

The Transportation Advisory Committee has been disbanded. These minutes, dated 2014-MAY-02, will remain in UNADOPTED status.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE,
HELD IN THE BOARD ROOM, 1ST FLOOR, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE,
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, ON FRIDAY, 2014-MAY-02, COMMENCING AT 2:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillor George Anderson, Chair
Councillor Bill McKay
Councillor Ted Greves
Michele Patterson
David Grey
David Murchie
Jim Routledge

Delegates: Parkwood Neighbourhood Association
Greater Nanaimo Cycling Coalition - Leo Boon

Staff: Tom Hickey
Bob Prokopenko
Dale Lindsay
Gordon Foy
Amir Freund
Jodi Wilson

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m.

2. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR:

No reports from the chair.

3. INTRODUCTIONS:

No introductions.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND LATE ITEMS:

It was moved and seconded that the 2014-May-02 agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

a) *It was moved and seconded that the 2014-Feb-11 minutes be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.*

6. DELEGATIONS:

a) Parkwood Neighbourhood Association
Debbie McPhalen

Ms. McPhalen resides on Monashee Way in Parkwood and is a member of the Parkwood Neighbourhood Association that was formed in response to the

Transportation Master Plan and its proposal to extend Parkwood Drive to the Island Highway.

Parkwood is bordered by Hammond Bay Road, Uplands Drive and Turner Road. It is a mixed neighbourhood with single family homes and strata developments. The neighbourhood is used by running clubs and driving schools. There are two parks within Parkwood boundaries, one of which has a playground.

Off Parkwood Drive are the entrances to two strata developments and a large community mailbox. Parkwood Drive has on-street parking, which limits traffic flow to one car at a time when cars are parked on both sides of the street.

Parkwood Drive was designed as a local road. Across Uplands from Parkwood is the 46 acre Green Thumb property. The Transportation Master Plan has prepared for future changes of the acreage where it could be rezoned for residential and/or commercial use. To accommodate this, the plan provides for a new road running from the Island Highway, across the Green Thumb property and connecting to Parkwood Drive at Uplands Drive. The Parkwood Neighbourhood Association is not in support of this connection.

The plan currently states that the Parkwood Drive extension should involve community consultation, should not change the character of the neighbourhood and should employ traffic calming measures to mitigate the potential impacts of extending Parkwood Drive.

The Parkwood Neighbourhood Association attended today to say that they are strongly opposed to the extension of Parkwood Drive and the 405 Parkwood residents who signed the petition, do not want Parkwood Drive to become a connector road. One of the principles of Official Community Plans is to preserve the integrity of neighbourhoods. Extending Parkwood Drive will bisect our neighbourhood with a busy street. Taking a street that is safe for walking and cycling, borders on two well used parks, has resident parking and meanders through an established neighbourhood, turning that residential street into a connector road is not strategic or necessary.

"We respectfully request that the reference to extending Parkwood Drive be deleted from the plan and you explore other options if and when the Green Thumb property is developed."

Diane Brouwer

Ms. Brouwer resides on Parkwood Drive and is a member of the Parkwood Neighbourhood Association.

Connecting Parkwood Drive to the Island Highway will change the basic nature of Parkwood due to the increase in traffic flow. This raises safety concerns. The proposed new road will change the character of the neighbourhood.

Green Thumb lies in a valley bottom with its own wetland. At the Island Highway, the Green Thumb property is at least 40 feet below the Highway. A new road would require massive amounts of fill affecting the wetland of the whole area.

“We ask that you delete this proposed road extension for the Transportation Master Plan and explore other alternatives that will preserve the integrity of the Parkwood neighbourhood.”

Staff provided clarity on the position of the Transportation Master Plan in regards to the Parkwood Development and outlined potential future strategies to address the neighbourhood concerns.

*It was moved and seconded that Project C in Appendix B of the Nanaimo Transportation Master Plan be amended to read as follows; “**Green Thumb Nursery – Future Road Network** - Development of a road network connection between Enterprise Way and Calinda Street is proposed in coordination with the future development of the Green Thumb Nursery Site.” The motion carried.*

b) Greater Nanaimo Cycling Coalition – Leo Boon

Leo Boon provided an overview about the Greater Nanaimo Cycling Coalition (GNCC) and their community partners and participation in the community.

The GNCC is partnering with various groups within the Health sector promoting and educating groups on cycling and walking.

The GNCC has been creating Action papers and Information sheets outlining all the diseases that exercise can help with. This information will be on display in all Health Care Centres.

Statistics show that by 2025 the largest population within the RDN will be over the age of 65 totalling 67,000 people wanting to stay active. Therefore, we need roads and infrastructure to walk and cycle on. To assist seniors in staying active the GNCC has a program with Barsby High School where the students repair/restore bikes which are then given to seniors.

Safe Routes to School programs help to get kids active. These programs may include infrastructure improvements such as:

- Bike lanes
- Sidewalks
- Pathways

Safe Routes to School programs, at times, include walking school buses. The GNCC supports this program.

For communities to thrive, trails and other safe walking and bicycling opportunities are essential.

7. PRESENTATION / REPORTS:

- a) Nanaimo Transportation Master Plan (presentation attached)

Gordon Foy provided a presentation outlining:

- A Summary of the Transportation Master Plan process
- The Transportation Master Plan Draft Final Document
- The changes that were made to reflect the committee's direction from December 2013
- Next Steps, including target date for Council of 2014-May-26th.

DISCUSSION

David Grey advised that GNCC has suggested changes that he would like to see incorporated into the Transportation Master Plan. He provided a few examples at which time the committee decide to follow-up with a complete list from all members at a subsequent meeting.

It was moved and seconded that Item 7b, Nanaimo Transportation Master Plan (Staff Report) be tabled until the next scheduled meeting, 2014-May-09 at 2:30 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence submitted.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

11. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, 2014-May-09 at 2:30 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 4:30 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR