

MINUTES - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MEETING HELD THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2003, AT 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Lowe, in the Chair, and Councillors Coleman, Fleming, Fortin, Holland, Hughes, Madoff, Savoie, and Thornton-Joe.

Mr. Joe Martignago, City Manager, attended for the entire meeting and Messrs. Basey, Clark, Dowdall, Koch, Leskiw, Thomas, Wiffen, and Woodland, Ms. Atkinson, Ms. Higgins, Ms. O'Regan, Ms. Phillips, Ms. Price-Douglas, Ms. Ramsay, Ms. Zink, and Dr. Gorman attended for portions of the meeting.
Recording Secretary: Linda Johnson

DELEGATIONS

TOURISM VICTORIA - DESTINATION MARKETING COMMISSION

03/808

Lorne Whyte, Chief Executive Officer, Melissa McLean, Director of Operations, and Lee Morris, Director of Sales, provided Committee with an update on work done through the Destination Marketing Commission during the past year. They discussed the positive effects expected from Conde Nast 2003 Readers' Choice Awards, that picked Victoria as the #1 City in the Americas, and also provided information on Tourism Victoria's 2004 Sales and Marketing Plan, and details of the web site and travel media relations.

They presented their first quarter marketing plans and interim budget, and requested interim funding approval of \$909,594 to be paid from the 2004 2% Hotel Tax proceeds. Tourism Victoria will present its 2003 audited financial statements and 2004 Marketing Budget to City Council for approval in March 2004.

ACTION: Councillor Thornton-Joe moved that it be recommended to Council that the Destination Marketing Commission 2004 Interim Funding Request of \$909,594 to be paid from the 2004 2% Hotel Tax proceeds, be approved.

DELEGATION FROM VICTORIA TO KHABAROVSK

03/807

Bill Feyrer, President of Victoria Khabarovsk Association, and Pam Copley, Director and Team Manager of Team Victoria 2004 addressed Committee regarding a proposed official visit to Victoria's sister City, Khabarovsk in August 2004.

Mr. Feyrer reviewed the purpose of the Association, it's history, and past visits and exchanges. Ms. Copley advised that the last official visit to Khabarovsk took place in 1992. The Association feels that, given the political and economic conditions in Russia, the time is right for another tour. She discussed the similarities between the two cities, and the opportunities the tour will provide for professional, social and cultural exchange.

They requested the City's support to this initiative in the following manner:

- Name elected officials and/or staff to represent the City (maximum of three persons) as part of the official party;
- Appoint a Council Liaison to collaborate with the VKA throughout the planning process;
- Consider a small subsidy for selected delegates.

Mayor Lowe thanked the delegation for their presentation, and advised that the matter will be referred to the City's budget discussions, and to the Communications Coordinator for further review. A decision will be made early in the new year.

Mayor Lowe advised that he has a professional affiliation with the application about to be discussed, and because of this potential conflict of interest, he left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Councillor Madoff assumed the Chair.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT PERMIT #03-35 **732 CORMORANT STREET**

03/806

Committee received a memorandum dated August 28, 2003 from the Acting Head, Urban Design regarding Development Permit Application #03-35 for 732 Cormorant Street. The proposal is to construct a 12 storey residential strata condominium building and four two level townhouse units. The proposal was reviewed by the Advisory Design Panel on August 27, 2003 and recommended for approval.

ACTION: Councillor Hughes moved that consideration of Development Permit #03-35 for 732 Cormorant Street, be tabled pending a meeting between the applicant and Councillors to discuss the concerns expressed at the November 27th, 2003 Committee of the Whole meeting.

OAKLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION GRANT ADVANCE

03/805

Committee received a memorandum dated November 13, 2003 from the Community Recreation Coordinators advising that Oaklands Community Association (OCA) is faced with a cash flow shortage due to an outstanding grant of \$64,000, which is to be issued from BC Gaming on January 30, 2004. The grant offsets costs associated with staff wages for childcare and community recreation programs for 2003. The OCA applied for the BC Gaming funds in August 2003, and were required to implement the programs as of January 2003. To date they have been using funds from their capital reserve to pay staff wages, however, this reserve fund is depleted.

ACTION: Councillor Hughes moved that it be recommended to Council that the advancement of \$13,600 (1/3rd) of Oaklands Community Association's 2004 Community Recreation Grant, be authorized.

SUMMARY OF ADVISORY SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE'S

WORK ON THE IMPACT OF PROVINCIAL CUTS

03/804

Committee received a memorandum dated November 27, 2003 from the Community Development Planner providing a summary of work done by the Advisory Social Planning Committee (ASPC) on the impact of provincial government cuts. Since Fall 2001 the ASPC has monitored changes to provincial programs and services and the erosion of the social safety net. The report outlined the work done over the past six months, highlighted critical issues, and made recommendations.

The ASPC is primarily concerned with three areas:

- 1) Training and Employment Programs
- 2) Status: Disability and Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers
- 3) Basic Supports

In addition, Committee received a letter dated November 25, 2003 from Marge Reitsma-Street, PhD supporting a proposed motion to repeal the two-year time limit and deductions in welfare assistance to begin April 2004. Attached was a copy of a paper entitled "A Response to the Two Year Welfare Limits in British Columbia" that she presented to the BC Association of Social Workers Fall Conference.

ACTION: Councillor Savoie moved that it be recommended to Council that:

- 1) The report dated November 27, 2003 from the Community Development Planner regarding the impact of provincial government cuts, be received for information and distributed to members of the Mayor's Task Force.
- 2) Copies of the report including the following motion, and the attached documentation from M. Reitsma-Street, with a covering letter from the Mayor be forwarded to:
 - the Minister of Human Resources
 - local MLA's
 - UBCM
- 3) The following motion be adopted:

Whereas it is the right and responsibility of the City of Victoria to advocate on behalf of its citizens to other levels of government;

And Whereas unprecedented new provincial laws that limit the time people classified as employable can collect Income Assistance to two of every five years and reduce benefits for families with children by \$100 per month come into effect on April 1, 2004;

And Whereas the Province has failed to provide accurate numbers on Victoria citizens who will be impacted, but it is estimated that it could be in the thousands;

And Whereas the people who will be impacted are among the poorest and most vulnerable in our society, and are already struggling to deal with the impacts of cuts to other federal and provincial programs and services;

And Whereas time limits effectively download provincial responsibility for people in need onto the City of Victoria and other municipalities;

And Whereas time limits for Income Assistance conflict with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms assurance to equality and life, liberty and security of the person, and are inconsistent with provincial and federal obligations to fulfill the right to an adequate standard of living, including food, clothing and shelter as provided in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to which Canada is a signatory;

And Whereas Victoria CMA's unemployment rate stands at 6.5%.

And Whereas the City of Victoria recognizes the challenges the construction industry and other trades are experiencing finding trained apprentices;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the City of Victoria urges the provincial government to rescind the laws imposing Income Assistance time limits and reducing benefits.

And Be It Resolved that the City of Victoria requests that the provincial government clarifies the training programs and criteria to ensure they are adequate for citizens classified as employables, unemployables, and persons with persistent multiple barriers in Victoria.

And Be It Resolved that the City of Victoria requests the provincial government review the training and employment needs of skilled and unskilled labour in British Columbia, and make available training incentives as encouragement to businesses.

Mayor Lowe returned to the meeting at 11:10 a.m. and resumed the Chair.

PARKS

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY

03/803

In 1992 the Parks Division initiated an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program with the goal of reducing the use of chemical pesticides. The City formalized its procedures in a draft IPM policy, approved in principle by Council in July 2002. In 2003 the policy was revised to incorporate both the national (FCM) and regional (CRD) perspectives. Committee of the Whole approved in principle this revised IPM policy on June 4, 2003, and requested that staff host information sessions for the Community Associations and other stakeholders and report back with a summary of comments prior to final adoption of the policy.

Committee received a memorandum dated November 19, 2003 from the Parks Division advising of the information sessions held and summarizing the stakeholder's comments.

ACTION: Councillor Coleman moved that it be recommended to Council that the draft Integrated Pest Management Policy, as attached to the report dated November 19, 2003 from the Parks Division, be approved as a final document.

LEAF BLOWERS

03/802

Committee received a memorandum dated November 14, 2003 from the Manager, Parks Division providing information requested by Council on the City's use of leaf blowers. The City currently operates 27 leaf blowers that meet gas emission standards as set by Canada and the US, however none of them comply with the new City Noise Bylaw. The leaf blowers operate at noise levels of 75-78 decibels and the Noise Bylaw sets a limit of 69 decibels. Quieter models are available (62-65 decibels) and will completely replace current equipment by 2006. Staff will continue to reduce noise by keeping the existing machines in good working order and by not operating at full throttle in sensitive areas.

ACTION: Councillor Coleman moved that the report dated November 14, 2003 from the Manager, Parks Division regarding leaf blowers, be received for information.

FINANCE

PERMISSIVE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

03/801

Committee received a memorandum dated November 17, 2003 from the Manager, Business Support and Risk Management advising that the Finance Committee has reviewed all permissive property tax exemption applications for 2004 (both previous and new applications). In addition, they reviewed a draft policy that would guide Council's granting of exemptions in future years. The draft policy was attached, along with a summary of all exemptions for 2004 and the changes that would result from the implementation of the policy guidelines.

The Manager, Business Support and Risk Management will, by letter, advise all recipients of property tax exemptions of the proposed changes, and invite feedback.

ACTION: Councillor Fleming moved that it be recommended to Council that the Policy to guide the permissive tax exemption process for 2005 and subsequent years, as attached to the report dated November 17, 2003 from the Manager, Business Support and Risk Management, be approved in principle.

VICTORIA CHRISTIAN CENTRE GRANT REQUEST TO OFFSET PROPERTY TAXES

03/800

Committee received a memorandum dated November 21, 2003 from the Manager, Business Support and Risk Management regarding a request received from the Victoria Christian Centre to offset 2002 property taxes at 804 Queens Avenue. In 2002 they moved from leased premises at 1610 Oak Bay Avenue, where they had received a property tax exemption. When the City was notified of the move, staff notified BC Assessment and initiated the required bylaw changes to exempt the Queens Avenue property and delete the Oak Bay Avenue exemption for 2003. BC Assessment does not produce supplementary rolls for this type of transaction. The result is that the Oak Bay Avenue property remained exempt and the Queens Avenue property remained taxable for all of 2002. The Victoria Christian Centre has requested a grant to offset the outstanding tax balance of \$4,558.64.

ACTION: Councillor Fleming moved that it be recommended to Council that:
1) the grant request from the Victoria Christian Centre to cover 2002 property taxes, be declined.

- 2) a grant to cover the interest and penalties on the 2002 property taxes, be approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

MEETING SCHEDULE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AND COUNCIL

03/799

Committee received a memorandum dated November 18, 2003 from the Corporate Administrator regarding the meeting schedule for Committee of the Whole and Council for December 2003 and January to December, 2004.

ACTION:

Councillor Holland moved that it be recommended to Council that:

- 1) The Council and Committee of the Whole meeting schedule for December 2003 be as follows:
 - One Council meeting in December 2003 to be held on December 11.
 - December Committee of the Whole meetings to be held December 4 and 11 only.
- 2) The Council and Committee of the Whole meeting schedule for 2004 be as follows:

2004	Council	Committee of the Whole
January	8, 22	8, 15, 22, 29
February	12, 26	5, 12, 19, 26
March	11, 25	4, 11, 18, 25
April	8, 22	1, 8, 15, 22
May	13, 27	6, 13, 20, 27
June	10, 24	3, 10, 17, 24
July	8, 22	8, 22
August	12, 26	12, 26
September	16, 30	9, 16, 30
October	14, 28	7, 14, 21, 28
November	4, 18	4, 18, 25
December	2, 16	2, 9, 16

DISPOSITION OF COMMUNICATIONS

03/798

Committee received a memorandum dated November 21, 2003, from the Manager, Administration, reporting that certain communications received in the Legislative Services Division have been dealt with on the date and in the manner indicated.

ACTION:

Councillor Holland moved that the Disposition of Communications dated November 21, 2003 from the Manager, Administration, be received for information and filed.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY

03/797

Councillor Savoie referred to Correspondence #10 in the Disposition of Communications, a letter dated November 19, 2003 from CRD Board Chair, J. Brownoff, advising that the Regional Transportation Strategy final consultant's report is now available for input.

Councillor Savoie requested that, in addition to forwarding the report to City staff for review, it also be sent to the Advisory Transportation Committee and the Cycling Advisory Committee for review and comments.

PROCLAMATIONS

03/796

ACTION: Councillor Thornton-Joe moved that the following proclamation be approved and forwarded to the appropriate Council meeting:
*Day of Remembrance and Action
To Stop Violence Against Women* *December 6, 2003*

COUNCILLOR INQUIRIES

REFORM OF PROCEDURE TO ELECT CITY REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CRD

03/795

Committee received a memorandum dated November 21, 2003 from Councillor Savoie and Councillor Fleming outlining a proposal to select the City's representatives to the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board during the municipal election by way of a second question on the ballot. The election would not be legally binding, however the City's CRD appointments would be based on the voters' selections.

ACTION: Councillor Savoie moved that it be recommended to Council that:

- 1) The City's Legislative Services Division investigate the feasibility and implementation of direct elections for regional directors for the 2005 municipal elections in the City of Victoria.
- 2) The Mayor automatically be appointed to the CRD and therefore this office not be included in the ballot.

DELEGATIONS TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

03/794

Councillor Savoie advised that she has received inquiries regarding the City's policy on delegations to Committee of the Whole. She requested that Councillors be updated on the policy, and that it be included on the City's web site.

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION SHARING

BC FERRIES

03/793

Mayor Lowe advised that he received notification from David Hahn, President and Chief Executive Officer, BC Ferries that a recent news article regarding the relocation of their head office to Swartz Bay is not accurate.

CLOSED MEETING - 12:00 P.M.

Councillor Hughes moved that Committee of the Whole convene a closed meeting that excludes the public under Section 10(6) of the Council Bylaw for the reason that the following agenda items deal with matters specified in Section 10 (3) of the Council Bylaw.

**APPOINTMENT – GREATER VICTORIA FAMILY COURT
& YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

03/792

Committee received a memorandum dated November 21, 2003 from the Corporate Administrator advising that Georgette Martin's term on the Greater Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee expires on December 31, 2003.

ACTION: Councillor Hughes moved that it be recommended to Council that Georgette B. Martin be re-appointed to the Greater Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee for a one year term, ending December 31, 2004.

LEASE – VICTORIA CONFERENCE CENTRE

03/791

Committee received a memorandum dated November 17, 2003 from the Property Manager regarding a new lease for Unit 12, Victoria Conference Centre.

ACTION: Councillor Coleman moved that it be recommended to Council that a new lease for Unit 12, Victoria Conference Centre with Jacques Cartier Clothier at Victoria Inc., be approved, with the following terms:

- 1) Term: 3 years commencing December 1, 2003
- 2) Rent: 7% of gross sales or \$27 psf, whichever is greater
- 3) Renewal: 5 years at rent to be determined by parties
- 4) Base rent deferred to March 1, 2004 in lieu of renovation allowance.

LEGAL – SPCA

03/790

Mayor Lowe provided an update on an action against the BC SPCA to enforce the City's Noise Abatement Bylaw.

LAND/LEGAL – CENTRAL LIBRARY UPDATE

03/789

The Corporate Administrator and the City Solicitor provided an update on the Central Library relocation proposal.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Mayor Lowe, Chair