

**DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER  
COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

**Click on icon to view the complete Council Workshop** 

Minutes of the Council Workshop for the District of North Vancouver held at 7:04 p.m. on Monday, January 30, 2012 in the Council Chamber of the District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, British Columbia.

**Present:** Mayor R. Walton  
Councillor R. Bassam  
Councillor R. Hicks  
Councillor M. Little  
Councillor D. MacKay-Dunn  
Councillor L. Muri  
Councillor A. Nixon

**Staff:** Mr. D. Stuart, Chief Administrative Officer  
Mr. B. Bydwell, General Manager - Planning, Lands & Permits  
Mr. G. Joyce, General Manager - Engineering, Parks & Facilities  
Mr. J. Gordon, Manager – Administrative Services  
Ms. E. Geddes, Section Manager – Transportation  
Ms. C. Walker, Chief Bylaw Officer  
Ms. A. Mauboules, Social Planner  
Ms. S. Berardo, Confidential Council Clerk

**Also in**

**Attendance:** Sergeant Peter DeVries, North Vancouver RCMP Detachment

**1. Opening by the Mayor**

Mayor Walton welcomed everyone to the Council Workshop and advised that the purpose of the meeting is to allow the public to comment and ask questions about the District's proposed strategy for longboarding. Mayor Walton commented that although a bylaw change is proposed, a wider discussion is sought with the community to consider other aspects of the issue.

**2. Proposed Longboarding Strategy**

File No. 16.8620.01/012.000

**Staff Presentation:**

Ms. Erica Geddes, Section Manager Transportation and Carol Walker, Chief Bylaw Officer, provided a brief a presentation to introduce the topic of longboarding. The presentation included:

- A definition of longboarding;
- Its current regulations in the District;
- Safety concerns; and,
- An outline of the District's proposed strategy.

**Public Input:**

Mr. Dan Monument, 1900 Block Marine Drive,

- Thanked council for giving youth the opportunity to express and engage in their chosen activity.

Mr. Mike Mcgoldrick, 5700 Block Cranley Street, West Vancouver,

- Commented that longboarding has had a positive influence in his life;
- Noted that he is looking forward to working with the District to make longboarding safer for youth;
- Suggested looking at how we dealt with skateboarding issues; and,
- Urged Council to look at closing roads to provide safer areas for longboarding.

Mr. Corrie Kost, 2800 Block Colwood Drive,

- Spoke in support of the bylaw;
- Stated that longboarding is good for youth but will require cooperation from both motorists and the users; and,
- Noted the importance of education.

Ms. Susan Hope, 4800 Block Skyline Drive,

- Expressed concern that longboarders don't always wear safety gear; and,
- Commented that there needs to be some sort of control.

Mr. Daniel Pape, 15000 Block McBeth Road, Surrey,

- Commented that he ran a longboarding school for youth teaching them safety and acknowledged their progress at the end of the five days; and,
- Stated that prohibition is never the answer.

Ms. Erian Baxter, 4400 Block Strathcona Road,

- Spoke on behalf of the Longboard Coalition and as a parent of a long boarder;
- Commented that longboarding has provided her family an amazing opportunity to travel the world;
- Encouraged longboarders to wear reflective gear;
- Suggested educating riders so that they better understand the rules of the road;
- Suggested educating vehicle drivers so they better understand how to accommodate longboarders on the roads;
- Urged Council to look at the possibility of closing roads; and,
- Suggested impoundment of longboards in extreme cases only.

Mr. Quinn Dubois, 4400 Block Strathcona Road,

- Suggested closing roads within the District; and,
- Suggested educating riders so they better understand road safety.

Mr. Lee Cation, 500 Block East 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver,

- Encouraged the District to look at safer locations without cars;
- Expressed concern that a \$100 fine is too steep;
- Urged Council to consider the economic benefits longboarding brings to the region;
- Encouraged longboarders to wear reflective gear; and,
- Noted the importance of educating riders.

Mr. Kevin Reimer, 150 Block West 13<sup>th</sup> Street,

- Mentioned that he is the 2009-2012 World Longboarding Champion;
- Noted that longboarding is also his means of transportation;
- Stated the need to educate both the riders and vehicle drivers to make safer roads for everyone;
- Spoke in opposition of increased fines; and,
- Noted the importance to include the entire community.

Mr. Lyle Craver, 4700 Block Hoskins Road,

- Stated that longboarding should be banned on bus routes;
- Commented that the fines are not high enough;
- Suggested working with the City of North Vancouver because of our close boundaries; and,
- Favours off-road sites.

Mr. Thomas Berkun, 1200 Block Heywood Avenue, West Vancouver,

- Suggested providing summer camps in North Vancouver; and,
- Suggested educating longboarders and promoting respectful behaviour towards drivers.

Mr. Clayton Arthurs, 500 Block West 22<sup>nd</sup> Street,

- Commented that longboarding helps prevent youth from doing drugs.

Mr. Aden Polglase, 4100 Block Virginia Crescent,

- Expressed concern that longboarders have a bad reputation from the general public; and,
- Stated that banning longboarding is not the answer.

Mr. Chase Johnson, 500 Block Garfield Street, New Westminster,

- Thanked council for taking a proactive approach;
- Commented that educating both the riders as well as the public is key; and,
- Suggested that closing roads will provide younger riders the opportunity to longboard in a safe environment.

### **Council Discussion:**

Mayor Walton left the meeting at 7:46 pm and Lisa Muri assumed the position of chair.

Council questioned what a longboarding specific venue would be and whether such a venue has been committed to. Staff advised that a sanctioned event in a specific venue would entail using the District's highway permit process. An application from the group for a road permit closure would be issued under certain conditions. It would be expected that conditions would include safety measures and communication with the neighbours. At this time the District has not been successful in finding a suitable road but feel there will be opportunities.

Council wanted clarification that the intent is to not ban longboarding. Staff advised that the goal is to manage and improve the safety for both riders and drivers.

Mayor Walton returned to the meeting at 7:53 pm.

Council queried what is more effective: higher fees or impoundment? Sergeant Peter DeVries, North Vancouver RCMP Detachment, stated that impoundment speaks louder than a fine.

Council, questioning its effectiveness, queried what percentage of longboarders are reachable through an education process. Erian Baxter, 4400 Block Strathcona Road, spoke to the question commenting that when longboarding events are held, youth will attend.

Council queried that when sanctioning a longboarding event will the District be liable in the event of an accident? Staff advised that anytime you change a bylaw you can attract liability. The District has to ensure that all precautions have been taken to minimize that risk in a reasonable manner.

Council queried whether a permit could be bought when purchasing a longboard with the costs going towards an educational process? Staff advised that it's a decision senior levels of government would have to make.

Council queried if Mount Seymour or Metro Vancouver have been approached by the District of North Vancouver about closing their roads for sanctioned events? Staff advised that staff have not had those discussions but had invited them to previous longboarding meetings.

Mr. Lee Cation, 500 Block East 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, commented on sanctioned longboarding events that have been held at the Demonstration Forest. Permits were applied for and longboarding was granted during permitted hours. However, the number of longboarders grew too big (100 people) and Metro Vancouver did not grant another permit. Metro Vancouver was not willing to deviate from multi-use to single-use for several hours of the day.

Sergeant Peter DeVries commented that it is hard to restrict longboarding to daytime hours as many people use it as a means of transportation. Council further commented on the importance of wearing reflective gear and having lighting at both the front and back of the longboarder.

A resident from Glenview Crescent spoke about how she lives in fear of hitting longboarders and has trouble pulling out of the driveway because of the constant flow. She expressed concern for their lack of respect and awareness of their surroundings, and feels they are terrorizing the neighbourhood.

Mr. Marko Mazetti, resident of North Vancouver, spoke about the importance of closing roads and having an organization to teach youth about safety rules.

Council encouraged longboarders to participate in the District of North Vancouver events such as Blueridge Day, Parkgate Day, and Canada Day to demonstrate longboarding to the general public.

Mayor Walton noted that longboarding will be brought back at the March 5, 2012 Regular Meeting of Council.

### **3. Adjournment**

The January 30, 2012 Council Workshop was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

---

Confidential Council Clerk