

Minutes of the **COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE MEETING** of Pitt Meadows City Council held on **Tuesday, July 8, 2008** at 5:30 p.m. in the Meadows Room of the Pitt Meadows City Hall, 12007 Harris Road, Pitt Meadows, British Columbia.

PRESENT:

Elected Officials: Mayor D.F. MacLean
Councillor J. Becker
Councillor D. Bing
Councillor D. Eisel
Councillor A. Tolchard, Chair
Councillor D. Walters

Staff J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer
D. Rear, Director of Corporate Services
K. Grout, Director of Operations & Development Services
L. Darcus, Director of Legislative Services
M. Millward, Facilities Operations Manager, Ridge Meadows
Parks & Leisure Services
P. Morris, Legislative Services Clerk

Guests: Ranjit Kingra, Executive Director, Ridge Meadows Youth
and Justice Advocacy Association
Tim Wittenberg, Dave Smith and Bill Archibald,
Haney Horseman Association

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

A. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED by Mayor MacLean, **SECONDED** by Councillor Walters, THAT the agenda for the July 8, 2008 Council in Committee Meeting, be adopted.

CARRIED.

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the June 24, 2008, Council in Committee Meeting.

MOVED by Councillor Eisel, **SECONDED** by Councillor Walters, THAT the Minutes of the Council in Committee Meeting held on June 24, 2008, be adopted.

CARRIED.

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**1. Youth and Justice Advocacy.**

Ranjit Kingra, Executive Director, Ridge Meadows Youth and Justice Advocacy Association, provided Council with a verbal presentation which is included as Attachment 1 and forms part of these minutes.

Council felt strongly that the higher levels of government should help contribute funding to such organizations and not just municipal government.

2. Greenways Trail.

Tim Wittenberg, Dave Smith and Bill Archibald provided Council with a verbal presentation which included discussion on equestrian usage along the GVRD Greenways trails.

Mr. Millward indicated that staff is working on language included in the Greenways agreement with Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows and Metro Vancouver staff.

Ms. Grout added that the agreement does indicate "multipurpose use" for trails and does not restrict access to any particular group.

Dave Smith, President of the Haney Horseman Association, has assisted in raising \$10 Million in the past 30 years to assist in funding park trails and supplies insurance liability for those trails that are in use. Discussion ensued on whether owners should take responsibility.

Mr. Millward, Mr. Wittenberg, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Archibald left the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

D. REPORTS**1. Youth and Justice Advocacy Reporting. (1850-2(2008))**

Mr. Rear explained that the report is required by the fee for service agreement with the Youth Advocacy Association.

Council discussion ensued on which ministries need to be approached for funding assistance. Mr. Rear will liaise with Ms. Kingra to determine where these concerns need to be addressed.

1. **Youth and Justice Advocacy Reporting Cont'd. (1850-2(2008))**

MOVED by Councillor Bing, **SECONDED** by Mayor MacLean, THAT the Committee recommends THAT Council:

- A. Receive for information the report dated June 25, 2008 from the Director of Corporate Services; and
- B. Direct staff to draft a letter to the appropriate Ministry to request funding for the program from the higher levels of government.

CARRIED.

Ms. Kingra and Mr. Rear left the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

2. **Haney Bingo Plex: Referral Under the Gaming Control Act.**

The Chief Administrative Officer provided a brief overview on the report.

Mr. Rear rejoined the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

MOVED by Mayor MacLean, **SECONDED** by Councillor Walters, THAT the Committee recommends THAT Council:

- A. Receive for information the report dated June 30, 2008 from the Director of Operations and Development Services.

CARRIED.

Council discussion included questions on where revenue funds are being allocated and the need for enhanced policing.

MOVED by Mayor MacLean, **SECONDED** by Councillor Eisel, THAT the Committee recommends THAT Council:

- B. Reply to the notice from Maple Ridge (see letter dated June 13th, 2008 in Appendix A), expressing the following concerns:
 - 1. Any additional policing or other costs related to the facility need to remain the responsibility of Maple Ridge and not Pitt Meadows; and
 - 2. That the majority of regional trips to this facility be accommodated along the Provincial highway system and be well served by transit.

CARRIED.

3. **Debt Funding Policy, C26. (1750-01)**

Mr. Rear outlined the policy which sets out fundamental principles on loans and the loan repayment process.

MOVED by Councillor Eisel, **SECONDED** by Councillor Becker, THAT the Committee recommends THAT Council:

- A. Receive for information the report dated July 2, 2008 from the Director of Corporate Services; and
- B. Approve Policy No. C26 – Debt Funding.

CARRIED.

4. **Transport 2040 and TransLink's 10 Year Transportation Plan. (0400-01/08)**

Ms. Grout stated that some implications from the 10 year plan fall under services and programs rather than strategy and will be presented as a separate document. The organization does seem interested in the early investment to a transit vision, although the plan is weaker in the NorthEast sector model.

Discussion from Council included concerns about the route on 256th Street and the lack of an alignment with the North Lougheed Connector, and how transit resources into Pitt Meadows is minimal.

The general public is encouraged to attend a public information session on the plan which is scheduled for Monday, July 14th at 6:30 p.m., Maple Ridge Municipal Hall.

MOVED by Councillor Walters, **SECONDED** by Councillor Eisel, THAT the Committee recommends THAT Council:

- A. Receive for information the report dated July 4, 2008 from the Director of Operations and Development Services; and
- B. Forward a copy of this report to TransLink for their consideration.

CARRIED.

5. **Bylaw No. 2384, 2008: Floodplain Designation and Construction Control Bylaw. (3900-02/08)**

MOVED by Mayor MacLean, **SECONDED** by Councillor Bing, THAT the Committee recommends THAT Council:

- A. Grant First, Second and Third Readings to Floodplain Designation and Construction Control Bylaw No. 2384, 2008 as amended; and
- B. Repeal Readings granted to Floodplain Management Bylaw No. 1985, 2000.

CARRIED.

6. **Bylaw No. 2385, 2008: Parks & Leisure Services Fee-Setting Amendment. (3900-20)**

MOVED by Councillor Eisel, **SECONDED** by Councillor Walters, THAT the Committee recommends THAT Council grant First, Second and Third Readings to the Parks & Leisure Services Fee-Setting Amendment Bylaw No. 2385, 2008.

CARRIED.

Council recommended that debt servicing be taken into consideration when setting fees, and budget planning on fee-setting for other Bylaws should occur more regularly.

7. **Bylaw No. 2386, 2008: General Election and Other Voting Bylaw. (4200-01)**

MOVED by Mayor MacLean, **SECONDED** by Councillor Eisel, THAT the Committee recommends THAT Council grant First, Second and Third Readings to General Election and Other Voting Bylaw No.2386, 2008.

CARRIED.

E. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Walters, **SECONDED** by Mayor MacLean, THAT this meeting now be adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

CARRIED.

Chair

July 8, 2008

Ridge Meadows Youth & Justice Advocacy Association has been assisting Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge youth offenders since September 1994. We are a youth diversion program, which encompasses much of the Youth Criminal Justice Act's principles and objectives. Not only do we receive youth offender referrals from RCMP we were, up until 2 years ago, the only program in all of British Columbia to receive referrals from Crown Counsel.

The Youth Criminal Justice Act stipulates that first time youth offenders and less serious youth offenders are to be diverted out of the criminal justice system. Our program works hand-in-hand with the community, community service agencies, families, RCMP, and Crown Counsel to help youth realize the harm done, accept responsibility for their actions and behaviours, and be accountable for their offence.

We provide an effective and timely response to youth offending behaviour outside the bounds of judicial sanctions. Our aim is to go beyond the offence itself and prevent recidivism. We couple our youth with volunteer mentors, mentors are the cornerstone and vital to our organization. Mentors engage youth and guide them through the diversion agreement with an emphasis on the youth's strengths. Mentors are good role models who provide guidance and support to the youth. Having a person who is not paid to be with you and is there because they want to see you do well is something youth appreciate, and often do not understand why someone would do that.

Ridge Meadows Youth Diversion (program name) may solicit the services of other agencies to help youth. For instance, we may use services such as drug and alcohol counselling; detoxification programs; employment counselling; life skill education; mental health assessment; crisis intervention; individual counselling; medical assessment, education, and care; independent living programs; housing; and family counselling.

We also teach a Personal Achievement Program. The youth's diversion agreement may require that they attend and participate in the Personal Achievement Program. This program teaches and reinforces the concepts of choices, responsibility for choices, proactive versus reactive actions, communication, options, goals, and drug and alcohol education and awareness.

Ridge Meadows Youth & Justice Advocacy Association helps other community agencies and non-profit organizations by placing youth, who are required to do community work service, at various locations. Some examples of these would be Friends in Need Food Bank, Salvation Army, Special Olympics, SPCA, North Fraser Therapeutic Riding Academy, and various church functions. Engaging

youth in their community allows a sense of accomplishment, community belonging, and pride and an increased level of competence.

There are clearly measurable benefits exemplified by the statistics that have been kept. Our Board of Directors defines success as “no further criminal offences from the youth when checked two years after completing the diversion agreement with Ridge Meadows Youth & Justice Advocacy Association”. Our success rate has ranged from 85% to 94%. In our 14 years, more than 1,600 youths have been referred to our program.

This year we ran a check on youth referred to us in 2006 and were pleased to see our success rate was 85% non recidivism over the 2 year period. Our referrals have increased from 77 youth in 2006 to 97 youth in 2007. Ridge Meadows RCMP have added into their shoplifting policy that first time youth offenders must be referred to Youth Diversion rather than receiving an official warning. I believe that with the community’s growing support we will have an increase of youth referrals for 2008. Acceptance into the youth diversion program is high and we are working to increase the rate of completion of diversion agreements.

From the files we received in 2007 we are seeing a trend towards higher risk youth being referred to diversion; with mental health problems and illnesses, and drug use and addiction, and homelessness. Criminal offences ranged from mischief to assault causing bodily harm and possession of a fire arm.

Some people say youth offenders should be the responsibility of the law and should therefore face legal sanctions. But if we are lucky enough to see into the lives of the youth who are referred to our program, we might find criminal offences are just the tip of the iceberg. Lying below are their lived environment with issues such as mental health problems, drug use and/or addiction, low self esteem, poverty, and a lack of belonging in, or connection to their community.

Ridge Meadows Youth Diversion is not just about youth accountability and responsibility it also encourages and supports youth in areas where support is needed so that youth can become more successful in life.

Thank you,

Ranjit Kingra

Ridge Meadows Youth Diversion