

MINUTES of a regular meeting of COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE of the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the District of Oak Bay, held in the Council Chambers, Oak Bay Municipal Hall, 2167 Oak Bay Avenue, Oak Bay, B.C., on Monday, November 3, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor C. M. Causton, Chairman
Councillor H. Braithwaite
Councillor A. R. Cassidy
Councillor P. Copley
Councillor J. D. Herbert
Councillor N. B. Jensen
STAFF: Municipal Administrator, W. E. Cochrane
Municipal Clerk, L. Hilton
Confidential Secretary, K. Green
Director of Building and Planning, R. Thomassen

Mayor Causton called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

AGENDA

By consensus, the order of the agenda was varied.

LAND USE SECTION: (Chairman – Councillor Cassidy)

1. 2008-275 DIRECTOR OF BUILDING AND PLANNING, October 17, 2008
Re Application for Development Permit with Variance - 2265 Oak Bay Avenue

The Director of Building and Planning drew attention to prior approval for a similar sign next to the subject property, noting that the proposed projecting sign is approximately six inches wider than the adjacent sign but is still within the general dimensional requirements of the Sign Bylaw.

MOVED by Councillor Braithwaite
Seconded by Councillor Jensen, That a resolution authorizing the issuance of a development permit with variance as outlined in correspondence item no. 2008-275 be prepared and brought forward to Council for consideration.

CARRIED

2. 2008-276 DIRECTOR OF BUILDING AND PLANNING, October 21, 2008
Re Development Variance Permit Application – 63 Sylvan Lane

Referring to the number of variances being requested by the applicant, the Director of Building and Planning advised that the home is currently legally non-conforming with respect to height and floor area and that the proposed plans do not increase the existing non-conformities.

A member of the Committee noted that although there are five variances being requested the floor area will in fact be reduced with the proposed renovations which include the addition of two dormers on the top floor.

MOVED by Councillor Jensen

Seconded by Councillor Braithwaite, That it be recommended to Council that a resolution authorizing the Director of Building and Planning to issue a development variance permit for 63 Sylvan Lane, as outlined in correspondence item no. 2008-276, be prepared and brought forward to Council for consideration.

CARRIED

PUBLIC WORKS SECTION: (Chairman – Councillor Herbert)

3. 2008-273 DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES, October 30, 2008
2008-273-1 JOYCE FEHELEY, October 14, 2008
Re Boulevard Encroachment Application – 657 St. Patrick Street

MOVED by Councillor Jensen

Seconded by Councillor Copley, That it be recommended to Council that permission be granted for an encroachment onto the boulevard abutting 657 St. Patrick Street, consisting of plantings of the size and type and in the locations shown attached to correspondence item no. 2008-273-1, subject to the owners of the property entering into a boulevard encroachment agreement.

CARRIED

TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY: (Chairman – Councillor Copley)

4. 2008-274 DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES, October 2, 2008
2008-274-1 MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR, October 29, 2008
2008-274-2 JOE AND BARB VUCKO, March 11, 2008
2008-274-3 ELIZABETH NEWELL *et al*, April 10, 2008
2004-274-4 ROB AND TIBBIE ADAMS, July 4, 2008
-- EXCERPT FROM MINUTES OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE,
February 18, 2008
2008-45 ARMSTRONG GROUP, February 7, 2008
2008-45-1 OAK BAY TOURISM COMMITTEE, February 14, 2008
2008-45-2 MICHAEL PRESCOTT, FEBRUARY 1, 2008
2008-45-3 THE BLEATHERING PLACE, February 11, 2008
2008-45-4 DAVID AND GAIL BOULTER *et al*, February 18, 2008
-- EXCERPT FROM MINUTES OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE,
December 10, 2007
2007-326 DAVID AND GAIL BOULTER, September 7, 2007
Re Uplands Tour Bus Routes

Councillor Copley provided a brief summary of the review process to date with regard to tour bus routes in the Uplands saying that at its February 18, 2008 meeting, Committee of the Whole requested that staff monitor tour bus traffic volumes on Beach Drive, Lansdowne Road and Ripon Road during the summer and report back along with providing information on the mechanisms available for addressing tour bus traffic in residential areas.

Referring to the memorandum from the Director of Engineering Services, the Municipal Administrator drew attention to the data findings noting that it may not have the expected detailed information with respect to tour bus traffic in the Uplands, which Mr. Cochrane said, was due to the vehicle counter not being able to be calibrated to distinguish buses from other large vehicles along with a lack of staff time to manually count buses in the area.

Mr. Cochrane advised that staff contacted the local bus tour companies to obtain information on their tour routes and it was found that some of the drivers were veering from their scheduled routes for various reasons.

A member of the Committee commented that the issue of an abundance of tour buses on Ripon Road seems to have receded and felt that a further review during peak tourist season in 2009 may be appropriate.

Mr. Cochrane advised that Central Saanich, through a consultant, investigated the number of tour buses and heavy traffic in its community, and has drafted a bylaw to divert commercial vehicles to alternate routes away from residential streets. This being said, Mr. Cochrane noted that Oak Bay's arterial streets are used for both residential and commercial vehicles, so an approach such as Central Saanich's may not be feasible.

Michael Prescott, Oak Bay resident, said he lives next door to Mr. Boulter on Ripon Road and has noticed that the number of tour buses travelling along Ripon Road has decreased by approximately 50 percent. Mr. Prescott added that he has noticed just one bus company travelling on Ripon Road these days while other tour bus companies seem to be using another route.

Mr. Prescott said that as well as being a resident he is also a member of the Oak Bay Tourism Committee and from a business community perspective he said the Tourism Committee is in support of tour buses in Oak Bay. Mr. Prescott felt that spreading out the tour bus routes would be the best solution for everyone. Responding to a comment from a Committee member, Mr. Prescott said he thought that buses have also reduced their speed. He further noted that Mr. Boulter, who could not attend, also agreed that tour bus traffic has decreased on Ripon Road.

A Committee member recommended that perhaps the residents could assist the Municipality in monitoring tour bus traffic in the next summer season and report back to the Committee in this regard should the tour bus traffic increase considerably at that time.

Raylene Miller, Armstrong Group, advised that following notice of the issue from Municipal staff the tour bus company (owners of Grayline West and Royal Blue Line) took action to reduce the impact of buses in the community by lowering the speed limit to 30 kilometres per hour, directing their two bus lines to use different routes in Oak Bay and by minimizing brake use while travelling through residential areas.

It was felt that at this point, given the information received from Mr. Prescott, and the actions already taken by the major tour bus company touring through the Uplands, the issue did not require any action at this time.

MOVED by Councillor Jensen

Seconded by Councillor Herbert, That correspondence items no. 2008-274 to 2008-274-4 be received and that it be recommended to Council that residents of Ripon Road be encouraged to monitor tour bus traffic in the coming year, through the summer season, and report back to Committee of the Whole with respect to any recurring issues with tour bus volume.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED by Councillor Braithwaite
Seconded by Councillor Jensen, That the meeting of Committee of the Whole be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Municipal Clerk

Chairman, Land Use Section

Chairman, Public Works Section

Chairman, Traffic and Pedestrian
Section