

DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Minutes of the Council Workshop for the District of North Vancouver held at 5:37 p.m. on Monday, April 22, 2013 in the Committee Room 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 A. Nixon

Absent: Councillor L. Muri

Staff: Mr. D. Stuart, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. B. Bydwell, General Manager – Planning, Properties & Permits
Mr. J. Gordon, Manager – Administrative Services
Ms. C. Grant, Manager – Corporate Planning & Projects
Ms. S. Haid, Manager – Sustainable Community Development
Mr. S. Ono, Manager – Engineering Services
Ms. E. Geddes, Section Manager – Transportation
Ms. T. Guppy, Planner
Ms. S. Lunn, Social Planner
Ms. T. Smith, Transportation Planner
Mr. R. Taylor, Planner
Ms. C. Walker, Chief Bylaw Officer
Ms. S. Berardo, Confidential Council Clerk

Also in

Attendance: Mr. Jan Voss, Creative Transportation Solutions Ltd.

1. Opening by the Mayor

2. Marine Drive Corridor Planning Update

File No.

Briefing Note: Marine Drive Corridor Planning Update

Mr. Brian Bydwell, General Manager - Planning, Properties & Permits, provided an update on the Marine Drive Corridor Plan.

Mr. Bydwell discussed the changes that have been put in place to support the revitalization of Marine Drive which include:

- Mixed land uses have been introduced to establish a more vibrant, complete community;
- Attractive sidewalks and boulevards for pedestrians;
- Developments implemented along the corridor with streetscape improvements;
- Lower Capilano Marine Village implementation plan is near completion;
- The region has identified Marine Drive as a Frequent Transit Development Area;
- The Marine Drive area traffic calming is nearly completed in three adjacent neighbourhoods; and,
- Marine Drive signal, safety, and paving improvements which include: new signal equipment and

signal timing for efficiency, cycling accommodated by shared travel lanes and the 15th Street bikeway, and new left turn bays installed.

Staff have identified two key opportunities to improve the urban experience along the corridor which include establishing retail-friendly neighbourhoods and establishing neighbourhoods where people can park once and walk. There could be an opportunity to anchor the corridor with two vibrant neighbourhoods:

- Commercial District around Pemberton Avenue; and,
- Small retail node at McGuire Avenue, which provides a gateway into Lower Capilano Marine Village.

Having commercial services concentrated in neighbourhoods could have numerous benefits for retail performance which include creating a walkable node, distinct neighbourhood character, and locating commercial activities around future bus rapid transit stations.

Mr. Bydwell acknowledged that when retail is in a cluster, visitors to the area park once and use a variety of stores in the area. The District of North Vancouver could:

- Implement teaser parking pockets in the boulevard zone between street trees to entice shoppers;
- Explore the potential to establish a managed, shared parkade;
- Look into encouraging the establishment of a Business Improvement Association to manage parking in the area;
- Explore the feasibility of requiring knock-out panels in parkades so parking can be easily shared; and,
- Continue to support parking reductions for residential land uses but not for commercial.

Mr. Bydwell sought Council's feedback on opportunities for enhanced vibrancy of the Marine Drive Corridor.

Council Discussion:

- Expressed concern with off-street parking;
- Commented that there is not a lot of opportunity for community amenities as the existing zoning limits this;
- Discussed the possibility of sidewalk parking;
- Commented on the improved signalization on Marine Drive going eastbound;
- Noted that car dealerships add to the vibrancy of Marine Drive;
- Commented on the need for shared sidewalks for both cyclists and walkers;
- Commented that adding more height to residential condos would enhance livability;
- Commented on the need for better signage;
- Requested more information on nodes; and,
- Suggested dedicated bus lanes along Marine Drive.

Councillor LITTLE left the meeting at 6:18 pm and returned at 6:23 pm.

Public Input:

Corrie Kost:

- Suggested looking at teaser parking in Edgemont Village as it is working well; and,
- Stated that the area needs the vibrancy of the stores.

Lyle Craver:

- Expressed concern with traffic congestion on Marine Drive; and,
- Noted the drainage problems on 15th and Lloyd Avenue.

Councillor MACKAY-DUNN left the meeting at 6:29 pm.

Council recessed at 6:29 pm and reconvened at 6:38 pm.

3. **Draft Lower Capilano – Marine Village Centre Implementation Plan**

File No. 13.6480.30/002.004

Report: Susan Haid, Manager – Sustainable Community Development
Sarah DalSanto, Section Manager – Policy Planning

Ms. Susan Haid, Manager – Sustainable Community Development, presented the draft Lower Capilano Marine Village Centre Implementation Plan and reported on recent consultations. Ms. Haid advised that the key elements of the plan include:

- A land use concept plan that addresses Lower Capilano's housing needs and revitalizes the commercial activity in the area;
- A strategy for improved transportation within the neighbourhood; and,
- A community amenity strategy that will see the construction of a new community centre, new neighbourhood parks, a series of plazas, and a network of greenways and pedestrian connections.

The Lower Capilano Marine Village Centre has three main parts to the concept plan: the Heart, Cross Roads and Hotel Area, and the Gateway. The Village Centre Heart includes a plaza, village green, and a community centre. It is anticipated to be the hub of the centre with a vibrant mix of uses. The concept involves the creation of a cross roads at Capilano Road and McGuire Avenue that will lead to the new heart of the Village Centre. Council has also expressed a desire to see some hotel use retained in the area as hotels provide an important benefit to the community and the North Shore supporting tourism, the local economy, visiting sports teams, and the community during emergencies. The Parks and Open Space Network includes three new neighbourhood parks including the Village Green in the Heart, south of Curling Road, and a park connecting through to Belle Isle. It also includes a greenway from Fullerton to Curling and on to Marine, and another greenway along McGuire which would connect down towards the Spirit Trail.

Ms. Tegan Smith, Transportation Planner, advised that the District of North Vancouver is confident that there is a sound transportation plan for the area that will work well in the coming years. The Transportation Plan focusses on the opportunity to improve access into and out of the neighbourhood and capitalize on the Frequent Transit Network that runs past the village centre. Ms. Smith made the following comments:

- The study predicts that there will be a maximum of about ten new vehicle trips per minute travelling in the area by 2030;
- As a safety and capacity improvement, a new dedicated left turn lane is proposed from Capilano Road southbound to Marine Drive eastbound;
- Marine Drive is part of the regional Frequent Transit Network and Capilano Road is envisioned to be part of the Frequent Transit Network in the future;
- Currently very few trips in the area are made by walking and this can be attributed to challenges of crossing Capilano Road;
- Bike lanes are planned along Capilano Road and cycling will be integral in the design of all streets in the area;
- Parking levels would be matched with demand and provided underground. Some on-street parking would also be available; and,
- Each development will be responsible for establishing a construction management plan to minimize the impacts of development on traffic in the area.

Ms. Suzy Lunn, Social Planner, spoke on the community centre vision. The community centre is anticipated to be located in the heart of the Village Centre fronting onto the public plaza at the Cross Roads. Operations and services are expected to be delivered through a partnership model including the District of North Vancouver, the North Vancouver Recreation Commission, the North Vancouver District Public Library, and Capilano Community Services Society.

Ms. Tamsin Guppy, Planner, provided an overview of the design guideline framework. Ms. Guppy identified some clear themes that emerged from discussions with the community which include:

- The Village Centre should be distinct from Marine Drive;
- Celebrate the Capilano River through the use of public art and redevelopment opportunities;
- Incorporate water features to build on the connection to Capilano River and to add a sense of fun and beauty to new public spaces;
- Recognize the community's efforts of creating gardens on left over land by encouraging development to create lush landscapes; and,
- Encourage new development to feature natural materials, particularly wood.

Ms. Haid advised that next steps include:

- Naming the Village;
- Council consideration of approval of the Village Centre Plan; and,
- Exploring housing options in the peripheral area.

Council Discussion:

- Showed support of the Lower Capilano Marine Village Centre Implementation Plan;
- Suggested naming streets after the First Nations because of their close proximity to the area;
- Suggested creating more entering/exiting points to help alleviate traffic problems;
- Stated the need for a distinct neighbourhood;
- Expressed concerns with regards to traffic;
- Commented on viability of the hotels in the area; and,
- Urged staff to consider the acoustics in the community centre to ensure it can be used as a multi-purpose room.

Mayor Walton left the meeting at 7:41 pm and returned at 7:43 pm.

Public Input:

Corrie Kost:

- Expressed concern with traffic.

Doug Curran:

- Commented that unique opportunities require unique approaches;
- Commented on the importance of cross-roads;
- Commented that land swap and land exchanges will be required;
- Expressed concern with the Curling Road area;
- Commented on the importance of the hotels; and,
- Commented that pedestrians should be a key consideration when looking at this plan.

Renee Strong:

- Advised Council that residents of the Norgate area will be able to get to the Community Centre.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Committee Clerk