

## **Notes on Gospel Rock Refinement Working Committee Meeting – July 12/10**

### **Notes on Public Meeting – July 19/10**

### **Notes on Council Meeting – July 20/10**

Hi everyone:

Despite the summer, there are some things worth paying attention to around the Town.

#### ***Gospel Rock***

Liz and I attended a meeting of the Gospel Rock Refinement Working Committee on July 12<sup>th</sup>. We are interested in the Gospel Rock Neighbourhood Plan not only because it could have an impact on our neighbourhood, but because the outcome of the planning process (already five years in the works) will provide the next indication of Gibsons' attitude to change and development. You might recall the report in the Coast Reporter a couple of weeks ago in which the Mayor launched a trial balloon – to have the Town buy the Gospel Rock waterfront property (estimated price is between \$3.7 and \$4 million) perhaps in partnership with other governments, and establish it as a conservation area managed perhaps, by a third party organization. (I am opposed to this idea, and have written to the Town to say so.) In the meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>, the Mayor clarified his notion, saying that he is opposed to using tax dollars to buy the property, but he would consider using the Parks Acquisition Fund (which currently stands at \$280,000, a far cry from the estimated market price). The public information session held on June 28<sup>th</sup> indicated that there are three main issues with the Hybrid Plan proposed by the Refinement Committee; density, waterfront development and transportation access/egress. The Committee decided to ask Council for direction on process going forward, and on what should be done to replace Chris Marshall's place on the Committee. The Gospel Rock Refinement Working Committee plans to meet again on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### ***Public Hearing, Bicycle Parking Bylaw***

Prior to last night's Council meeting, a public hearing was held regarding the Town's proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment to establish requirements for bicycle parking as part of new developments (townhouse, apartment, industrial, tourist, medical centre, entertainment, care facility, retail, office, institutional, assembly, cultural, recreational and educational). Public input was limited to a couple of letters (in favour), and a short speech from me. I said that as the owner of a new bike, I appreciate secure places to park when I'm out and about, and support the proposed bylaw accordingly. I said too, that as the owner of a car, I appreciate the fact that there is adequate parking around Gibsons for those times when I chose to drive. I concluded by saying that I am glad to have the choice, that I don't want to see my choices limited by notions of social engineering, and that I hope that in Gibsons, we will always be able to chose.

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#### ***Council Meeting***

Acting Mayor Rowe in the Chair, Councillors Johnson, Curry and Tretick in attendance.  
Staff present were Ian Poole (Finance, pinch hitting for CAO Gipps), Jeff Paleczny (Planning Assistant), Sue Booth (Bylaw Officer).

Following the adoption and receipt of Council and Committee minutes, Acting Mayor Rowe welcomed Sechelt Councillor Fred Taylor and Lorna Gould and proclaimed August 6-8 to be 2010 Sunshine Coast Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Weekend.

## **PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Council approved a recommendation that the Town endorse a more active recycling program at Town sponsored events.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Sunshine Coast Sea Cavalcade Society

Council approved a grant in aid (\$195) to cover the cost of pyrotechnic licenses for this year's event. (The Town provides a grant in aid of \$10,000 annually, which is understood to cover the cost of the fireworks display itself.)

Planning Grant – Ministry of Community & Rural Development

Council resolved to apply for a planning grant with the Ministry (between \$15,000 and \$25,000) to update the District Energy Study for the Upper Gibsons Neighbourhood Plan. The planning process thus funded will help in the identification of other sources for the geo-exchange project.

## **BYLAWS**

Council gave first reading to Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw 1125, 2010.

The Bylaw provides for a dispute adjudication mechanism that will result in fewer requirements to settle enforcements in court. As the *Local Government Act* requires councils and boards to conduct Public Hearings only before adopting or amending official community plans, zoning bylaws or rural land use bylaws (LGA s.890), no Public Hearing is required for this Bylaw (thanks for this info Michelle).

Interestingly, schedule A of the Bylaw contains 12 pages of Bylaw infractions covered by this new Bylaw. Remember, ignorance of the law is not a defence. You can bone up on your legal knowledge on page 72 of <http://www.gibsons.ca/images/stories/2010council/20100720%20Regular%20Agenda%20Final.pdf>

Final adoption

Revenue anticipation borrowing bylaw 1122,2010 (allowing a \$100,000 line of credit)

Dog licensing and regulation bylaw 930, 2010 (to reflect new licensing and impoundment fees)

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Council approved the recommendation that Councillor Tretick be appointed Acting Mayor for the period August 1, 2010 to April 20, 2011

Gospel Rock Refinement Working Committee

This item had been delayed in the hope that the Mayor would arrive in time to lead the discussion. In his absence, Council tabled the two recommendations from the Committee. They will be dealt with at an in camera meeting of Council prior to the next Refinement Working Committee meeting scheduled in August.

The recommendations were:

- that letters from Gibsons Projects GP Ltd and Colliers International be referred to Council for consideration to provide the Refine Working Committee with direction on how to proceed
- that with the resignation of the Director of Planning, Council revisit the terms of reference of the Refinement Working Committee and be asked for its advice moving forward

## COUNCIL REPORTS

Tretick

- tour of geo-exchange project in the Parkland subdivision (Upper Gibsons Neighbourhood Plan area) was very informative
- met with Mayor Causton (Oak Bay)
- attended Museum board meeting

Curry

- attended strategy session with Council and staff
- attended RD event at Blue Heron restaurant – good food!
- toured the geo-exchange project – worth the visit

Johnson

- toured geo-exchange project
- attended RD Blue Heron event
- met with Mayor Causton (Oak Bay); similar problems with derelict boats and BC Ferries
- attended RD meeting on Shoreline Management; interesting that shorelines change whether or not we do anything about them
- GLBA concerned with garbage and smoking in the landing

Rowe

- Introduced Michelle and Gordon Graham (in attendance). Michelle is Councillor Rowe's daughter and will be joining him shortly in his law practice. The Grahams were welcomed by all.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45, just as the Mayor arrived.

Council is not scheduled to meet in August (save for the in camera session), so next month's notes will probably be limited to the Gospel Rock meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Enjoy the good weather everyone, and keep safe!

Cheers,

Hammy

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