpayer dollars will be spent on new facilities with no new ice rinks being built;
- we need more ice rinks in this city to allow our children to continue to grow and enjoy all the ice sports available to them;
- request a traffic signal at the intersection of West 49th Avenue and Southwest Marine Drive be included in the Capital Plan - installing this signal would address some of the problems there, provide a safe crossing for pedestrians and provide a break in traffic which would address the speeding issues; and
- the city's animal shelter needs a new building - as a veterinarian have seen hundreds of people's lives changed due to animal companionship so why not provide the animals in need of shelter with a better environment in an updated facility which is more centrally located.

Messrs. MacGregor and Bayne, together with Piet Rutgers, Director of Planning & Operations, Park Board, responded to questions concerning points raised by the foregoing speakers.

Having heard from all the speakers on the 2006 - 2008 Capital Plan Draft Allocation, Council agreed to refer discussion and decision to the Regular Council meeting on Tuesday, September 20, 2005.

RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Louie

THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPT REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Louie
SECONDED by Councillor Cadman

THAT the report of the Committee of the Whole be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Special Council adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

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