

Windsor Town Council
STRATEGY & POLICY Minutes (amended with bold-italics and/or strikethroughs)
March 30, 2010
9:30 AM to 12 Noon

Present: Councillor Dave Seeley, Chair
Mayor Paul Beazley
Councillor John Bregante
Councillor Liz Galbraith
Deputy Mayor, Laurie Murley

Staff: Louis Coutinho, CAO
Lynn Davis, Director of Planning
Don Beatty, Director of Public Works
VanEssa Roberts, Director of Community Development, Tourism and Recreation
Patricia Lowthers, Deputy Clerk

Public: Mr. Creelman MacArthur

1 CALL TO ORDER - Chair Seeley called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 18, 2010

**MOVED BY DEPUTY MAYOR MURLEY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR BEAZLEY
THAT THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18, 2010 BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED.
MOTION CARRIED**

3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Additions and/or Deletions

It was suggested by Chair Seeley that the order of the Agenda be changed with item 5 c) becoming the first topic to be discussed, item 5 e) the second, item 5 d) the third item, and then numbers 6, 7, 8 becoming numbers 4,5 and 6. It was suggested that items 5 a) & b) be carried over to the next meeting. Councillor Galbraith advised that she had a handout with information regarding the first item on the agenda – the Old Pool Site.

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR BREGANTE AND SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR
MURLEY THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS NOTED ABOVE. MOTION
CARRIED**

4 DELEGATIONS

5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

c) Old Pool Site

Councillor Galbraith provided the members of the Committee with information on Fort Edward and meetings held in 2007 and 2008 regarding the possible usage of the old pool building for washroom facilities and perhaps even extending use of the property for a new visitor information centre which would be closer to the core of Windsor. In response to a statement by Deputy Mayor Murley that the committee hasn't met since 2008, Councillor Galbraith noted that one of their stronger members had an illness followed by a death in the family and was not able to attend the meetings so they were therefore put off and are now trying to get started again.

There has been talk of perhaps putting a trading post near the Fort that would house the over 2000 exhibits and it has been suggested that souvenirs and refreshments might be sold. The old pool site

would be ideal for such a project. It was noted that Parks Canada land is not able to be used because of the complications of archaeological materials in the ground. Councillor Galbraith noted that she was not suggesting that the Town operate anything at the Fort but to turn over the property to the Historical Society for them to try to make use of the building.

Mayor Beazley stated that he did not feel it incumbent on the Town to take the little land that the Town has for such a project. It was suggested that Requests for Proposals be called to see what development could make use of this land.

Deputy Mayor Murley noted that Parks Canada did not want ***the Parks Canada land developed; however, if anything were to occur on the town-owned land, they expressed concern*** about the view-plains being disturbed. Councillor Galbraith noted that there is more interest than the view-plain – they are sensitive to the area and are willing to help out. She asked what other lands that the Town has that are surplus. She stated that she had no concept of what other sites are available.

The Administrator noted that the Town has very little surplus land. He noted that one lot behind the library had just been sold to the Daycare and the only other lands that he could think of at this time was the waterfront lands. Councillor Galbraith stated that she would like to see a list of idle land and she did not think there had been a motion made to declare the pool lands as surplus.

Councillor Bregante noted that he would like to see the information that Councillor Galbraith provided about Fort Edward; information regarding developing the pool site land; and a list of other town properties that are surplus.

Deputy Mayor Murley felt it is difficult to make a decision when you don't know what kind of development proposals there might be for the site.

Councillor Seeley noted that if Council hasn't made a decision about the land that that would be the next thing that needs to be looked at. Mayor Beazley felt that requests for proposals (RFP) would be a way to decide what to do with this land. He noted that hopefully Council could determine what is going to be the best way to proceed such as a community meeting, dismantle the pool or requests for proposals.

The Administrator noted that this is not the first time that Council has been asked what would be done with the property. He noted that Parks Canada and the Historical Society had addressed Council in the past. He noted that the Historical Society had held a meeting where they mentioned the restoration of the Fort but this was not an option by Parks Canada. He noted that there was discussion about possible archaeological digs on the Fort Edward Property. Administrator Coutinho stated that Rev. Curry, president of the Hants West Historical Society had requested the use of the washrooms at the pool building for visitors to the Fort however they were not in good shape and it was not a feasible solution. Use of the washrooms in the W. B. Stephens Building was offered but it was not acceptable.

Councillor Galbraith noted that Administrator Coutinho had attended the meeting regarding the Fort and there was one gentleman who wanted the site rebuilt and when he realized that this was not going to happen, he did not attend any other meetings and there was mention of archaeological digs but the overriding theme was to see more Windsor people use the area and not to have to send them off site for washrooms but to offer amenities at Fort Edward. She noted that there are still people in the group who would like to see the pool building but have not been granted access. She noted at present the land is zoned as open space and she would like to have it left that way and not just think of it as potential tax dollars.

Chair Seeley summarized the discussion as the members of the Committee would review the information for the next meeting. Mayor Beazley felt that some land development experts should be asked to provide advice on the best way to proceed with this land and what the options are for it. Deputy Mayor Murley asked what it would cost to obtain this information.

It was agreed that a rewritten RFP be provided for the next meeting and it was also suggested that Chris Carter be asked for his opinion. Councillor Bregante asked if the CAO could look at the cost of

dismantling the old pool and if the Town workers could do the work.

e) Two-way traffic on King Street

Mayor Beazley advised that he would like to see the portion of King Street between Wentworth Road and Albert Street be changed to two way traffic rather than one way traffic. He felt that people coming to the two businesses on that end of Albert, the Cocoa Pesto Bistro and Lohnes-Demont Funeral Home, are often confused as to how they are able to get to these businesses from Wentworth Road.

Considerable discussion took place on this matter with the Director of Public Works suggesting that the easiest way may be to put a stop sign at O'Brien and King Sts. (by KFC) and allow left hand turns. Director Beatty noted that there would have to be considerable work done at the intersection in order to put a left turn lane in place so that cars turning right would not have to wait for vehicles turning left. He felt that if the portion of King Street mentioned was made for 2 way traffic, then there would have to be a barricade put near the bottom of King to force the traffic to turn left onto Albert Street and not continue on down the street towards the intersection of O'Brien. The loss of parking spaces was also an issue that was raised. Director Beatty noted that this was not included in the capital budget and suggested it be added to the Council's wish list and then Council could discuss it further during budget deliberations.

Mayor Beazley stated that if it is something that needs to be added to the budget, it is not high on his priority list at this time. He noted that it was not his intention to incur major costs for this but felt it should be safe affordable and better than it is now. He agreed that it should be put on the wish list.

d) Lease on Sam Slick Building

The Administrator advised that there had been no letter received regarding this matter and it was agreed that the matter be discussed once a letter has been received from the Sam Slick Society.

6 MAYOR'S TASK FORCE, Arts, Culture & Heritage - Recommendations

The final report from the Mayor's Task Force on Arts, Culture and Heritage was reviewed by the members of the Committee. Mayor Beazley felt that the recommendations were reasonable but he did not necessarily agree with the order in which they were given.

Deputy Mayor Murley asked if the Town is going to finance recommendation # 4 which is "Create an organizational structure, i.e., Program Director, Advisory Board/Board of Directors, Identify members of the community to be part of the board".

Mayor Beazley felt that the recommendations should be given to Council to take away to discuss.

Councillor Bregante questioned the provision of office space but agree on having the executive to come back and have the opportunity to discuss the recommendations with them. He also questioned whether there would be any money in the budget.

Councillor Galbraith agreed that perhaps office space could be provided to them in the old MLA office but did not necessarily agree with the creation of an Arts & Culture centre because she did not see it as an objective of this committee.

The Administrator suggested that a business plan be received from the Committee and he noted that the office space in this building was intended for Staff and it is not in use because administration did not want to spend money. He suggested that maybe the Canoe Club or the Sam Slick Building might be a better location for this group. He thought it might help build vibrancy to the waterfront and that through VanEssa's office, more awareness could be created.

Councillor Galbraith noted that she had not thought about the Canoe Club and stated that she liked it as a better location than the space in this building.

Mayor Beazley thought that the Task Force would like to have meeting space first and then probably like to have street front. He thought it would help if the Council could sit down and discuss the recommendations with some of the committee members – perhaps 3 or 4 of them.

Councillor Seeley asked if it should be a separate meeting time and it was agreed that the Chief Administrative Officer arrange a meeting with some of the members of the task force.

7 HOCKEY HERITAGE

It was noted that there has not been a lot of movement on the part of the Hockey Heritage Society in the recent months other than trying to keep the museum open.

During the discussion the questions were raised as to what direction should be taken and how the Town could advance the claim to be Birthplace of Hockey.

Mayor Beazley noted that in meeting with Minister Paris – one of the first things that the Minister stated was that he was waiting for Windsor to become a mecca of hockey.

Councillor Galbraith noted that the Town is the self-proclaimed “Birthplace of Hockey” and wanted to have it declared official. She did not feel that there is any point in carrying on the brand without proof and once that is done then she felt that every store should have something to offer regarding hockey and that needs a “brand museum” to be larger and it needs to be self sufficient. She felt that if it was done properly it could be self sufficient. Councillor Galbraith suggested that there should be things to buy in the museum so that visitors have something as a memento that they visited the museum and the town.

Councillor Bregante noted that the museum does sell wooden pucks and other merchandise. He noted that they would like to gradually increase to move to a larger space but that would cost a lot more. At the present site in the Mermaid Theater building, they are given a break on their rent and utilities. He noted that there is one full time staff person and a couple of volunteers and that they would love to have a larger building however there is not a lot of government funding to help build a new building. The Society would like to see the museum open longer hours and would love to be self sufficient. He noted that if a new rink is built that the Society would love to move the museum there.

Deputy Mayor Murley raised the issue of the Hockey Heritage Society & Hockeyland being mushed in a new rink together. She asked if Hockeyland is going somewhere or if a decision should be made as to what to do about the Hockey Heritage Society. She noted that she did not know if she had ever seen a business plan for them.

Councillor Bregante stated that he did not know of one either. It was suggested that perhaps help could be provided to the Hockey Heritage Museum to develop a business plan.

Mayor Beazley thought that the Hockey Heritage Society is in the same position as Arts & Culture and that both need a good strong organization behind them. He felt that Council never supported the Hockey Heritage Society in any way other than financial assistance.

Councillor Seeley agreed with Councillor Galbraith that there is a need to solidify the Town as the “Birthplace of Hockey” and wondered if it is possible to patent that slogan. Councillor Galbraith asked why the Town couldn’t just prove it and go from there.

At 11:27 a.m. Deputy Mayor Murley was excused from the meeting.

Director Roberts noted that there has been a lot of interest over time in a larger museum. She noted that at one time the Society was looking at the former Power Corporation building and it was found that it required too much work to make the building safe so that was dismissed as a possible site. Then there was the former School Board Office building which the Town gave to the Society for their museum and there were difficulties with that and it ended up being sold. Ms. Roberts suggested that perhaps the Society should go the way that Cooperstown did in becoming the Home of Baseball and get back to the grassroots. She noted that when Cooperstown started they had a small space which

was locked and people had to go get someone to come with a key to let them in and it gradually grew from there.

Mayor Beazley wondered how the society would go back to grass roots and he noted that the Town may never substantiate being the "Birthplace of Hockey" but rather the "Home of Hockey".

Councillor Bregante asked if there had been any discussion with Minister Paris about providing assistance to the Town for a new rink, museum or multi-culture facility. Mayor Beazley stated that nothing was discussed about those things. Councillor Bregante suggested that perhaps the Minister could be talked to about Hockey Heritage and how desperately the town needs a new rink.

Mayor Beazley suggested ~~that instead of~~ going back to grass roots **and that** the Town should look at building momentum and wondered what to do with the Town's claim as the Birthplace of Hockey.

Councillor Galbraith felt that Council should think about what Director Roberts said about going back to grass roots and think about the things the museum needs – bigger space, business plan, verify that Windsor is the Birthplace of Hockey. She felt that if the Hockey Heritage Society kept trying to combine with something else, nothing may ever be done.

Mayor Beazley suggested that any ideas that may come forward should be forwarded to Councillor Bregante who is the Town's representative on the Hockey Heritage Society Board.

The Administrator stated the he does not mind assisting in starting a business plan and then they can move on to something else. Councillor Galbraith asked if written minutes could be received if there is a meeting with the Hockey Heritage Society.

8 BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Administrator Coutinho advised that at the end of April it is planned to table the budget and then in May have at least two meetings to discuss the budget and noted that the Councillors should prepare items for their "wish list" and there would be information provided regarding Debt Servicing. The Administrator reported that he would be arranging these meetings.

5 a) Draft Outdoor Fires and Fireworks Bylaw #39 and 5 b) the Draft Dog Control Bylaw are being reviewed with the Outdoor Fires & Fireworks bylaw now being reviewed by the Solicitor. It was agreed that these items be held over to the next meeting.

In Camera

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR BREGANTE AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR GALBRAITH THAT THE MEETING MOVE IN-CAMERA TO DISCUSS A LEGAL MATTER AT 11:45 A.M. MOTION CARRIED

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR BREGANTE AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR GALBRAITH THAT THE MEETING MOVE OUT OF IN-CAMERA AT 11:59 A.M. MOTION CARRIED

9 NEXT MEETING / ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR BREGANTE AND SECONDED BY MAYOR BEAZLEY THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN AT 12:00 NOON. MOTION CARRIED

CHAIR

ADMINISTRATOR