

Hi everyone:

I didn't make the meeting **Council Meeting, May 18th**. CKAY's website reported:

Gospel Rock

The Town of Gibsons is on track to have a plan for the environmentally sensitive Gospel Rock area ready for public scrutiny by the end of June. The latest moves by the so-called "Refinement Committee" are leading to a plan that's being called the Hybrid Option. The controversy that's dogged the Gospel Rock planning process has been whether development will be allowed on the waterfront. Mayor Barry Janyk says the Hybrid Option will allow development, but only at the far east and west ends of the waterfront strip. The middle would be preserved as a "conservation area". Janyk says they're reluctant to call it a park because that might create the wrong impression about the uses that will be allowed. The plan that's going to come forward next month will also tackle road access and ways to protect the upland forest. **The tentative date to present the plan to the public is June 28th**. Gospel Rock is the largest block of undeveloped land in the Town without a neighbourhood plan. It's owned privately by several different people.

BCGEU Workers

The Town of Gibsons has also finalized an agreement with its unionized workers. The BCGEU says the three year deal includes small wage increases, half a per-cent this year, 0.62 per-cent next year and 0.65 per-cent for 2012. This the second agreement BCGEU has reached in recent weeks with a Sunshine Coast local government. After strike threats and a call for mediation the union settled a new three year deal with the District of Sechelt at the beginning of May. Sunshine Coast Regional District workers are represented by the CEP - the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers. They ratified their last agreement in early 2008.

Falun Dafa

The Town of Gibsons is doing something it hasn't done for a few years -- and it's wondering if the result will be the same. The Town has declared May Falun Dafa month. Practitioners of Falun Dafa, also known as Falun Gong, have long complained that they're the victims of violent repression in China, and the Chinese government has occasionally gone to great lengths to discourage public criticism of their actions. The last time Gibsons made the Falun Dafa Month proclamation they heard from Chinese authorities. Mayor Barry Janyk says if it happens again, the response will be the same.

Gibsons Park Plaza Redevelopment

Gibsons Council is giving the go-ahead for shopping mall owner Wesbild to redevelop the Gibsons Park Plaza. The plan involves renovation and some reconstruction and will radically change the look of the shopping centre - creating what they call a west coast village look. That's something Gibsons is keen to see go ahead. A previous plan for re-developing the mall included addition of a large Wal-Mart, sparking huge controversy in the community and the eventual abandonment of the idea. This time 'round there's also a bit of controversy -- over the fate of the Sunshine Coast Regional District Recycling Depot at the mall. The Depot is allowed because the property was once in SCRD territory and the zoning was grandfathered. Mayor Janyk says the Town really wants the Depot to go but ultimately it'll be up to Wesbild and the SCRD to deal with it. The Depot will likely move, at least to a less visible area property, by the end of September. Its ultimate fate may be decided as the SCRD completes an overall plan on the future of its recycling program. (This item came out of the Planning Committee Report.)