

Hammy's Handout

Re: Gibsons Council, Feb. 3, 2009

Hi everyone

Some folks have asked me why, in my retirement, I have decided to attend Gibsons Council meetings and do notes for a select number of interested people. There are two reasons. First, Council knows that my point of view is generally business and development oriented, and I believe that Council should see my viewpoint is present. Second, people need to pay more attention to the workings of local government than the local media can reasonably cover, and so I try to convey the nuances of Council's discussions around business and development issues. To date it's been "just the facts, ma'am", but it may be necessary as more issues arise, to have a clearer editorial voice. We'll see. Meanwhile, here are the highlights from Tuesday evening's meeting. The agenda is at

<http://www.gibsons.ca/agendasMinutes/GibsonsCouncil2009/090203CouncilAgenda.pdf>

Michelle Jansen, the Town's new Corporate Officer, was introduced and took the oath of office. Michelle has come to Gibsons from Squamish where she worked for the District of Squamish. Initially she intends to focus on the Town's Procedure By-law and updating the Town's website.

Gord Leslie spoke on behalf of a group of humanists with regard to "Darwin Day" in honour of the famous scientist, whose 200th birthday is Feb 12. Mayor Janyk proclaimed Feb 12 as Darwin Day in Gibsons, and noted that having read "Origin of Species" as a young man, he wondered "where half the people who crawl the earth come from". The Mayor has a unique way with words.

Andrea Goldsmith (introduced as "former Councillor") presented the concept of "Zero Waste Vision" on behalf of Gibsons Recycling Depot. She noted that it is encouraging to see a private sector company taking such a lead in environmental issues, and suggested that the people at Gibsons Recycling Depot would be willing to help draft an RFP for more effective waste management should the Town wish. Paul Gipps pointed out that in the interests of transparency, it would be difficult to have a firm involved in drafting an RFP that it might subsequently bid on, and noted that the Town and the RD are meeting (Feb 24) to determine if together the two levels of local government will develop a draft RFP which would then be referred to the Town's Infrastructure Services Committee.

Suzanne Senger and Brad Benson introduced the Gibsons Landing Community Association which has been created to work with Town Council and staff and other governing bodies on issues that affect the Gibsons Landing Area. Interestingly, the group, which has not applied for Society status,

considers the Gospel Rock neighbourhood to be part of the Gibsons Landing area. To date, the group has campaigned on behalf of the water metering and cross connection program. Going forward they intend to have input into the waterfront area planning work that the Town plans to undertake this year. Council Johnson and Mayor Janyk welcomed the formation of the group and the "constructive nature of the work" it will be doing. The Mayor went on to say "If you want to be really subversive, get your members to apply to join the Town's standing committees".

Clark Hamilton (Chair), Lance Sparling (Director) and Jane Hopkins (Executive Director) introduced the Coast Community Builders Association. Registered as a society in 2008, CCBA has 30 member companies currently and hopes to have 100 by the end of the year. The organization's aim is to improve communication between construction companies and both local government and community groups. They pointed out that the value of building permits on the Sunshine Coast grew from \$18 million in 1999 to \$117 million in 2007, and while last year's numbers are expected to be slightly off, construction remains a principal contributor to the economic health of the Coast. CCBA will be holding a workshop with local government planners on Feb 25th.

Council approved modified hours for the ICBC desk at the municipal hall.

Council approved an information open house on the installation of residential backflow prevention and water metering, to be held at 7pm at the Cedars Inn on Wednesday Feb 11.

Council approved a recycling site visit for Council and the Director of Public Works.

Council resolved to inform the Regional District that it will not be borrowing funds under Loan Authorization By-law 991, 2004, related to the Aquatic Centre in Sechelt. This will assist the RD in servicing its debt related to recreational facilities. The By-law was to have expired later this year in any event.

Council decided to postpone its facilitated strategy session pending resolution of the petition currently before the BC Supreme Court regarding the election for Council last November. This delay will necessitate changes to the schedule of Town budget meetings.

Council authorized Chris Marshall to attend the "Building Sustainable Communities" conference scheduled for Feb 24-26 in Kelowna. Councillor Koopmans noted that last year's conference was the best he has attended since becoming a Councillor.

Council agreed to write a letter of support for Sunshine Coast Tourism's request to Rural Economic Diversification Initiative - BC (REDI-BC) for

assistance to implement its Retreat & Meeting Marketing Campaign.

Council agreed to a set of milestone dates for budget making.

Councillor Rowe reported that the Gibsons Chamber will be beginning discussion with the Chambers in Sechelt and Pender Harbour regarding amalgamation. His suggestion that this might point the way for local government got the biggest smiles of the evening. The Chambers will be hosting the all-candidates meeting for candidates for the provincial legislature in April and are planning a business trade show in October.

Councillor Currie reported that he and Councillor Koopmans met with GCIA's incoming economic development officer, and commended GCIA for the fundraising effort it has made to be able to move forward.

Mayor Janyk reported that his new role of Chair of ICET doesn't mean he can do things in new ways, but that ICET is doing its best to move money to economic development projects in Island and Coastal communities.

A member of the gallery noted that Feb 3rd is the 200th birthday of Felix Mendelssohn.

The meeting concluded at 8:46 pm.

Cheers,

Hammy

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