

Gibsons Council Observations, Council Meeting, December 1, 2009

Hi Everyone,

Council met again on Tuesday, in the morning as Committee of the Whole, and at the usual evening time as Council. All four members were present, along with CAO Gipps, Corporate Officer Jansson and Parks Director Gilbertson. The Fourth Estate was represented (CKAY and the Coast reporter), and the gallery was full.

Communities in Bloom Certificates were presented to

- Blackfish Beer & Wine
- Gibsons Marina
- Landing Clothing Co
- Sa Boothroyd
- Smitty's Oyster Bar
- Swallow's Nest

and recognition was given to 2009 Tree Well Winners

- Petals Flower Farm
- Gaia Fair Trade
- Wendy Iglesias

Special Guest MLA Nicholas Simons read the remarks he had made in the Provincial Legislature on the occasion of Gibsons' LivCom award. (attached). He concluded by saying that he couldn't chose between rhyming "manic and panic when referring to the Mayor", so he took out the second verse. Good humour is a welcome relief at these meetings.

INQUIRIES

Brian Sadler asked if Council would be prepared to move ahead on the election issue of mail-in votes in accordance with Council's expressed goal of increasing vote turn-out. CAO Gipps responded that the Town will wait for new Provincial legislation on election process generally, so that it can be certain what legislation to point to. Gipps will check current legislation to see is the issue of mail-in ballots can be dealt with by a simple resolution of Council.

The minutes of the Public Art Committee suggested that the Chamber of Commerce might provide the committee with economic information regarding recent filming in the Town. I asked if Best Coast Initiatives might not be better positioned to provide the input. In the end Council agreed that business organizations (the Chamber, BCI and GLBA) be included in the information gathering.

COMMITTEES

Infrastructure Services

Council approved a recommendation to bring forward a second phase of traffic safety improvements for 2010 budgetary consideration.

Committee of the Whole

The Gibsons & District Chamber of Commerce is the incumbent operator of the Visitor Information Centre. Both the Chamber and the Gibsons Landing Business Association had responded to the RFP for a new five year contract. Both attended Committee of the Whole on Tuesday morning to respond to questions about their proposals. The staff group that reviewed the proposals had scored the Chamber's proposal higher than the GLBA's, though the GLBA's proposed budget for Town support was lower than the Chamber's. One issue that was raised concerned the Chamber's practice of giving favourable racking privileges to its members, and whether this was appropriate for an operation being funded by the public.

On the recommendation of staff, Council selected the Gibsons and District Chamber of Commerce as the preferred proponent to supply Visitor Information Services, and authorized staff to negotiate an agreement that addresses comments made at Committee of the Whole, with financial terms more reflective of the Town's anticipated 2010 budget. Moved by Rowe (Council Liaison to the Chamber), seconded by Johnson (Council Liaison to the GLBA), carried 3-1, Councillor Curry opposed.

When asked by Sean Eckford (CKAY) why he opposed the resolution, Councillor Curry explained that he was concerned about the process by which the Chamber would have a second chance to refine its proposal and the GLBA would not.

ADMINISTRATION

Council approved travel for HWTM, Councillor Curry and the CAO (Air Quality Management meeting, RCMP update, annual CAO Forum)

CORRESPONDENCE

Council will meet with SD 46 Wednesday, January 6 at 6:00 pm

The Coast Community Builders Association offer to assist the Town in current and future planning and development initiatives was referred to the Planning Committee. Councillor Johnson noted that the Town is encouraging higher density, and this will require builders to learn skills to achieve the level of efficiency higher density needs. The Planner will be asked to schedule an appearance CCBA at Planning.

Staff will review the letter from SAFERhome Standards Society and report to Planning. This Society wants \$1,300 from the Town in exchange for discounting its training programs and manuals on safety in the home.

BYLAWS

Second and third reading was given to three Bylaws:

- 1110, 2009 regarding Water Development Cost Charge Reserve Fund Expenditure (\$558,800)
- 1111, 2009 regarding Statutory Reserve Fund Expenditure (\$83,700 for equipment)
- 1112, 2009 regarding Road Development Cost Charge Reserve Fund Expenditure (\$87,270)

COUNCIL REPORTS

Rowe

- Attended the Navy League Cadets parade marking the establishment of a Sunshine Coast unit separate from Lonsdale.
- Did a stint at the Salvation Army Kettle Fund
- Attended the Open House on Aquifer Mapping (with 15 or 16 other people). He noted that people who have wells need to come forward so that the mapping project can incorporate information from this source of water.
- GLHA has indicated that the wharf need substantial repairs which will be conducted over the next two to three months.
- Participated in a SAR (Search & Rescue) exercise.

Curry

- Continued to attend the Youth Committee. An adolescent health survey has been done and the Sunshine Coast results are better than the Provincial average.
- Participated in the SAR exercise.

Mayor Janyk

- Offered a moment of sadness for Bernie Mulligan (former Area E Director) who passed away, and offered condolences to the family of this “good guy”, a sentiment with which we can all agree.
- Stated that after deliberation, Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) will not change the funding formula that requires projects proposed from the Lower Sunshine Coast to raise \$3 to qualify for \$1 from ICET. This formula goes a long way to explaining why the Lower Sunshine Coast has received so little ICET support, particularly in relation to our Upper Sunshine Coast cousins in Powell River. HWTM says our part of the Sunshine Coast is “relatively doing not badly”.
- At the RD, the issue of the landfill in Pender Harbour is under discussion.
- The Premier will soon be announcing the composition of the committee that will make recommendations regarding the new election act. It will comprise the Minister, two MLAs, the President of UBCM and two UBCM reps. “We look forward to working on that” said the Mayor.
- The Elves Club is looking for volunteers to staff telephones during the telethon this Saturday from 5 to 8.
- Advance polls are on Dec 9 and 11.

Johnson

- Attended the Library Board
- Attended a day-long workshop on leadership involving local government, the school board, the health board, the private sector and non-profits
- Attended the Ferry Advisory Committee
BC Ferries is trying to organize a 5:30 sailing this summer, and will propose a small fare increase to cover the additional cost
BC Ferries will propose a small fare increase to cover the cost of providing students with free travel on school trips
The barbed wire topping fences at Langdale terminal is required by federal security rules and is

permanent

BC Ferries continues to extend the time the dock at Langdale can be used as long as progress is being made

There is no longer a terminal manager at Langdale

- The Hospital Board will be doing presentations in Sechelt and Gibsons on the expansion plans for the hospital. All rooms will be private to control infection.
- RD held a session on economic development with Community Futures and BCI. There was a nearly unanimous plea for the development of marine based industry. (Curious, given that investments in marina and harbour projects are being made by ICET everywhere but Gibsons.)

The meeting adjourned at 8:17

Council then met "in camera"

Cheers,

Hammy

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