

Can Meeting Minutes
May 29, 2011

Present: Upper meeting room to capacity –standing room. .

1. Introductions & meeting brought to order by John Lindsay at 7:05. Thanks to everyone for coming out to discuss the dog park, other parks, community gardens and possible new roads/developments. John explained the purpose of the CAN for those not familiar (there are now 17 in the city) and that the CAN is a citizens group sponsored by the city and interested in positive projects to enhance the community and promote quality of life in our neighbourhoods. The ward councillor is a member of the CAN, but could not attend this meeting as Terry Kett is out of the city at this time, but sends his best wishes to those present. Besides the minutes of the meeting he will be provided with an audio recording. .
2. Community police officers were in attendance and asked the group if there were any local concerns. Those expressed were regarding traffic such as the ability to turn into personal driveways and businesses and other facilities, plus making illegal turns and the improper use of bicycles causing accidents. The officers explained that they are working on educating the proper use of bike lanes and sharing the road effectively.
3. Chris Gore from the city in charge of Community Partners (CAN groups & Neighbourhood Associations) addressed the group regarding the new park by-laws. Sessions are being held around the area to gather input via a survey, which can be done hard copy or online as these by-laws are being reviewed to incorporate into the new laws. He explained that new developments must provide 5% parklands within so that some type of parkland is provided to the community – it can be trails or green space and not always a traditional park. He identified the Greenspace Advisory Committee as a group that works to identify and protect greenspace in the city.
4. Ted Durbacz from Leisure Services addressed the group regarding the status of the dog park along with Pierre Perreault the Chair of the Off Leash Dog Park sub committee of the Minnow Lake CAN. It has been a 2 yr project and there are hopes that it will be open some time this summer. There are no specific by-laws structured yet & will not be in place for the opening but they are hoped to be finalized in the near future. The Committee is working closely with the city for the development and input for rules etc. It will be between the City and dog owners for park clean up and Pierre explained that a park association group will be struck which will bee used to manage/monitor use and upkeep/safety. The park will be totally fenced with double entry fence and two areas – one for small/old dogs and a larger area for large/young dogs. The city is responsible for building the park and fencing it and it will be the Park Association Group that will look at further development of benches, other shrubs, dog fountains, etc.
5. Community gardens are a possible option for linking with the area close to the dog park which could all be developed for the community.

6. John presented the maps showing the possible (700 units) development of more housing and changes to accommodate the growth are proposed to the roads in the area. It is said that there needs to be two entrances/exits for this development behind the “big box” stores and one option (apparently being considered by the city traffic and planning dept is a traffic circle or roundabout as an option at the corner of Bancroft and Bellevue). The apparent difficulties posed are the different grades, access points and spacing wide enough for emergency vehicles, plus pedestrian and bicycle use with cross walk challenges and bike lanes. Other possible access point options discussed were Barry (too close to Bellevue), McKinnon (not wide enough) Neelon (too close to curves) and Shappert. The least disruptive consideration was Shappert which would offer not only access to the new development but also from other streets south of Bancroft to exit, a definite benefit. Cost for development of this option would likely be less due to topography and land acquisition. The two signaled intersections would be no closer than many others in the city.

Discussion and concern was expressed that Bancroft/Bellevue is not able to take any more traffic so some ideas were presented of only exiting on the Kingsway so not to use Bancroft. Some people in the group said that a petition might be a way to express the feelings of the community as one voice. John explained how the OMB would likely approve the development regardless of citizen traffic concerns & he identified that widening the Kingsway is an option that would really alleviate the problem of traffic and the use of the Kingsway would be the best option to relieve traffic stress on the Howey, Bancroft, Bellevue corridor.

A question posed was what would discourage traffic from coming on the Bancroft corridor – possible increased stop signs, also having synchronized lights possible between Shappert & Bancroft as a management tool along with being a deterrent to outside traffic. Seeing as we really don't have much say, the better option would be Shappert according to the majority of the group.

Requests for notices to go out to all residents so they are aware of the developer meeting some time in June and can express their feelings. John will let Terry know to see if the city will look after the notification.

Main meeting adjourned by John Lindsay @ 8:30 pm

Next meeting to be decided in the fall.

PS: A note has just been received from the developer that a meeting to discuss the project will take place at Minnow Lake Place on Wednesday June 13th from 5 to 8 p.m. If you are aware of anyone interested or affected by this development please advise them to attend. For further information you can contact a representative for the developer Celia Teale at 705-522-9482. Also an attachment shows the suggested Shappert intersection which would access the new development across less “severe” terrain and impact on fewer properties, likely resulting in less cost to all parties while providing the benefits outlined previously.